

# Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

## Key Communications

Oct. 14, 2021

Via zoom

Each school has two representatives on this committee.

Amber Asbjornsen 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 Amber Asbjornsen and Elizabeth Walther welcomed the group and asked members to participate in an icebreaker activity.

## Superintendent's updates, Q&A

- Dr. Baker shared the purpose and overview of PACS, which is to engage with the district and leaders, share feedback and hear updates/information about initiatives and programs. We ask representatives to help serve as key communicators to school communities. PACS reps also serve as thought partners and Dr. Baker and others may ask for feedback. We will continue to weigh pros/cons about meeting in person and there may be opportunities for school tours.
- It's been gratifying to have our students back in school this year. The pandemic is not over and challenges still exist, but things feel joyful and hopeful in our schools.
- We opened new Alderwood and Parkview elementary schools this fall, and Dr. Baker shared some photos of these new facilities and current construction at Sunnyland. He also shared architect renderings of the new District Office on Barkley Blvd.
- We have a new [facilities planning task force](#) that is meeting right now and includes students, staff, leaders, parents/guardians and community partners. They are working right now to confirm what could be on our next bond, which may be on a ballot in Feb. 2022. The goals of the bond are to 1) begin design work for the replacement of Roosevelt, Columbia and Carl Cozier to set the stage for a future bond; 2) build a 15<sup>th</sup> elementary school and use as swing space; 3) build a new facility for our Community Transitions program; 4) support completion of current capital projects, including Sunnyland, Environmental Education site, District Office and high school fields; and 5) support districtwide facility needs at a variety of schools across our district, including new inclusive playgrounds.

- We continue to focus on [mitigations strategies against COVID-19](#), including masking and vaccinations. We have had great success verifying vaccination status of employees after the governor mandated that all school district employees be vaccinated by Oct. 18. We are hopeful that our youngest students will soon be eligible for vaccinations, and we continue to increase access to testing in our schools.

### Small Group Discussions

PACS split up into smaller breakout rooms to talk about topics they are interested in learning more about this school year. Dr. Baker is collecting the ideas from each group then sharing the list with the PACs co-chairs. These topics will help inform topics and guests for future meetings.

### Announcements/sharing

- Elementary children are welcome to attend a festival event with trick or treating at Shuksan Middle School on Oct. 29
- Check out [Make a Difference Day on Oct. 23 at Whatcom Falls Park](#)

*PACS will meet again Dec. 9, 2021*