

**Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)**  
February 12, 2015

“Walking in the Shoes:” He reminded the group that he is continuing to walk in the shoes of staff and recently spent a day with a food services staff member. He described interactions with families at the evening meal at Shuksan on Thursday and then his time at Northern Heights and his takeaways.

Blog: Dr. Baker talked about his new [blog](#) and said he welcomes comments.

Communication about Calendar: Dr. Baker described the 4-year calendar that exists. Two videos will be sent out in the next few weeks that help explain the rationale of the current calendar structure, including the pre-Labor Day start and monthly Friday Staff Learning days when there is no school for students.

Reflections/Questions: Dr. Baker asked parents to share reflections and questions:

Coffee w/ the Sup. Can PTAs communicate this? Yes, please. Is this something a child could do? A group of kids? Example – her son has a topic he would love to discuss with the superintendent. Dr. Baker said absolutely. He enjoys meeting with students.

Two things: 1. Excited to hear about the positions, especially the Wellness Coordinator. 2. Will you be walking in Special Education shoes? Dr. Baker said walking in the shoes of a Lifeskills staff member was on the list. Next up he will be walking in the shoes of a bus driver.

One parent invited Dr. Baker to walk in the shoes of a recess duty.

[School Start and End Times](#): Dr. Baker talked about how Bellingham Public Schools is exploring changing start and end times for fall 2016 and explained reasons why:

The proposal wouldn't have elementary, middle and high school students riding together.

Have you thought about not offering bus service – especially to high schools?

We have met with Whatcom Transportation Authority. There is a potential for more partnership, but they are unable to

Getting the high school there later is great! However, it's a challenge if you have kids at different levels.

Regarding the elementary 7:45 start—What if we had a soft start with buses arriving by this time with before-school activities and started the instructional day at 8 or 8:15. This would help parents who drive their kids. If