

## **Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications** **May 29, 2020**

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.

On Friday, May 29, Dr. Baker hosted two Zoom meetings open to all members of PACS. The meetings occurred at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### **Superintendent's Updates, Questions and Answers**

- **Dr. Baker opened the floor for questions, concerns and silver linings of the COVID-19 emergency school closure, and encouraged PACS members to share their thoughts and experiences.**
- **Here is a summary of the topics covered in the two meetings.**
  - Families and students are feeling the need for more personal contact with teachers when possible (e.g. phone calls, videoconferences). Families would like more clarity around in-person interactions, as some schools have been engaging in them and others have not.
  - Members expressed thanks for the services the district is providing and sharing, including attention to mental health and social-emotional learning.
  - Question: The Family Resource Center is doing amazing work—what will be able to be sustained into the next year? What support will be needed with food boxes, other support for families?
  - Question: what structure might we use for a return to in-person instruction next year? There are many models, such as multiple shifts, A/B, or partial-day model. Dr. Baker shared that each model will have pros and cons.
  - Questions: are special education services being sidelined or not prioritized? How can we keep students with IEPs engaged and moving forward?
    - Dr. Baker expressed that, from his perspective, continuing services as best as possible for students receiving specialized services has been and will continue to be a high priority.
  - Question: Would like more information on guidelines around online, synchronous celebrations, particularly for fifth graders leaving for middle school.
    - Jay Jordan, executive director of teaching and learning, expressed that we are being very mindful not to create situations where groups will feel encouraged to gather in person.
  - Elementary learning menu feedback:
    - Concerns expressed about Seesaw as a sometimes-challenging platform.
      - Kristi Dominguez, executive director of teaching and learning, noted that Seesaw was not designed for remote learning, but for communication.
    - Menus don't meet all students' needs or reflect all students' abilities.
    - Menus require a lot of parent facilitation to help students access; suggest supplementary independent activities such as packets, workbooks.
    - Menus have shined a light on teaching and learning as most effective in person, especially for younger learners.

- Remote learning, if it continues, needs a refresh, rebrand and reboot, with more training needed for staff, students and families.
  - Some families are disengaging from remote learning who could be engaged; schools may be receiving some redirected frustration and grief about the COVID situation as a whole.
  - Suggestion: Those planning menus/curriculum could take more advantage of online field trips (e.g. Vancouver aquarium, museums).
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- **Dr. Baker shared that the district will continue to research and solicit feedback from our community as we plan to reopen. He encouraged PACS members to continue sharing ideas, questions and concerns with him.**
  - **The meetings concluded with thanks to Jami Pitman for her two years of service as PACS co-chair.**