

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY LINKAGE SPECIAL MEETING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**May 3, 2023 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Sehome High School**

**Linkage Attendees:**

**Sehome High School Students, Parents/Guardians**

Directors present: **Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Katie Rose.**

Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools **Greg Baker.**

District Leadership and Staff: Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations **Jackie Brawley**; Deputy Superintendent **Mike Copland**; Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning **Jay Jordan**; Executive Director of Family Engagement **Isabel Meaker**; Executive Director of Educational Technology **Kurt Gazow**; Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources **Matt Whitten**; Executive Director of Human Resources **Ari Feeney**; Director of Special Education **Courtney Ross Webb**; Sehome High School Principal **Sonia Cole**; Sehome High School Instructional Coach **Kim Kirk**; and Sehome High School Special Education Teacher **Erin Furda.**

**Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions:** School Board President Camille Diaz Hackler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She introduced Superintendent Greg Baker who welcomed attendees and invited all to introduce themselves.

**Meeting Purpose – Explanation of Community Linkages:** Dr. Baker thanked everyone for taking the time to be here this evening.

Community linkage meetings give the school board an opportunity to strengthen the connection with our students, and the school board is excited to hear what students and their families have to say about their experiences. The three table groups will now have time for conversations and respond to the guiding questions provided:

How have our schools and school district supported you? Or not?

In looking at The Bellingham Promise, what stands out for you as important?

Thinking about your daily schedule, what is your favorite part of the day?

What works best to support your learning?

Tell me about a time when you felt loved at school.

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Mr. Benjamin shared that one of his children attended the Life Skills program and now works at Fred Meyer. Each year the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) selects