

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications Oct. 24, 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

- What is an example of something that you have seen the district do to foster Equity, Diversity, Inclusion?

Superintendent's Updates, Questions and Answers

- [Start and end times](#): Dr. Baker reminded the group that our district implemented a change in fall 2017 to push back the start time for high school based on medical research. Because of transportation complexities, that change meant starting elementary earlier. Other districts across the state and country, including the California legislature, are all looking at mandating districts start high school later.
- Bellingham Public Schools and Dr. Baker recently [received recognition](#) for offering drivers education. There are 295 districts in our state and Bellingham is the only district that offers free drivers ed in high school, which saves families over \$400.
- [Levies 2020](#): The state funds what it calls a “prototypical model” for K-12 public education. We do not believe their model meets our standards for what is best for students and our community. An example of where our local community’s standards are higher than the state’s model is nursing. The state funds 1.6 nurses for 12,000 students across 22 schools. We fund an additional seven nurses to serve our students. There are many other examples of deficiencies in the state funding model. For more information about the levies that will be on the ballot in Feb. 2020, you can read more [here](#).

Safety Update

Student safety and emergency management director Jonah Stinson shared there are a variety of school safety components including, structural security; community partner coordination; training and education; and emergency management coordination. Jonah shared that generally, our schools are safe places, even though the media may not portray that. He talked about the tip line and shared that more information can be found on the [emergency and safety webpage](#).

Directors of teaching and learning Keith Schacht presented about bullying and the definition of bullying, and our [3207 policy](#); and Trina Hall shared information about the new K-8 curriculum for social emotional learning, including [RULER and Caring School Communities](#).

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Sehome assistant principal Bethany Barrett and executive director of teaching and learning Jay Jordan talked about the updated [Bellingham Promise](#), which now better reflects 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.

Teachers Andrea Quigley and Sarah Ferris offered a lesson and exercise about culturally-responsive instruction based on Zaretta Hammond's book [Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain](#).
#zarettahammond

Announcements

- League of Women Voters representatives will be going to Olympia in February; they will be endorsing the school district's levies.
- Shuksan families are forming a new parent group
- The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation is hosting a poverty simulation workshop 6 to 8 pm Nov. 7 at Sehome High School.
- Everyone is invited to participate in Zumba at 5 p.m. every Monday at Birchwood Elementary and every Friday at Shuksan Middle
- Birchwood is hosting the Birchwood Boogie Friday, Oct. 25
- Wade King Elementary now has a new mascot: the wolves.
- [Pickford Theatre](#) is showing Changing the Game, a documentary about non-binary high school student athletes

Next Meeting: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m on Dec. 12, 2019