



## Notes from elementary PTA meeting May 17, 2023 Parkview Elementary Library

Welcome, introductions

Dr. Baker welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions. He shared gratitude for the volunteer work of our parents and the importance of parent groups/associations in our schools. He encouraged our parent groups to ask their principals and school district staff for help and assistance as they navigate questions.

Dr. Baker referenced the PTA representatives' predecessors and their approach to fundraising has helped shift our appreciation. One way families can help is to consider the district's needs when voting on bonds and levies, instead of repeatedly going to our families to pay for services, classroom items, field trips, etc. at their school. He also encouraged parent groups to think about volunteering and giving time instead of focusing on fundraising.

Group discussion-successes and struggles

Kathy Dooley and Sam Gerhardt from the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation had everyone break into small groups to share successes and struggles from this school year. Then each small group shared out ideas to the larger group.

Here are some of the comments:

Successes included:

- x PTA/PTO funded shirts for all kids for jogathon/move-a-thon fall events
- x models of fundraisers use community donations instead of fundraising. Not based on (K-6)-Dla  
Move-a-





#### Other announcements

The Foundation would like to attend PTA meetings in the fall to share information about the elementary equity project and how it can continue to work with parent groups. Some parents expressed interest in having the Foundation and district host informal events for parent group representatives to share best practices and resources. Some expressed appreciation for the chance to meet and hear from the district and Foundation and would like the chance for more social/sharing time in the future. The Foundation said it would be happy to host a social/informal event or two next school year in addition to the fall and spring meetings.

The meeting concluded at 6:45 p.m.