

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

Jan. 24, 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 PACS if you are unable to attend.

PACS members arrived at the district office at 9:30 a.m. and rode one of our school buses to the Central Kitchen for a tour.

During the ride, attendees did introductions and shared whether and how their kids help in the kitchen.

Tour Central Kitchen

Chef Patrick Durgan took the group on a tour of the new [Central Kitchen](#), which officially opened in Nov. 2019.

Superintendent's Update

- **Budget Update:** The Washington state legislature is now in session. We are waiting and watching to see whether lawmakers will make any changes to the "levy lid," which restricts the amount of money we can collect as a district through our local M&O levy. If legislators do not act, districts across our state, including us, will be making cuts for the 2019-20 school year. We remain hopeful; however, we are preparing for reductions and have asked our staff and families for input on areas we could cut.
- **Sehome High School:** We are opening the new Sehome High School to staff and students on Jan. 30. All are welcome to attend an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour the new school at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1 in the new Sehome commons. The new synthetic turf baseball field was completed in November, the gym wing opened on Jan. 2, and the rest of the Sehome site (including parking lots and other turf fields) will be done by fall 2019.

Q & A w/ Chef Patrick and Wellness Director Jessica Sankey

- The Central Kitchen is built on the values of the [Good Food Promise](#).
- The [Good Food Promise Implementation Committee](#) advises our district about food in our school meals and the rest of the school day, like celebrations and fundraisers.
- Our community wrote the Good Food Promise, including food services staff, doctors, nurses, dieticians, chefs, restaurant owners, local business owners, food equity champions like the Food Bank and many parents/guardians who make decisions every day about what their family will eat.
- We have all invested in the Central Kitchen and can continue to be a part of bringing the Good Food Promise to life. Trying school lunch, sending your child to school to eat lunch and donating to the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation meal charge fund are all ways to help us put whole, healthy, delicious food on every child's plate.

PACS members rode the bus back to the district office.

Next Meeting: Feb 28, 2019