



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY LINKAGE SPECIAL MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 27, 2019 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Linkage Attendees:

- x Representatives of community agencies
 - o Lydia Place: (P L O \ 2 ¶ & R Q Q R U
 - o Brigid Collins House: Jenn Lockwood
 - o Northwest Youth Services: Page, Dan Reese
 - o Whatcom Detention Center: rani Brogan, Steve Dahl
 - o Opportunity Council: David Webster
- x Directors present: Kelly Bashaw, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Quenby Peterson, absent: Douglas Benjamin
- x Deputy Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools: Mike Copland
- x District Leadership and Staff Assistant Superintendent: Steve Clarke; Executive Director Kristi Dominguez; Executive Director: Jay Jordan; Assistant Superintendent: Bob Kuehl; Assistant Superintendent: Storme Sangster; Executive Director: Kurt Gazow; Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Family Engagement: Isabel Meaker; Director of Teaching and Learning: Trina Hall; Communications Manager: Dana Smith; Early Learning Specialist: Debora Haney.

Dr. Baker expressed regrets as he was attending a school event with one of his children.

Call to Order/Welcoming and Introductions: School Board President: Camille Diaz

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all to introduce themselves and describe their connections to the school district and community

Meeting Purpose - Explanation of Community Linkages: School Board Director Jenn Mason thanked everyone for taking time to be here this evening. She shared that the school board and district are very interested in learning how to best support families our students and families. More specifically, the board is seeking input on the goals we have set for our students through our board policies expressed in [The Bellingham Promise](#)

Small Group Discussion with School Board Members and Facilitators: For discussion purposes, attendees divided into groups facilitated by Isabel Meaker,

Kristi Dominguez, Steve Clarke and Mike Copland. The small groups focused on the following guiding questions:

1. How do you see [The Bellingham Promise](#) connected to your work in supporting our families through challenge?
2. What is working well for our students and families?
3. What is missing or needs improvement?
4. How can we better work together?

At the conclusion of the small group time, Dr. Copland asked each table group to share briefly what they discussed. Following is a summary of responses to the guiding questions:

- x Whatcom Detention Center (WDC), as a school, be more calming for students than a traditional school.
- x [The Bellingham Promise](#) demonstrates how we care about children, teaching them to be their best selves.
- x Students entering WDC are assessed and WDC provides language arts content in 90 days.
- x Students need to be recognized but WDC cannot issue credit or graduate students.
- x It is important to continue strengthening the relationship between WDC and Bellingham Public Schools. Because of the nature of detention, WDC is able to learn a lot about what is happening while the students are under their care.
- x WDC would like to continue the partnership with Bellingham Public Schools, including staff training.
- x Executive Director Jay Jordan read a poem written by a WDC student.
- x A collective buy-in is needed to do all that we can to help students and families.
- x The increased family engagement team is working to level the playing field for families.
- x The elimination of

- x Curriculum and expectations need to be tailored to students.
- x The new portions of [The Bellingham Promise](#) are important for students to hear and be reminded of
- x The district is committed to facilitate change
- x ³7HDFKLQJ´ UHIHUV WR DOO VWDII FXVWRGLDQV IRRG certificated staff, so it is important to communicate with train all staff.
- x ,W¶V LPSRUWDQW WR KDYH, DQXOWV XVH SUHIHUHG
- x There is some discrepancy in the referral rates to Northwest Youth Services by school.
- x More parent engagement is needed for parents of LGBTQ youth.
- x Whatcom Youth Pride is June 9

Dr. Copland thanked everyone for being here this evening. The notes from this meeting will be added to the website and will be a part of our G L V History. He shared that the learnings from this evening will be referenced in many settings including future school board meetings and executive meetings.

Ms. Mason also thanked all who attended.

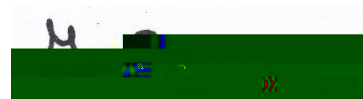
Ms. Diaz Hackler adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approved:



Camille Diaz Hackler School Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved April 17, 2019