



**Board Summary: Community Linkage Special Meeting  
Wade King Elementary School  
April 25, 2018**

The Bellingham School Board of Directors and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed audience members, invited guests and district staff to a linkage meeting focusing on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and [The Bellingham Promise](#). The following were guiding questions:

- x *What resonates in The Bellingham Promise?*
- x WKDW ¶ V P L V L Q J "
- x *How do you see your experiences in IB connected to the outcomes of The Bellingham Promise?*
- x *What are some of your reflections about the strengths/uniqueness of IB?*
- x *How could Bellingham Public Schools strengthen/develop the IB program?*

During the meeting, attendees shared insights and thoughts on the guiding questions. Highlights of comments:

- o Phrases such as *all children should be loved* and *the whole child is important* resonated with many.
- o Attendees expressed appreciation for the ways in which the district supports its students and observed that teachers demonstrate that they care for all students and families.
- o It is evident that different learning aptitudes and styles are embraced. A lot of differences in learning styles are built into the IB curriculum.
- o Harder and more differentiated world language classes would be welcomed.
- o IB allows students to learn to become problem solvers. Inquiry-based classrooms are emphasized from kindergarten on.
- o IB fosters many good community connections.
- o IB teachers do a good job modeling risk taking and they are open to being lifelong learners.
- o It would be great if IB could be offered to every student, or at the very least, continue through the middle school years.
- o , % V X S S R U W V <sup>3</sup> P H V V \ O t h a t i s p e r h a p s e a s i e r i n e l e m e n t a r y t h a n i n m i d d l e s c h o o l .

Meeting minutes are attached.



**Official Meeting Minutes: Community Linkage Special Meeting  
Wade King Elementary School  
April 25, 2018  
6-7 p.m.**

**Linkage Attendees:**

X Families/Students/Community Members:

- **Kati & Rob Berreth & Owen, Lilli, Emma & Judson**
- **Curran Cummings**
- **Esmeralda Ortiz & Merly**
- **Pam Kuntz & Jack**
- **Sofia Medina**

X Directors **Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Quenby Peterson**

X Superintendent of Schools **Greg Baker**

X District Leadership and Staff: Deputy Superintendent **Mike Copland**, Executive Director **Rob McElroy**; Assistant Superintendent **Bob Kuehl**; Assistant Superintendent **Simone Sangster**, Executive Director **Ron Cowan**, Executive Director **Kurt Gazow**, Elementary School Principals: **Micah Smith** (Alderwood); **Eric Paige** (Carl Cozier); **Stephanie Johnson** (Wade King); **Lynn Heimsoth** (Sunnyland); **Aaron Darragh** (Columbia); **Pam Pottle** (Northern Heights); Wade King Dean of Students **Paul Gutzler**; Interpreter **Erika Quintanilla**; Sunnyland Counselor **Kari I** q 0.00000912 0 612 792 re ] TJ ET Q q 0.00000912 0 6

**Large Group Discussion with School Board:** For discussion purposes, attendees divided into two groups. Dr. Copland facilitated one group; Rob McElroy facilitated the others. Following is a summary of responses to the guiding questions:

x **What resonates in The Bellingham Promise:**

- *All children should be loved.*
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At the close of the formal meeting, Dr. Baker and Mr. McElroy summarized key talking points and Ms. Diaz Hackler thanked attendees for their participation. She encouraged those in the group to use the school board ¶ Listening Post if they would like to continue to communicate directly with the board. Dr. Baker and Mr. McElroy summarized key talking points.