



**Board Summary: Community Linkage Meeting
Connecting with the LGBTQA Community
January 30, 2014**

The Bellingham School Board and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed audience members, invited guests, and district staff to a linkage meeting focused on strengthening connections with the LGBTQA community.

The purpose of the meeting was for the School Board to engage in a discussion about how [The Bellingham Promise](#) resonates with LGBTQA students and families and to listen to their experiences as part of our school system. The Board asked parents, students, alumni, and staff members to explore the following questions:

How does The Bellingham Promise currently support LGBTQA students, families, graduates, and community members?

How would you describe your experience with Bellingham Public Schools? How could we better serve you?

Attendees said the level of tolerance in the community is ~~high~~ **BTB**

**School Board Community Linkage with
the LGBTQA Community
Bellingham High School Library
January 30, 2014**

Linkage Attendees:

Representative parents/guardians, students, alumni, and community members connected to the LGBTQA community

Directors Kelly Bashaw, Camille Hackler, Steve Smith (Board President), and Scott Stockburger

Superintendent of Schools Greg Baker

District Administrators/Staff: Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland; Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke; Assistant Superintendent Ron Cowan; Executive Director Kurt Gazow; Executive Director Nora Klewiada; Assistant Superintendent Bob Kuehl; Executive Administrator Rob McElroy; Executive Director Tanya Rowe; Executive Secretary and Recorder Ruth Rasmussen

Call to Order:

President Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He explained that Dr. Gass was unable to attend the meeting due to an out-of-town commitment.

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Smith introduced Dr. Baker and Ms.

District and community resources:

- Within the district, some of the middle and high schools have active student-led Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs).
- Northwest Youth Services in Bellingham offers a support group, the Queer Youth Project, and is developing training for staff that will be available to social service providers in the community.
- Whatcom Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) serves the local LGBT community.
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is focused on ensuring

students and families feel they are a part of this district. He referenced The Bellingham Promise, noting that the School Board holds all district staff accountable for the commitment that every student should be loved, cared for, and respected.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Steve Smith, School Board President

ATTEST:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board