

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

Key Communications

April 15, 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.

Superintendent's updates, Q&A

- Superintendent Greg Baker signaled that guidance for K-12 schools has changed in the last month. We follow guidance from local, state and national health officials, including the CDC and they are recommending changing physical distancing rules from six-foot distance between people to three feet (with nuances). Gov. Jay Inslee has also issued a proclamation that schools need to offer more in-person instruction this spring.
- We anticipate sending a message today to include information about a revised schedule for grades 4-12.
- We hope next school year looks similar to a pre-pandemic schedule with school happening in-person five days per week. We will continue to wear masks and offer remote options for students.
- Dr. Baker shared other updates:
 - o State testing is postponed until next fall to give schools more instructional time with students.
 - o More BPS staff are vaccinated and all have been given the opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine. As of today, 16 and older are eligible for vaccinations. We are working with local health providers to help facilitate opportunities to get eligible students the Pfizer vaccine if they are interested. At this point, there is not a requirement for students to get vaccinated to attend school; those decisions are usually made at the state level by public health officials.
- Dr. Baker also shared photos of some of our current construction/facility projects and of students and staff teaching and learning in our schools.

Bellingham Promise and One Schoolhouse

Dr. Baker and staff shared the history and origin of our strategic plan [The Bellingham Promise](#) and, in particular, highlighted the key strategy One Schoolhouse Approach. They shared a [video about The Bellingham Promise](#) and a video that helps explain [One Schoolhouse](#).

PACS members were invited to participate in breakout room conversations about One Schoolhouse and share ideas to strengthen and promote this key strategy. Many parents and guardians expressed appreciation for Dr. Baker's leadership, The Promise and our district's focus on equity. Many called out the elementary equity project and a desire for families to know more about other schools in our district beyond the schools their own children attend. How do we help tell stories and make connections? Others had wonders and requests to share information and stories about the grant application process, boundary changes in Bellingham and developing service projects and job skills for middle and high school students. Some acknowledged how all the key strategies overlap and recognized the importance of family engagement and equity, diversity and inclusion.

Next Meeting: 10:30 a.m. May 13