

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications April 25, 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.

Welcome and Introductions

- What's your preferred way to communicate with your children's teachers?

Superintendent's Update

- **Budget:** Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland shared that Dr. Baker met with legislators in Olympia this week to talk about state funding for preK-12 education. The end of the legislative session is next week, and the legislature is expected to go into a special session. One piece of legislation that we're paying close attention to is the levy lid restrictions. We have reason to be optimistic that we will get additional funding and support in some areas, including special education.
- **Sehome:** Sonia Bell has been named the [new principal of Sehome High School](#). Mike shared the process of hiring a new principal; current principal of Sehome, Michelle Kuss-Cybula, will be the new superintendent of the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District.
- **Attendance areas:** Steve Clarke is a co-chair of [Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee](#) and shared that the 40-person group has been working on how to balance enrollment and free/reduced populations between our middle schools. The committee has been engaging in a number of ways with the community as they deliberate scenarios. New school boundaries may be phased in as our new elementary schools (Alderwood, Parkview and Sunnyland) are being built in the next two to three years.

Communications

Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations, Jackie Brawley, led a small group exercise, along with principals Ari Feeney, Meagan Dawson and Linda Wise Miller. We split into small groups and parents answered some guiding questions related to the most effective ways our teachers and schools communicate with families and opportunities for improvement. Reflections and suggestions include improvements to Skyward and ways to creatively incorporate technology in conferences in order to have more 1:1 contact with teachers. They also expressed appreciation for newsletters, SeeSaw, emails and social media.

Volunteering

Jennifer Gaer is the district volunteer coordinator and she shared information about our growing volunteer cadre. We currently have over 5700 volunteers, including parents, students, retirees, local businesses and faith-based organizations. She is always looking for volunteers; anyone interested can contact her at jennifer.gaer@bellingshamschools.org. If a PTA requests volunteers for an event, please give advance notice and know there is no guarantee.

Wrap Up/Announcements

- Shout out to Silver Beach PTO for organizing and sponsoring monthly staff luncheons.
- Thanks for bringing items for the Family Resource Center. Many brought wipes today; you can bring diapers to our next meeting May 23.
- PACS co-chair Laura Lawyer's two year term is ending this spring. Contact Laura and Jami if you are interested in being a co-chair.

Next Meeting: May 23, 2019, District Office, Board Room