

January 15, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_ Parents attended representing 15 schools – 10 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

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Superintendent Greg Baker  
Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland  
Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke  
Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe  
Director of Teaching and Learning Amy Carder  
Director of Food Services Mark Dalton  
Director of Teaching and Learning Michelle Kuss-Cybula

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Sheri O'Day, Executive Secretary to the Department of Teaching and Learning

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Joanna welcomed everyone, and introductions were made around the room.

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Birchwood Elementary School is scheduled to open this fall. Last week it was announced that Matt Whitten will be the new principal at Birchwood. As the Birchwood planning principal, Matt will remain at Geneva part-time as he also works to open Birchwood. Steve Ruthford from Sehome High School will be working side-by-side with Matt at Geneva as the Dean of Students for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year. Steve is an outstanding instructional leader who is great with staff and students. A parent asked why Mr. Ruthford was pulled from the classroom immediately. Mike Copland noted that Steve may be out of the classroom for one or two days per week until the end of the first semester and will transition full-time to Geneva at the beginning of second semester. Phyllis Textor at Sehome is working to find a great replacement for Steve at Sehome.

Committee Update: The [Attendance Area Committee](#) shared a proposal before winter break, followed by an online survey and a family input meeting to get feedback about where Larrabee students will attend (Happy Valley or Lowell) beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The committee plans to submit their recommendation to the superintendent by the end of January, with communication to families about a decision by the end of February. The [Repurposing Larrabee Think Tank](#) is currently looking at criteria to evaluate ideas for how to use the Larrabee facility in the future, and what the process will be for gathering those ideas. The group will then assess the pros and cons of the ideas submitted to provide this input to Dr. Baker. There was a question about the timeline for the Think Tank. There is not currently an end date set, as it is a very dynamic process.

Budget: The state is currently in the first year of its biennium budget and is fine-tuning the budget for next year. The governor has stated that there will not be a large influx of new

funding for next year. The Supreme Court ruled against the state regarding education funding (the state is only supplying approximately 65% of our budget) and has stated

the teacher's evaluation. Mike Copland added that part of the challenge with growth measures is that state tests change from year-to-year, and not all teachers teach a grade level and/or subject that are tested. Amy reviewed the UW CEL 5D Instructional Framework, which will be used by the Bellingham Public Schools (districts were given 3 choices of frameworks) and passed out the "Smart Cards" (she pointed out that there is more specific information that is not contained on the smart card). For 2013-14, 25% of teachers at each school will be evaluated under the new system. Principals and teachers are training side-by-side (5 days of instructional framework training). A parent asked if all teachers will eventually be trained. Amy indicated that yes, our district has decided that all teachers should be trained. Amy provided a comparison of [current versus revised evaluation criteria](#).

Dr. Baker introduced Mark Dalton, Director of Food Services. Mark handed out brochures for the Bellingham Farm-to-School Promise and Whatcom Farm-to-School program, as well as a snack (yogurt/blueberry/granola parfaits). He shared that Food Services (73 employees) prepares and serves more than

