

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

Amber Asbjornsen and Elizabeth Walther (co-chairs)  
Thursday, April 21, 2022

Alderwood Elementary School

Each school has two representatives on this committee.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chairs – Elizabeth Walther & Amber Asbjornsen

We are looking for a new co-chair. If anyone is interested in being a co-chair next year, please let Elizabeth, Amber or Dr. Baker know.

The group met at the District Office and rode a school bus to Alderwood Elementary School for a tour and conversation.

**Inclusive playgrounds**

Part of Alderwood's new construction includes a new inclusive playground. Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey shared our decision-making process for designing our outdoor

**Q: Why are there windows on the hallway side of classrooms?**

A: Windows allow for natural light and being able to see into classrooms from the hallway also helps with safety. For the school community, it also gives a level of transparency, which helps others see instructional practices, including principals and other administrative staff.

**Q: You have recently replaced Happy Valley, Parkview and Alderwood. What are the things that are working well and that you will incorporate into future construction of elementary schools?**

A: We have learned a lot with our recent construction. Here is a list of features we plan to include in our new schools: elevators and ADA accessibility; new inclusive playgrounds; learning spaces that are just outside classrooms and easy for teachers to see and access; new kitchens that support our new cooking and preparation model from our Central Kitchen; full size gyms that are connected to our stages and cafeterias to accommodate large events; more efficiency in heating and cooling; more windows; more focus on sustainability features like solar and geothermal; more consideration for airflow and larger, more comfortable instructional spaces.

*Next Meeting: May 19, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., location TBD (watch email for details)*