

# Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

## Key Communications

March 11, 2021

Each school has two representatives on this committee.  
Samantha Dang and Elizabeth Walther 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.

### Opening Question

- Co-chairs Samantha Dang and Elizabeth Walther welcomed the group and asked members to participate in an icebreaker activity and to share the best advice they've ever gotten or given in the Zoom chat.

### Superintendent's updates, Q&A

- Superintendent Greg Baker shared an update on budget planning for the 2021-22 school year and referenced the [recent message shared with our community](#). Emergency federal funding is helping us and other districts across the state maintain staffing, services and programs.
- Dr. Baker also shared photos of facilities that are being renovated and built, including Alderwood, Parkview, Shuksan's auxiliary gym and Bellingham High School's fields.
- He also shared images and references of our [Reconnect Plan](#), photos of students coming back to our schools for in-person instruction and photos of recent vaccine clinics our district hosted for staff.
- Dr. Baker and staff answered questions related to free meal boxes being distributed over the summer and staff morale. Principals shared that morale is strong due to the joy of having more students back in-person and having vaccinations offered to all staff. There are challenges with hybrid teaching and learning and managing students both in-person and online. Some also commented that our strong mitigation protocols have helped staff feel comfortable. There was a question about how the district is thinking about staff roles and responsibilities related to the pandemic. Dr. Baker shared that this crisis has been managed by a number of leaders, including safety and emergency management staff, operations, health services and nurses.

### Breakout rooms

PACS members were invited to participate in breakout room conversations with principals, separated by level (elementary, middle and high).

Each group then shared themes they heard with the larger group, including questions and comments related to schedules, both this year and next year; appreciation for the district's planning and offering remote/flexible options for families and students; wonders about social emotional support for students; acknowledgement of silver linings from the pandemic; and gratitude that our students are back at school.

### Share out/announcements

- Virtual science fair at Happy Valley Elementary this week.
- Parkview did a science fair recently on FlipGrid and they are interested in doing this in the future. Parkview PTA is hosting a bingo night on Zoom.
- High school parents are brainstorming ideas on how to honor and celebrate graduates of the class of 2021.

Next Meeting: 10:30 a.m. April 15