

June 11, 2014

_____ Parents attended representing 14 schools 10 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 1 high school.

Superintendent Greg Baker

Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland

Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke

Executive Administrator Rob McElroy

Assistant Superintendent Bob Kuehl

Executive Director Nora Klewiada

Director of Teaching and Learning Brian Rick

Director of Teaching and Learning Michelle Kuss-Cybula

Director of Teaching and Learning Trina Hall

Early Childhood Education Coordinator

A tentative agreement has been reached with the Bellingham Education Association (BEA) for a teaching contract. Numerous hours have been spent in negotiations over the school year. The biggest challenge is around time and how to get it all done—teaching, planning, assessment/evaluating, professional development, etc. A four-year contract will be finalized Thursday night at the School Board meeting. A large amount of time was spent in negotiations to develop the school calendars for the next 4 years.

Placement (AP) tests in early May (which has an economic value). There were over 2,000 AP tests taken by Bellingham students this year. If we use the tuition costs of the University of Washington as an example, it is estimated that students and families would save upwards of \$2.3 million on college tuition (based on pass completion rates of 60% scoring a 3, 4 or 5). This would result in less tuition paid by families and lower student loans for our students.

Dr. Baker passed out the [2014-15](#) school calendar. The purple days are non-student days; yellow are elementary early dismissals on Thursdays; and green are early dismissals for both elementary and middle school on Thursdays. Note that there are two green dates in November for conferencing.

Dr. Baker asked if there were any questions:

To clarify, the last day of school is a Monday.
Yes.

The second week of November is very choppy.
November 11th is a holiday that has no flexibility as far as moving it.

Why is the purple day in May not on the second Friday?
That is a date for Advanced Placement (AP) testing.

Is June 12 a day for professional development or grading?
It will be a time for teachers to start preparations for a very busy time of year including grading and preparation for report cards.

Has there been any thought to swapping elementary and high school start times?

It will take a lot of energy to figure out how that can be done. It is a complex puzzle, and so far we have not found the answer for how to do it.

Will kindergarten students continue to start on a different day than the rest of the students?

Next year kindergarten students will attend on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for half days. We will determine after this year if adjustments should be made to that schedule.

Will there be a Promise K program next year?

The plan is to offer Promise K again, and it likely will begin the week after spring break.

Is it expected that there will be more regularity for middle school conferences?

There will be a set time for conferences built into the schedule, and having the November non-school day will be helpful in order for the teachers to fit the conferences in. It will likely still be a building decision about how the conferences will be structured.