

## Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications May 23, 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 PAC if you are unable to attend.

### Welcome and Introductions

- What are you looking forward to this summer?

### Superintendent's Update

- **Facilities Rentals:** Dr. Baker introduced Taylor DeWitt who manages facility rentals across our district. Parent groups, including PTAs, can contact [facility.use@bellingshamschools.org](mailto:facility.use@bellingshamschools.org) with questions.
- **Latinx Educational Summit:** executive director of family engagement Isabel Meaker shared details about the annual Latinx Educational Summit that celebrates our Latinx students and families. Nearly 1000 people attended the event on May 19 at Bellingham High.
- **Last month of school:** Students and families are anticipating the last day of school and end of the year events, including graduation. You can see calendar details for graduation and next school year [here](#).
- **Facilities Update:** [Parkview](#) and [Alderwood](#) educational specifications/design advisory committees are sharing design plans and renderings with their communities over the next week. These new schools will be open by 2022, possibly sooner.
- **Co-chair:** PACS co-chair Laura Lawyer's two term is ending. Contact Laura, Jami or Dr. Baker if you are interested in being a co-chair of PACS next year.

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Jay Jordan, director of Teaching and Learning Bethany Barrett and Isabel shared how equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) continues to influence our work and why it's important. They shared a [recent draft of The Promise](#) that now includes a new key strategy: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. They gave examples, including culturally responsive teaching practices, professional development for leaders and diverse book reads, and family engagement strategies. There are studies that show that *all* kids benefit when schools embrace diversity and utilize these strategies.

### Boundaries and Attendance Areas Update

Jay and assistant superintendent Steve Clarke shared an update about the [Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee](#). The 40-person committee is comprised of staff, parents, principals and representatives from the city of Bellingham and has been working on a number of ideas and changes to our elementary and middle school attendance areas for over a year. This group has been examining data, maps, growth projections and enrollment districtwide to help determine how to best accommodate growth in the northern part of our city and balance enrollment. The committee is currently considering [option 1](#) and [option 2](#). The committee [launched a survey and hosted neighborhood meetings](#) last week and will be reviewing the feedback to make a recommendation to Dr. Baker this spring.

### Shout-outs, announcements

- Shout out for WMS and the 250 kids who participated in an all-school bike ride and walk on May 17.
- Birchwood is having their second annual parade on June 14; the Birchwood neighborhood received a grant to support an international market throughout the summer

**Next Meeting:** See you next year! We will send PACS meeting dates for 2019-20 school year in August.