

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

November 5, 2008

Schools Represented:

Elementary Schools:

Alderwood
Birchwood
Carl Cozier
Columbia
Geneva
Happy Valley
Roosevelt
Silver Beach
Wade King

Middle Schools:

Fairhaven
Shuksan
Whatcom

High Schools:

Bellingham
Sehome
Squalicum

District Staff: Ken Vedra, Superintendent; Tanya Rowe, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Jim Facciano, Director of Curriculum; Brian Rick, Assessment and Evaluation Specialist

Note Taker: Nancy Merry, secretary to the Superintendent

Co-Chairs: Mary LeDonne and Pam Behee

District Update:

Superintendent Kenneth Vedra reported on a meeting held at Whatcom Middle School for parents and staff on the seismic retrofit.

Dr. Vedra indicated the state budget shortfall may be worse than projected and could impact the district budget. Central office administrators will be speaking to school staff, parent groups and community organizations to explain the possible ramifications to the 2009–2010 district budget.

Tanya Rowe, director of Communications and Community Relations, asked for input from attendees on a new policy and procedure clarifying the role of committees, task forces and groups. Based on questions from parents at the October Parent Advisory Committee about how committees members are selected, Rowe drafted the policy and procedure. She also indicated the District website lists various committees, task forces and groups, including an application process for those interested in serving (<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/staff/committee.htm>). Currently, applications from interested parents/guardian, middle and high school students, and staff are being accepted for a Middle/High School Scheduling Committee. This Committee will develop criteria for creating a common schedule for the district's middle and high schools. Applications can be submitted through November 14, 2008.

Math Curriculum

Jim Facciano, director of Curriculum, presented an overview of the math curriculum. Since joining the District in July, Facciano has visited schools and met with many teachers to discuss

curriculum issues, determine needs, and establish priorities. Facciano plans to focus on articulation between grade levels and within subject areas.

He has been working with middle schools to create opportunities for districtwide collaboration. The efforts thus far have been to begin developing a common core curriculum so that all students will have the opportunity to learn regardless of which class or school they attend.

K-5 Math Initiatives

Balanced Math is the focus of professional development for K-5 mathematics. The District has a team of teacher-leaders that have been trained to help implement this effective instructional model. Additionally, Jan Christensen will be presenting to the entire K-5 staff and administration at the November 10 Learning Improvement Day.

Work has begun to unwrap the new K-5 math standards and to write a curriculum to include resource correlations and districtwide common assessments.

Facciano would like to see more professional development but it is difficult with the limited number of Learning Improvement Days. Parents suggested being more specific with communicating the importance of the LID to families.

Group Sharing

Members were asked to sign up for group sharing time for each meeting. Group sharing will be limited to three schools per meeting and will be an opportunity to share a best practice or to bring up a concern. Members signed up for the following schools:

December 3:	1. Happy Valley 2. 3.	April 1:	1. Sehome 2. 3.
January 7:	1. Fairhaven 2. 3.	May 6:	1. 2. 3.
February 4:	1. Bellingham 2. 3.	June 3:	1. Roosevelt 2. 3.
March 4:	1. Silver Beach 2. Alderwood 3.		

Members are asked to share information from these meetings with their principal and parent organizations.

Future Meetings:

Meetings are from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. at the Administration Building, 1306 Dupont Street as follows:

December 3, 2008
January 7, 2009
February 4, 2009
March 4, 2009

April 1, 2009
May 6, 2009
June 3, 2009