

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications

March 28, 2019

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 PAC if you are unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and answered the question, “Does your family have an emergency plan?”

Superintendent’s Update

- **Budget:** Superintendent Greg Baker shared that the state has released a revised revenue forecast, which is a positive change from our last meeting. This revised forecast will be used by the legislature to create their budget proposals. There will continue to be a debate about how to add funding. There is a tension between state property tax and local taxes, and not every district or community feels the same way about what should happen. Most school districts, including Bellingham, are planning for cuts. However, we will also be adding funding and support in some areas; for example, special education and K-3 class sizes. Dr. Baker briefly explained our initial strategy for making budget adjustments and acknowledged there will be a few years of school finance discussions and revisions, since the recent state change to the funding model has been the most radical change to school funding since the 1970s.
- **Bond projects:** We are in the process of purchasing property in Barkley for the new district office and will most likely put the current district office building up for sale. Two elementary school projects, Alderwood and Parkview, have overcome some land use questions and are proceeding with design.
- **Attendance area committee:** This group has been continuing to engage in work and may be presenting recommendations to Dr. Baker shortly regarding a few attendance areas. The committee has been engaging in a number of ways with the community as they deliberate scenarios to relieve overcrowding at a few schools. They do not have a set deadline, because we would rather have the right answer than a quick answer.

Emergency Management/Safety

- Jonah Stinson, Director of School Safety and Emergency Management, shared a presentation on Planning and Response in Education, explaining an overview of our “all hazards approach.”
- Jonah introduced Lynn Sterbenz, the emergency manager for the City of Bellingham. Lynn has a history of working closely with schools and school districts in her previous work.

Healthy Tech Promise

- Dr. Bill Palmer and Jessica Sankey shared a presentation about our 1:1 technology integration initiative and our perceptions and teaching around healthy technology use. They drew connections between our Good Food Promise with the draft Healthy Tech Promise, and they asked the group for feedback on the draft Healthy Tech Promise. There will be family events later in the spring.

Wrap Up/Announcements

Next Meeting: April 25, 2019, District Office, Board Room