

## **Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications** **Nov. 29, 2018**

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Laura Lawyer and Jami Pitman are co-chairs:

- We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it, and take back questions or concerns from other parents.**
- Please arrange for a parent substitute to attend PACS if you are unable to attend.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves and shared their favorite Thanksgiving dishes.

### **Superintendent's Update**

- **Budget:** State Superintendent Chris Reykdal hosted a community forum on Nov. 20 at Options High School. He is proposing our state legislature partially lift the new constraints on how much school districts can collect through voter-approved levies. Reykdal is also proposing a capital gains tax to help fund the gaps in preK-12 funding that still persist. Dr. Baker recently sent a [message and survey](#) to all staff and families with details about the budget as the district considers potential cuts. The governor hasn't yet released details of his budget proposal, and the legislature's next session starts in January. If the legislature does not act proactively in its next session, then many districts, including Bellingham, will be preparing for budget reductions.
- We are hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new **Central Kitchen**. We plan to offer a tour soon to this group. You can see photos [here](#). The new kitchen will allow us to revise our menu offerings and provide more healthy scratch-cooked meals for students.
- Work on the new **Sehome High School** is ahead of schedule, and we will move staff and students into the new school at semester break at the end of January. The new turf baseball field is complete, and the rest of the Sehome site (including parking lots and other turf fields) will be complete fall of 2019.

### **Bellingham Public Schools Foundation**

The [Bellingham Public Schools Foundation](#) (BPSF) partners with Bellingham Public Schools to raise funds to advance the vision of The Bellingham Promise for every student and support teachers in every school. Their funds come from individual contributions and local businesses via donations, as well as local non-profits via grants. BPSF works closely with district staff and schools to determine where to focus resources that align with donors' interests. Some areas that the BPSF supports include the OneSchoolhouse fund to support students and families with beds and basic needs; physical education equipment; STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) initiative; and student wellness.

The BPSF provides funding for some district staff, including a grant writer, volunteer coordinator and districtwide activities/athletics coordinator. The Foundation works with middle school PTAs to support an all middle school buy-nothing fundraiser. It's in the early stages of working with elementary PTAs about opportunities to create a districtwide equity fund to support all kids.

### **Announcements**

- Birchwood Elementary is hosting a night of gingerbread house making on Dec. 5.
- Bedtime with Books is Dec. 6 at Roosevelt Elementary.
- The Family Resource Center at Shuksan Middle School is still collecting items for its hygiene drive.

**Next Meeting:** Jan. 24, 2019, District Office, Board Room