

Elementary partners in funding March 5, 2019 at Carl Cozier Elementary

- PTA members, principals, district staff and Foundation staff introduced themselves
- Jackie Brawley, Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations, shared [background and history of these conversations](#). The district hosted all PTA representatives in March 2017, and we have had several elementary-focused meetings in 2018 and 2019 centered around equity. We have heard from our parent groups that they want to work with each other, the district and Foundation to support all schools and all kids.
- Elizabeth Boyle with the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation facilitated a discussion and answered questions.

What is the All Hands Raised fundraising model?

All Hands Raised was based on a program in Portland. Each elementary school gives a portion of their funds to an equity fund. The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation is hoping to have pilot schools who are interested donating 10% of funds to help other PTAs who don't have as much.

The group brainstormed different ideas and ways to move this work forward.

- Equalize teacher stipends; teachers receive differing amounts from PTAs around our district
- How can we reduce teachers need to be in a constant state of grant writing?
- Could we set up a family engagement and field trip fund?
- How could the PTAs work together to sponsor districtwide events? One school says their participation in events has decreased significantly; challenging to pull together events when no one participates.
- How can we better learn from each other, share items, ideas, etc. shared resources?
- Do our schools need to join the formal PTA organization? We could all save money districtwide if we didn't all become formal PTAs?
- Who pays for what? Parents feel better to enhance field trip experience. Clarity helps.
- Enrichment: beyond bell-to-bell (beyond district funds)
- Making sure recipients feel respected when they get the funds; can be uncomfortable to be on receiving end (especially if there are questions, paperwork, etc.).
- How would we decide who gets what?
- How can ensure dignity when a PTA receive funds?
- Middle school model is powerful: they all share, and it's divided. Doesn't require any asking: they are all our kids.
- Data: what is the most recent information we have on PTA budgets?
- There are different models to consider: 10% off the top of each PTA vs. pooling money
- Do a districtwide event or "push" for fundraising. Make it more explicit that it's districtwide and be transparent.

- Ideas around equity have been normalized thanks to Dr. Baker; how can we keep educating parents on the inequities/disparities between our schools?
- What is the selling point? Is that we want to make sure every teacher has a stipend that shows that we value them? It's a field trip, what is it?
- Is this easier than "we're trying to redistribute money?"
- How could endowment funds help so that we're not on a constant hamster wheel. We want parents to invest.

Next steps:

We'll set up another meeting in April or May.

Please contact the Foundation if you have more questions about the pilot.

We are looking for parent groups to be ready to join the pilot before the end of the year to kick this project off next fall.