

FUNDRAISING EXIT SURVEY

1. On a scale of 1 – 5, how valuable was this morning for understanding how we currently support our students and what steps we might take in the future?

- Very Helpful: 31
- Helpful: 18
- Sort of Helpful: 1
- Not really Helpful: 1 (only because it was pretty general, no opportunity for question)
- Not at all Helpful: 0
- Nothing marked: 4

2 people circled both 1 and 2

1 person circled both 2 and 3

2. What is a key take-away?

- I was amazed to learn that we (collectively K-12) run around 600 fundraisers in a year to raise more or less \$1.3 million. Which to me says we should heavily invest in a BPSF endowment so that long term we reduce the number of fundraisers.
- Love the feeling we are all working as a team – we need to continue these conversations.
- Need to meet MS principals and PTA leaders more frequently as a group.
- For middle schools to compare budgets and funding wants vs needs. Focus on wants = PTSA; focus on wants = Bellingham Foundation.
- That fundraising doesn't exist in a vacuum – enmeshed with the commitment of time and energy. This is related to the inequity and also speaks to the need to simplify and clarify.
- Great event! Excited to see where we go from here!
- Communication is key....build community to build finances.
- 1.3 million; 68-12K; 40%; the community is ready to identify guiding principles: providing for wants, building community.
- We wish to continue to converse and collaborate to better identify roles of each group, district, foundation, PTA, families, community.
- We're in good hands with our leadership and parent volunteers.
- 2 x PTO, all important meetings per year. Integrating Foundation with PTO.
- We need to continue this conversation!! Let's keep talking about all the opportunities and all the barriers that exist across our district. Education and communication will be key in helping us to address the needs of all our kids.

- Communication, keep this discussion going. It worked with middle schools, let's try steps toward elementary and high school. So much more to discuss and it looks so different at each level (elementary, middle, high)
- Work across grade levels to discuss budget and fundraising with foundation.
- Lots of great brainpower and experience. We have so much to learn from each other.
- Working together is so beneficial.
- Everyone has the same troubles/concerns with PTA and not have the answers.
- Collaboration and clarity is the key to future success.
- We are doing great things for kids. There are creative ideas to keep things going. Meeting with other high school PTSA's is useful time.
- We are fundraising a great deal as a community. Need to take a look at the best use of all those funds. Maybe smarter to work together. Are parents really as engaged or interested if the fundraising does not affect their children?
- We need transparency regarding school needs, needs all students have regardless of school, and individual school needs. What are district responsibilities that PTA's are funding (playground equipment, field maintenance).
- There is a great deal of positive energy for sharing information and fundraising in our schools. Great beginning to an important conversation.
- Share among all/community building. Let's move beyond fundraising. PTA council. Communication among all (parents, teacher, administration).
- Other people's children are our children.
- We need to spend more time working together on hashing out how we serve our community as a whole instead as individual schools.
- PTO's would benefit from guidance and support from the district.
- We need to work together more/coordinate more in order to make real changes in how we raise money to support all students.
- The information was a good start. The PTA's/PTO's wish to share more information and work more closely together on community-building, ensuring equity and supporting The Promise.
- That, for elementary schools, we need more transparency/communication between PTA's/schools on budgets so that we may find and therefore bill the gaps.
- Communication about what Foundation does and how money is used and distributed. Defining the role of a PTO/PTA.
- There is a wide range of money raised at our elementary schools. Each school has unique and similar needs.
- Bellingham is a community that cares deeply about our school kids.
- We are all in this together. A group of people coming together to brainstorm ideas to fulfill the promises we have made to our students.

- We need to work together and collaborate.
- We are committed to moving forward together.
- We are more similar than different.
- Lots of energy around changing how we fundraise.
- That a lot more conversation is needed.
- We are in a reorganization process with an opportunity to align and strategize our efforts to support all kids.
- Re-visioning PTA groups to emphasize community building as opposed to solely fundraising.
- PTA's and fundraising is as much about community identity as it is about money.
- The differences in the funds earned in the elementary schools. What the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation does and funds.
- How can elementary take the next step?
- PTA's are ready to engage in this conversation and to take some tentative action steps.
- I think a key concept is there is a lot of room for increased coordination and sharing of resources between the local PTA's and the Bellingham Foundation. Some form of district council with PTA's/Foundation/District represented to start planning this partnership would be very helpful.
- Helping get with the Foundation to be part, a big part of our raising of money for the schools.
- Reduce the role of PTA as fundraiser.
- That we are all willing to work hard and together for all of our kids. Communication is key.
- Community building, streamlining efforts.
- Continue the conversation for coming together to pool our resources and energy and we need to solidify roles.
- Ideas for reaching out to other PTA's and Foundation. More PTA community building, along with fundraising.
- It seems that the district is leaning towards a One Schoolhouse approach to fundraising.
- There is a lot going on. How do we collectively work together to create guiding principles moving forward?
- Keep going!
- One Schoolhouse, more importantly the shift and energy I have seen not only today but the past 6 years – it's refreshing!
- As a parent, I feel clearly defining what the role of PTA member should be, where the money we are raising should go is all needed. Right now all parents coming into a new position on PTA or as a helper knows barely any of this information.

- Elementary families – some appreciate fundraisers for the community building but aren't completely sold on fundraising. They are in fact overwhelmed by the accounting piece. They would like leadership from the Foundation to help set the vision and purpose of PTA fundraising.
- Thanks for the conversation. Big fan of equity. Not a big fan of spending lots of time fundraising. Happy to be exploring creative solutions to making sure all of our kids have what they need to reach their potential as students.

3. Any other feedback?

- Thank you!
- Great opportunity to vision, connect and collaborate!
- Thank you for giving PTSA a voice!
- Elementary – let's build enthusiasm for a district wide project. What one thing can we try? District-wide book fair? Shared jog-a-thon?
- Let's keep talking!!
- We are on the right track....timing and momentum!
- Email addresses on every PPT; URL's on documents.
- Thank you for acknowledging that community-building is maybe even more important to double down on than fundraising. Of course, fundraising is important, but maybe that can be done more at the community level. Thank you so much for investing so much energy to today's summit.
- Have more meetings. Guidance on roles of PTA's. How do we access more of that \$1.3 million? Honestly – food at meetings makes people feel cared for. Thanks, especially Bellingham Schools Foundation.
- Thanks, a great start.
- PTSA presidents need to get together.
- Need to involve business leaders who don't have kids. Strong public schools equals strong Bellingham.
- In 30 seconds? I can have a full meeting of feedback. I raise funds for Law Enforcement and have multiple ideas for education.
(kendra1010@comcast.net; Founder, keeping K-9's in _____)
- Such good conversation. Lessening the pressure of fundraising will (or has potential) to improve learning opportunities by removing it from the forefront of the minds of those responsible for educating our students.
- Time well spent.
- What are the ideas to make Foundation grow? Could there be an ask to parents to donate to the Foundation all the dollars they are no longer paying in fees.
- I think it would be important to provide transparency regarding funding per school? (Lap, Title, Grants)

- I heard the phrase “transparency” used quite a bit in discussions – referring to district information regarding financial assistance received through other grant programs to title schools vs. non-title schools. Not negative, but wanting to know as an important part of the equity piece, data in this area in terms of this would help to build trust.
- Link the money to long-term success to students/benefit community. Finalize partner in fundraising (what/who roles). Brand the Bellingham Promise— understand it; trust it. One Schoolhouse approach.
- So inspirational.
- Please host more. Transparency with where district puts funds for Title 1 vs non-Title 1 schools.
- Thanks!
- BPS Foundation could serve as a way to coordinate parent groups and fundraising.
- Please post budgets.
- Foundation fundraising that is more approachable to the families that the foundation serves. Block party? I work at Boundary Bay, if that is a helpful connection to have (Abby Rose, 206-383-4011)
- PTA’s/PTO’s need further support as to how, why and what we fundraise for. How can all PTO/PTA/s come together to support a common need?
- Continue the conversation. What would it look like to completely remove fundraising from PTO/PTA’s?
- Foundation is an untapped resource. How can we strengthen the relationship between the Foundation and the schools/PTO’s?
- Thank you for being courageous to push on the “norm” and what we’ve always done.
- Thank you!
- Glad principals attended with parents. PTA and other parents helped to broaden our understanding of different perspectives.
- Awesome conversations. Can’t wait for next steps.
- I would like to see the Foundation become more active at the school level, provide accounting support, etc. We need to include our Latino families.
- I see a lot of problems trying to organize an equitable fundraiser on the elementary level. Four vs 14 is a big difference.
- How do we involve families of low income or families of color in this process, to better represent our whole community? Thank you for the commitment to this collaborative process.
- There is momentum right now. Establish next steps (meetings) soon. Keep the mojo going!

- Moving forward to identify the problem we've solving will be exciting.
- I loved being part of this group. As a parent with a child in grade K, this is all new to me and I am excited to see the changes to come.
- Great combo of data/story. Lots of opportunity to listen and discuss. Great meeting!
- Thank you!
- We need to know a little more about the Foundation, but with that I would encourage the use of the Foundation in our schools.
- More communication between PTA's and Foundation, i.e. "summit" or periodic meetings.
- I think we need to come together more often as a PTA/District community in order to fill the needs and gaps that currently affect our schools. We need to redefine what the role of PTA is.
- Great work happened here today! Thank you!
- Let's put a date on the calendar!
- Follow-up meeting for high school PTA's, perhaps coordinated by Foundation?
- Thank you for holding this event and including parent input.
- This is good work we should be engaged in!
- Balance allotment (all kids) with flex schools.
- Give and will continue to give to Steve, Mike, Rob and You!
- Keep talking!
- Thanks!