

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

October 23, 2014 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Birchwood Elementary School

Parents: Parents attended representing 14 schools – 10 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

Executive Team/District Staff:

Superintendent Greg Baker

Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland

Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke

Executive Administrator Rob McElroy

Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe

Doctoral Resident Anda Adams

Birchwood Principal Matt Whitten

Food Services Director Mark Dalton

Note Taker:

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

Welcome:

Dawn Brand and Trisha Walton welcomed the group and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Superintendent Update and Pressing Questions:

Dr. Baker welcomed everyone to the new Birchwood facility and thanked principal Matt Whitten for hosting at Birchwood this morning.

Updates included:

Dr. Baker talked about the fall edition of our [Inside Schools](#) community newsletter that was just mailed to 60,000 households in Bellingham.

The [superintendent's blog](#) is now launched, and Dr. Baker looks forward to receiving any feedback that you may have. It is hoped that this will be another tool for communication and updates.

A [bond update video](#) was shared this week, which gives information about where we are with the bond projects.

Shuksan was named this week as a recipient of a [21st Century federal grant](#) in the amount of \$1.3 million (to be used over the next 5 years). The grant will help provide before and after school activities for students and will help with student transportation for those activities. A coordinator will be hired to be on-site managing those activities and the necessary logistics.

The second cohort of our Aspiring Administrators Program, which supports our key strategy of great teaching and strong support to ensure outstanding leadership in every school, was recently formed. The cohort is made up of teacher leaders from across the district who may be interested in pursuing administrative opportunities. The

Matt led the group on a tour of the building and the garden area, and then fielded questions from the group:

Is there anything that you would change about the new building?

Matt shared that he thinks the building is a “home run.” The only thing that he would change is the location of the principal’s office. He spends more time in the conference

