



**Board Summary: Community Linkage Special Meeting
Connecting with Law Enforcement
District Office Conference Room 205 – 1:30 p.m.
October 26, 2016**

The Bellingham School Board of Directors and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed audience members, invited guests and district staff to a linkage meeting with law enforcement professionals. The purpose of the meeting was for the directors to engage in a discussion about how The Bellingham Promise resonates with this group and how the school district can strengthen its relationship with this segment of the community. The discussion focused on the following questions:

How do you see The Bellingham Promise connected to your work in law enforcement with youth in our schools and community?

What is working well for our students?

What is missing or needs improvement?

How can we better work together?

During the meeting, attendees shared insights and thoughts



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is seeking input on the goals set for students through board policies expressed in [The](#)

choir in most cases. We need to get more parents to attend his next presentation – parents who are not as aware of this problem or are perhaps not as concerned as they should be. We would welcome more collaboration between the district and police department. We understand teachers have limited time; perhaps prior to the start of the school year a BPD presentation could be part of the teacher in-service days. Any number of topics could be addressed; for example, cyberbullying, mandatory reporting requirements, or responding to active shooters. Law enforcement personnel need more face time with educators so we are all on the same page.

{In response to Dr. Smith's inquiry as to what kinds of activities requiring police response seem most prevalent in the community}

- Vandalism, bike theft, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, low-level and high-level drug offenses.
- Property crime, vandalism, mischief, drinking in public.
- The kids are a microcosm of what we see in the county. A lot of times, it is drugs and drinking and vandalism and theft. Definitely an increase in cyberbullying – crimes we never had to worry about a few years ago. Our schools need to teach kids how to navigate this electronic world; our teaching needs to catch up with that.
- Mental health issues and drug use. Meth, heroin, and other types of deadly drugs. This is a substantial problem.
- The decriminalization of marijuana allows access to edibles, and that is a concern.

We need to work together and let kids know there are more people watching them. They need a lot of support and a big safety net.

Collaborate on how to create more opportunities for students to see law enforcement personnel in a more positive light. Building positive relationships with kids can then extend way beyond the time that they leave school.

{Steve Clarke} Thank you for giving us your best folks – top notch people who love our kids like we do. We want our kids to have a good relationship with the police department. They see you differently when they see you working in the schools. When we had a resource officer in every high school, it was very beneficial.

{Isabel Meaker} Thank you for the positive comments on the Darkness to Light program, and thank you for what you put on the line every day. Anything we can do to create positive interactions between law enforcement personnel and students is huge.

Regarding the benefits of DROs in schools: Organizations that give grants want empirical data – but we also need to tell them the stories about the every-day relationships that can develop when police officers are working with students in the schools. We can't save everyone, but the stories we can tell about being DROs – not the statistics – need to be heard.

4. Closing and Wrap-Up

Dr. Baker thanked attendees for their participation and summarized key points of the discussion.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Approved:



Camille Hackler, School Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: 12/15/16