

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ROUNDTABLE SPECIAL MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 24, 2023 2:15-3:15 p.m.**

Linkage Attendees:

- Current and former Teacher Academy students from Bellingham High School
- Directors present **Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler (President), Jenn Mason** and **Katie Rose**. Director Kelly Bashaw was unable to attend.
- Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools **Greg Baker**
- District Leadership and Staff Executive Director **Jackie Brawley**; Deputy Superintendent **Mike Copland**; Assistant Superintendent **Jay Jordan**; Executive Director **Isabel Meaker**; Assistant Superintendent **Matt Whitten**; Chief Financial Officer **Kathryn Weilage**; Chief Operations Office **Jessica Sankey**; Bellingham High School teacher **Lori French**; Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) **Heather Steele**; Executive Administrative Assistant **6 K H U L (not stated)**

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions: School Board President **Camille Diaz Hackler** called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Superintendent **Greg Baker** welcomed attendees and invited all to introduce themselves.

Meeting Purpose – Explanation of Student Roundtable: Dr. Baker thanked everyone for taking the time to be here this afternoon.

Student roundtables give the school board an opportunity to strengthen the connection with our students and the school board.

Dr. Baker introduced **Ms. French** who facilitated a discussion among the students regarding the Teacher Academy program. Student comments are below each question asked.

First Year Students:

Why did you sign up for this class? Does this connect to your future goals?

- The class has helped me to look at

What do you think is the number one problem that our school faces today?

- Kids adjusting to becoming adults and thinking about getting a job.
- COVID greatly influenced students, causing them to have less academic motivation and interest. Since COVID, kids sleep more and skip more and have a lack of school spirit and community engagement.
- Some teachers make class fun, which motivates students.
- I feel like there is a lot of talk about inclusivity and acceptance, but not any advancement or efforts within the school in this area.
- Spanish morning announcements are a good step in making school more inclusive for all.
- How can we keep students from skipping class to vape and/or smoke? Could vape detectors be installed? Perhaps an assembly to talk about drug use.

In your opinion, how do our Teacher Academy programs support The Bellingham Promise?

- The Teacher Academy promotes inclusivity and care for the whole student.
- It expands options for students and gives them motivation.
- The Teacher Academy gives students a taste for what teachers do every day, including teachers at other schools within the district.
- Bilingual programs at a young age are important.
- Students can step outside of their individual education and get a view of the district.
- It helps to see different ways teachers teach students, so you can take pieces from all over and make it your own.

- I graduated in 2019 and always knew I wanted to become a teacher. I graduated in 2022 from WWU with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish. I worked at WWU, working as a substitute paraeducator and have an emergency teaching certificate. This class helped me begin on the path to being a teacher
- I graduated in 2023 and am in the Automotive Collision Repair Technology program at Bellingham Technical College (BTC).

Approved:



Camille Diaz Hackler School Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved November 9, 2023