

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)
Key Communications

Elizabeth Walther & Jon Junell (co-chairs)
Thursday, April 20, 2023

District Office, 1306 Dupont St.

Each school has two representatives on this committee.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs - Elizabeth Walther & Jon Junell

- Dr. Baker

Spring: Students are anticipating the end of the school year and transitions after June.

will be *but that is going to be*
across the board. If there are classes with only a few students enrolled, that
could be a course that gets cut due to efficiencies. Middle school will continue
to have similar music and art classes.

How will courses in high school be impacted by the budget?
Student registration drives the high school schedule. Our principals and
counselors *puzzle* *to offer as many classes*
as possible, even with reduced staff.

Where do librarians go if they are being cut?
They are likely going to be in another position. Our staff have contracts which
determine where they could go if their position gets cut. The process is very
individualized and has lots of variability.

Special Education and Inclusive Learning Environments to Support Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

Courtney Ross Webb, Director of Special Education, Steve Ruthford, Fairhaven Middle School Principal and Sarah Walker, Lowell Elementary School Principal, shared information about Special Education, how students qualify to receive services and what an inclusive learning environment can look like at school.

Steve talked about the inclusion journey at Fairhaven and their focus on engagement and belonging. He said Fairhaven is focused on using inclusive language and supporting students in the least restrictive environment, which could be in the general education classroom or in a resource room.

Sarah said Lowell is working hard to create an inclusive school. She said inclusive classrooms are better for students receiving Special Education services as well as for students in general education. She said at Lowell, they support students by looking at needs and access; what does the student need and how do we access those resources for each student, acknowledging each student is different. She shared that inquiry supports inclusionary practices.

Parents are encouraged to email [Courtney](#), [Steve](#) or [Sarah](#) with questions about Special Education,