

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications

Feb. 28, 2019

Sehome High School Library

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Laura Lawyer and Jami Pitman are co-chairs:

We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it and take back questions or concerns from other parents.**

Please arrange for a parent substitute to attend PACS if you are unable to attend.

Welcome to Sehome High School and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and shared what they did over the week of snow.

Coffee Presentation by DECA Students

Sehome DECA students presented an idea to implement a quality coffee shop into Bellingham Public Schools high schools. They shared that students and staff are already drinking and bringing coffee to school every day. A student coffee shop would help reduce the number of kids leaving campus for coffee and profits could help support enrichment clubs and scholarships.

Update

Closures in Feb. due to snow: It's challenging to shut down all schools for an entire week, but we made decisions as early as possible to give families early notice. We received a lot of correspondence and feedback from families about snow days; most people were understanding about the decisions made. Our district covers 100 square miles, and decisions related to weather are complicated.

Budget: We are continuing to wait to see what the state legislature will do this session. Legislators are still talking about preK-12 education funding, and one idea that is still on the table is whether to change or lift the "levy lid." New restrictions that limit how much money districts can collect through levies are now in effect, and unless the state takes action, districts across the state, including ours, will be facing a budget shortfall.

Sehome Rebuild Story

Sehome Principal Michelle Kuss-Cybula shared the journey from visioning to ground-breaking to grand opening of the new Sehome High School. There were many opportunities for input from students, staff, neighbors, alumni and community that influenced the way the building looks, feels and functions. It was a heavy lift to open a new school mid-year and the new school has been well-received by the Sehome community.

Michelle took PACS representatives on a tour of the new school and answered questions.

Announcements/Shout-outs

Kulshan Middle School is working on filling a cabinet of food at the counselors' office for students in need.

Birchwood Elementary is having family heritage night March 21.

Friends of the Family Resource Center is hosting a personal hygiene drive, and members of PACS agreed to bring in items. In March, members can bring shampoo/conditioner; April is baby wipes and May is diapers.

Next Meeting: March. 28, 2018, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.