

Introduction

Superintendent Greg Baker and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke welcomes the group and asked each person to introduce themselves and tell how they are connected to our district and their role with high school boosters.

Dr. Baker said the district is continuing to clarify how high school athletics and activities are funded and our interest to engage in a discussion with booster clubs to better understand their role in supporting these programs. Dr. Baker met with leaders of PTSA's throughout the district in 2017, and he's looking for input from the leaders of the booster clubs.

Question to attendees: how are you fundraising?

- Pancake breakfast
- Advertising in fliers, posters, programs
- Auctions
- Events (dinners, dances)
- Value Village
- Youth camps for summer
- Citrus sales
- Scrip program; one parent said it's really successful and much easier than getting parent volunteers
- Gold card sales for football: we make \$15,000 to \$20,000 profit (\$8 to 10K goes to company)
- Bellingham High School choir: carwashes; a parent said they like fundraising that includes kids and gives them accountability.
- Squalicum band said they play at the Bellingham Bay Marathon and they get paid by donation for playing at community events.
- Football Boosters say they call local businesses and receive donations, then give ad space in programs and/or make announcements thanking businesses over the PA during games

The floor was open for questions, answers and wonders (to each other and to Dr. Baker and Steve Clarke)

- What if we do one big ask? To all companies and businesses in Bellingham?
- I'd rather write a check for \$100 than sell candy/cookie dough
- What if every fundraiser included an option to give an extra \$5 to help others
- Wants kids involved to get better equipment, take a trip, etc.
- Don't feel comfortable with kids going door-to-door
- Coaches gifts/senior gifts -there are certain things we can buy?
- Cheer camps and scholarships – how can we raise money to help others?
- Change advertising policy - recognize sponsors? How can we do this without selling our soul?

- Don't want a big "monolithic" fund
- Need to be personal and specific
- Some businesses only want to support a specific sport/activity (reason to not do "one big" fundraiser)
- Big trips: how do we support trips for kids who want to go?
- We want to coach the kids (not fundraise)
- Don't take fundraising away.
- What if district pays for some but fundraising can be more strategic?
- I'm worried you're going to tell us not to go to businesses
- How can boosters take credit cards?
- Need clarity between PTSA and Boosters: what are the rules?
- I love being a booster parents: it gives me a window into kids' activities; I am shoulder-to-shoulder with other kids and parents.
- District not interested in tearing down/impacting/hurting culture. We are culture builders.
- Activity coordinators expected to build programs. We cannot take away from that. Need summer camps; build participation to go up.
- Some clubs/activities need more money, others need less.
- We could like more clarity... what is a booster vs. PTSA vs. ASB?
- Can we advertise? What are the rules?
- We are trying to raise money, but we need to better understanding of all those groups.
- The same people who organized auctions in preschool are the same ones doing it in high school. The goals are too high and parent volunteers are stressed out. Yes, they are successful, but is it worth it? Parents can't sleep because of pressure.
- Arlington High School has a wall with eight rows of 20 plaques. Could we do this at our high schools? Can we open the door to sponsorships?
- PTAs used to be about supporting kids now it's all about fundraising
- Could alumni help raise money?

Closing

Dr. Baker closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and input. He said the district will continue to wrestle with these issues around fundraising and that there isn't one easy quick fix solution, especially since the district can't singlehandedly fund all of the needs and wants of our programs, staff, coaches and students. He appreciated the feedback and said it will help influence our decisions moving forward.