

Board Summary: Community Linkage Meeting
Connecting with Higher Education Professionals
District Office Board Room
March 30, 2016

The Bellingham School Board of Directors and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed audience members, invited guests and staff to a linkage meeting with local higher education professionals. The purpose of the meeting was for the director to engage in a discussion about how The Bellingham Promise

- ¾ What is missing in the goals of The Bellingham Promise?
- ¾ What strengths have you observed in our graduates?
- ¾ How might we better prepare them?

During the discussion, attendees shared insights and thoughts on the guiding questions. Highlights of discussion:

- x Some spoke of how much they appreciated that a core value in The Bellingham Promise is that all children should be loved.
- x Success in high school math and/or written and verbal skills, as well as high levels of creativity, generally translate to success in college and beyond. Attendees expressed varied opinions on whether high SAT scores or grade point averages were the best predictors of success.
- x It is important that students understand they have a wide array of choices upon graduation from high school. All kids do not have to go straight to college.
- x A well-honed sense of introspection/reflection is sometimes missing when students start college.
- x Financial literacy, time management skills, and fostering a sense of resilience were areas cited as needing more emphasis during high school.
- x Adults need to do a better job communicating to students what they can expect from Running Start.

Meeting minutes are attached.



Official Meeting Minutes: Community Linkage Meeting
Connecting with Higher Education Professionals
Bellingham School District Board Room 5 p.m.
March 30, 2016

Linkage Attendees:

- x Higher Education Professionals Shoshaunee Elliott, Northwest Indian College; Ed Geary, Western Washington University (WWU); Millie Johnson, WWU; Anne Marie Karlberg, Whatcom Community College (WCC); Raelyn Axlund McBride, Bellingham Technical College (BTC); Cary Regimbal, BTC; Jess Savage, WWU; Rod Taylor, BTC; Tawny Townsend, WCC; Steve VanderStaay, WWU
- x Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin,

2.1 Large-Group Discussion with School Board
Meeting facilitator

- o (In terms of how performance in specific subjects translates to overall college success, comments included the following)
 - f BPS grads overperformed in applied English and underperformed in math.
 - f In my experience, students who can read, write, and are articulate tend to do well; the students that are only strong in math and weak in writing and verbal skills tend to not be as successful.
 - f In terms of placement in college level math, BPS students perform well relative to other students in Whatcom County and beyond.
 - f I find my strongest students are those who excel in English and theater, they can create.
 - f Students who stop at Algebra II can sometimes flounder.

- x How might we better prepare our students?
 - o There is a financial literacy component that is sometimes lacking. This is not specific to BPS graduates. For example, our students need a level of increased awareness in such areas as filling out the FAFSA applications, or understanding credit scoring and credit card debt.

o Regarding Running Start:

f This is not a problem that originates with the school district, but misperceptions exist regarding Running Start. The program gets your

IRRW LQ WKH GRRU ' EXW LW GRHVQ W WUD
DVVRFLDWH V GHJUHH

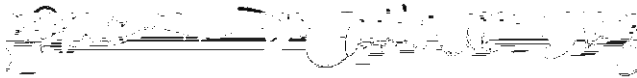
f We have students who have completed their General University Requirements who come in with a lot of enthusiasm, but it may still take them RXU \ HDUV WR FRPSOHWH FROOHJH , W students need to be aware of.

f , W V L P, SO, but students know Running Start is not for everybody.

3. Closing and Wrap Up

x Dr. Baker thanked attendees for their participation and summarized key points of the discussion. He referred to the 16 outcomes outlined in The Promise, stating that the directors and district leaders have frequent, in-depth conversations relating to data. The conversations revolve around quantitative as well as qualitative data that incorporates case studies and relevant story lines.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.



Camille Diaz Hackler
School Board President

Attest:

