

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee

March 5, 2008

Note taker: Nancy Merry

Co-Chair Mary LeDonne reviewed the evening meeting held February 21 at Kulshan Middle School. Even though it was not well attended, LeDonne felt the presentations were very worthwhile and thanked District staff Susan Zoller, Brian Rick, Row Cowan, and Ken Vedra for their presentations and Board members Kelly Bashaw and Melody Rhode for attending.

LeDonne asked those attending to complete a survey about their goals and expectations for the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee and leave at the end of the meeting.

Tanya Rowe, director of School Information and Communications, was complimented on the *Ready Guide*. It is a great publication.

Rowe asked members to turn in their suggestions and thoughts on Policy 4320, *Distribution of Written Materials to Students and Posting of Written Materials in Schools*. She plans to present it to the School Board for a first reading on March 20, 2008.

Best Practices Forum

Meg Metzger and Sharon Stah facilitated a discussion on hosting a Best Practices Forum for parents and school/parent organizations on May 7 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Subsequent to the meeting, the location was confirmed for the Commons at Bellingham High School.

Their original proposal included time for general discussion before breaking into smaller groups covering nine topics. Attendees could move from session to session as they choose. Parent groups from all grade levels would be encouraged to attend and share their best practices with others and pick up ideas of other "best" ideas.

After further discussion, the plan evolved to keep it simple and more general. Meg and Sharon will contact each parent group to see if they are interested in participating. Members of the Parent Advisory Committee are asked to communicate with their school parent group on their interest. Meg drafted the following paragraph summarizing the intent of the Fair.

Maybe keep it more general...fair will have a sign up sheet

A volunteer will be responsible for taking notes during the event to report back to the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee

Nancy will send a paragraph about this to PTA presidents via email.

If you have other suggestions, please contact Meg Metzger (megmetz@comcast.net) or Sharon Stahl (dsstahl@fidalgo.net) May 7 6:30 to 9:00, postings,

International Baccalaureate Program

Superintendent Ken Vedra, who is on the Board of Directors of International Baccalaureate, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. The International Baccalaureate Organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. Schools are located in 124 countries and provide IB programs to approximately 500,000 students. Vedra indicated three elementary schools in Bellingham are investigating establishing a Primary Years Program and one middle school is considering a Middle Years Program.

The program is divided into three levels:

- Primary Years Program for students 3 to 12 years old;
- Middle Years Program for students 11 to 16 years old; and
- Diploma Years Program for students 16 to 19 years old.

The Middle Years Program can be either a three or a five-year program. The three programs operate independent of one another and a District does not need to have all three programs.

There is an accreditation process, which takes approximately two to three years that all schools must follow before becoming an IB school. This process includes training and professional development for teachers and administrators. The program uses the local curriculum but is taught in a more investigative- and inquiry-based method.

Superintendent Vedra reviewed some of the components and elements of an IB program and emphasized it is a program designed for all students, including special needs students.

All IB programs include the following components

A written curriculum or curriculum framework

Student assessment

Professional development for teachers

School support, authorization and program evaluation

All IB programs share these common elements

Have a strong international dimension

Draw on content from educational cultures around the world

Require study across a broad range of subjects

Include both individual subjects and transdisciplinary areas

Give special emphasis to learning languages

Focus on developing the skills of learning

Provide opportunities for individual and collaborative planning and research

Encourage students to become responsible members of their community.

Program is designed for all kids...special needs and life skills kids.
Standards are the same, whether public or private

IBO.org website.

Ken responded to questions.