

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications **Sept. 12, 2019**

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Jami Pitman and Samantha Dang are co-chairs:

- We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. Please take information back to each of your schools to share.
- Please work with your principal to arrange for a parent substitute to attend PACS if you are unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions

- A “wow” and a “wonder”

Superintendent’s Updates, Questions and Answers

- **PACS Key Roles:** Please share thoughts and feedback on district-wide initiatives and learning, as well as share information about what you learn at these meetings back out to your community. There will be time at each meeting for introductions and then a “deeper dive” into one or more topics. The group may take field trips to different locations; none are planned currently, but it may come up in the future. The group is not tasked with specific work; instead it serves to offer input and to advise.
- **The Bellingham Promise:** We recently have been working to update our strategic plan, The Bellingham Promise, to better reflect our work and ambitions around equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The Promise is a living document; it guides our work and evolves with our new learning. Based on feedback, we added a sixth key strategy: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and edited our other key strategies to reflect the ways EDI influences our collective work.

Food Services Update

Patrick Durgan, executive chef and director of food services, and Jessica Sankey, director of teaching and learning for wellness, shared an update to our food service program. The Bellingham Good Food Project has added more scratch-cooked menu items. We are working to communicate more clearly which items are scratch-made and whole grain, as well as which items meet dietary needs and preferences. The key ingredient to sustaining these changes is participation. Adults are welcome in the cafeterias, and adult lunch is \$4.25 at the register. We encourage adults to come and try lunch—making sure to check in at the school office! Patrick and Jessica answered questions about the variety of menu items, how scratch cooking and the central kitchen are changing our model, what level of participation will sustain the program, how to continue communicating to families about how to participate, and our repurposing and food recovery network systems.

Jessica and Patrick offered to attend PTA meetings if any schools or groups would like more information. They also reported that participation has been up from what we usually see at the beginning of the school year.

Brainstorm Topics for the Year

The group brainstormed topics for the year with each other and turned ideas in to the co-chairs.

Announcements

- The Birchwood International Market is coming up on September 27; there is Zumba at 5 p.m. at Birchwood Elementary every Monday and at Shuksan Middle every Friday. Jami Pitman is collecting gently used children’s shoes; please bring them to the meetings or contact her for more information.
- There is early visioning around making more connections among the elementary parent groups and PTAs— if you’re interested, get in touch with someone from the Elementary Equity Project group.

Next Meeting: Oct. 24, 9:30 – 11:30