



**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

**Handouts**

- Meeting Agenda
- You are the PTO
- Volunteer Interest Form
- Facilities Planning Task Force Recommendation (published August 2017)

**6:30**

Welcome to the new school year at Parkview!

This meeting features a talk with School Superintendent Dr. Greg Baker who would like to discuss an upcoming school bond that could fund a rebuild of our school. We will briefly discuss PTO business, but save the majority of our time for Dr. Baker.

Attendees were encouraged to pick up handouts. *You are the PTO* is a quick overview of how our PTO serves our school and community and how families can get involved. The *Volunteer Interest Form* is an easy way to sign up to be involved with activities and events.

Introduction of this year's PTO Board:

Cindy Scott & Leslie Atabelo - Co-Presidents  
Kendra Meyer - Vice President, Support and Outreach  
Julie Peterson - Vice President, Fundraising  
Susan Hemingson - Treasurer  
Lindsay Anderson - Vice President, Enrichment  
Ché Acord - Vice President, Social  
Randall Ragsdale - Vice President, Communications  
Crispin Stutzman - Secretary

**6:35**

**Quick Updates**

### ***Jog-a-thon***

Our Jog-a-thon is coming up soon -- Friday, September 22. Laurel Dixon is the chief organizer of this year's event.

The students had a kick-off assembly yesterday and took home pledge forms. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It funds all programs that happen throughout the year.

Our goal is to raise \$28,000 and we need lots of volunteers. There is an online volunteer signup with the SignUp Genius tool. A link to it is available on the Parkview PTO Facebook page, from Laurel, or by using the Volunteer Interest Form.

Each student will receive a free jog-a-thon t-shirt, regardless of money raised or distance run. The shirts are paid for by business sponsors. If you have a connection to a business that might be interested in sponsorship and having the business logo printed on over 300 shirts, please contact Julie.

### ***Silent Auction and Social***

The Parkview Silent Auction and Social is coming up on Thursday, October 5 at Boundary Bay Brewery. It's a fun event, rain or shine, held in the outdoor beer garden and is family-friendly. There have been some layout improvements at Boundary Bay since last year, so that should help to ensure everyone stays safe and dry, in case of rain.

Attendees purchase their own food and drink (if they wish to) and can bid on items ranging from experiences with teachers, to handmade items, to a weekend use of a cabin in Glacier. There is always a range of items. Proceeds fund the Whole Child program.

Jaime White and Holly Rasmussen are leading up the effort and are still looking for auction donations as well as volunteers. Volunteer signup are also being managed through SignUp Genius, accessible through the Facebook page or by contacting Julie.

### ***Parkview Cares Food Box program***

The Bellingham Food Bank operates a program to help deliver food boxes to families in need that also have transportation challenges. Parkview got involved a couple of years ago. Last year Parkview families helped 4-6 other Parkview families in need.

We are seeking a volunteer with availability to pick up around 5 boxes every Tuesday at 1:00pm (the boxes will be ready to go) and to deliver them to our Parkview families. One volunteer from now until winter break and another volunteer from winter break until the end of the school year would be ideal, but a couple of people working together would probably also be fine. The Food Bank has specifically requested a volunteer for several months, to get someone familiar with the job and make it smoother for them. Lindsay mentioned that she did this for some time and that the job has a learning curve, so it becomes easier doing it repeatedly.

Potential volunteers should contact Kendra through Facebook or through [contact@parkviewpto.org](mailto:contact@parkviewpto.org).

**6:45**

**Update from Principal Allen**

Principal Mylo Allen welcomed everyone and said that Parkview is very strong because of its community of involved families. Volunteering is a great way to participate: everything from asking your child about his/her school day to volunteering in the classroom is important. He has an “open door” policy and is always happy to talk with parents about issues or concerns.

School boundary lines were slightly redrawn over the summer to better accommodate projected growth on the north end of the city. Partially as a result, Parkview has grown this year and added 2 new teachers and classes. Students also have been moved around in the building, with the addition of a portable and the shifting of the 4th grade classrooms to the portables. Right now, he feels comfortable with the classroom space and the school building, but significant additional enrollment increases would present challenges.

This is a nice lead-in to what Dr. Baker is here to discuss: the planning and construction of a new school. Mr. Allen also noted there are many ways to be involved with this process as it moves forward and to contribute to the discussion.

**6:50**

**Bond Update from Dr. Baker**

Dr. Baker introduced himself and shared that he has 3 kids in our schools now - a 10th grade son, and 9th grade and 3rd grade daughters. He appreciates how busy everyone is and their time for coming to this meeting.

His goal tonight is to answer questions and explain the upcoming bond measure which, among other things, would fund the rebuild of Parkview.

Last year a committee, which included students and parents, looked at currently available data and growth projections for the area. Their conclusions helped to develop recommendations listed in the handout *Facilities Planning Task Force Recommendations* (this information is also online at <http://bellingshamschools.org/about/departments/finance-and-operations/2018-bond/>).

The timeline is that this proposal will be officially submitted to the school board on September 14th, and once approved will be submitted to the city government to be included in the February 2018 election. If approved by the voters, planning and design would start with the goal of completing all the projects by Fall 2022.

The recommendations include rebuilding 3 elementary schools: Alderwood, Sunnyland and Parkview. These schools were chosen both for their needs and to help accommodate projected growth on the north end. The district has 14 elementary schools now and will likely build a 15th

at district-owned King Mountain property at some point in the future. In a future bond measure, the district will seek also funding to rebuild other older schools, including Roosevelt, Carl Cosier, and Columbia.

The order of work would be determined after the February vote, and depends on factors such as open space available and specific site considerations. The plan would be to keep each school operating while building a new school on adjacent open space. This model worked well for rebuilds at Happy Valley and Sehome.

*Question: What if it will not work to keep kids on site?*

While keeping kids on site is the plan and very likely, it can't be guaranteed. If keeping kids on site is not workable, other options will be explored, including building a new 15th elementary school earlier than planned and using that facility as a "swing space" during other school construction. The entire school could move, or be divided into grade levels and moved to different spaces, but that is a worst case scenario. There will not be certainty until the bond has passed and preliminary design work is completed. However, Dr. Baker believes that keeping kids on site should be a workable option.

*Question: Keeping kids on site comes at a cost too. Happy Valley students had issues with noise and smells. Can that be addressed?*

The school principal plays a large role in mitigating negative impacts. Keeping the lines of communication open can help address this.

*Video with 2 Parkview students describing the school.* Built: 1957, Cornwall Park neighborhood. New addition opened last year with the renovation of gym, and addition of cafeteria, music room, bathrooms, and outdoor play shed. Issues: networking cables and hub share small custodial closet, lots of exposed piping and networking cables, inefficient boiler, etc. (Video available online at link above.)

A new school would be connected to Parkview's addition. Any new school design involves a process with designers, and input from parents, staff, district staff, community members, etc. This input helps determine the shape, configuration and appearance of a new school. If the bond is approved, the site allows it, and the latest student population projections warrant it, then building a 24 classroom school is the preference. This allows 3 classrooms at each grade level, with additional rooms for the Bridges program, specialists, and other needs. The extra classrooms provide flexibility.

Other elements of the bond provide for district-wide improvements that will benefit all schools:

- Improving Safety and Security, including better communication systems with emergency responders
- Protecting and Maintaining Existing Schools, including general roof, window and heating repairs

- Providing Long-Term Technology Infrastructure and Reader Boards, including cabling (not computers) and funding for schools to erect reader boards, if desired. (Schools wanting these have in the past used PTA funding and the district would like to allow PTAs to focus on other needs.)
- Making Facility Improvements for Health and Wellness, including field upgrades and drainage improvements
- Complete Remaining 2013 Bond Projects, including replenishing capital fund dollars that were used to complete 2013 projects. (Overages occurred meeting new building regulations that weren't in place when the money was approved. This is a budgeting challenge: variability in projected vs. actual costs, particularly with a long time horizon.)

*Question: How would this bond impact local tax rates?*

Dr. Baker raised this question and wanted to emphasize that local tax rates should either stay the same or be slightly reduced with the passage of the new bond. The 2013 bond was for \$160 million, this one will be for \$155 million. The district has improved its bond rating and was able to refinance the last bond for a lower rate.

The recent state budget just passed in Olympia has more funding for K-12 education. There should be more funding coming from the state and less from the local community, but it isn't entirely clear yet exactly how this will affect our school funding. Regardless, Dr. Baker said that local tax rates would not increase with the passage of a 2018 bond.

He hopes to stage new school openings in the fall of 2020, 2021, and 2022. But again, the details would be worked out after bond passage and beginning design work. Some considerations could prioritize the most complex or highest-cost building. It makes sense to begin the highest-cost project earlier in the 5-year bond timeframe to have greater certainty that projected costs will stay within budget.

*Question: What if there is more growth on the north end than expected?*

There was a school boundary adjustment that took effect this year, but that is unusual, and won't be done again soon. (Boundary maps are available to view in the office with actual attendance numbers as well as future projections.) The Facilities Planning Taskforce has done the best possible job to gauge possible enrollment numbers. It looked at all current construction permits and plans with the city, as well as all pre-permits and it also analyzed likely future growth from a W Orchard St connector. There are plans for lots of development in this area off Telegraph Road, west of James St. but that won't impact our school for some time. There could be 50 additional kids 5 years from now, but the construction that would bring additional students isn't imminent.

*Question: How likely is it that the bond will pass?*

Dr. Baker noted that bonds are more difficult to pass than levies. Levies need 50% of the vote to pass. Bonds have a higher requirement: 60% + 1, and the voter turnout must be at least 60% of

voters from the previous election (the November 2017 election, in this case). So, it's important to get good voter turnout.

He has been in his position for 8 years during which time there have been 7 elections. So far, all have passed. But again, voter education and turnout is critical.

*Question: How confident is the district in the student growth projections? Cordata Elementary was just opened in 2011 and is already over projected enrollment.*

Dr. Baker noted how challenging this is. The committee used all available information and data from the city when designing Cordata. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially with the long timeframes associated with school construction bonds. Government moves slower than private industry.

He noted that the district has 50 portables. Ideally these wouldn't be necessary, but there are trade offs. It's great to have more space at schools - principals and teachers are always able to use extra space - but it's important to keep construction costs down and use funds responsibly. Committees strive to do the best job possible by using all the information available, but these are best guesses, and flexibility will always be important.

*Question: What can you tell us about the likely Parkview plan? Wasn't there a Phase 1 label on the new gym/cafeteria addition? Is some work already done?*

The new gym/cafeteria/music room addition was sited very intentionally. It is in the right spot to connect to a new building and would be part of a new school. Parkview has sufficient space in the grass field for the footprint of a new school and the gym addition included a rough estimate of the location of a new school. However there hasn't been any design work. This would begin after passage of the bond.

*Question: How long would construction take?*

Usually a couple of years. One year of design and planning and then a year for building. Demolition of the old school would happen over the summer and students would begin a new school year in the new building.

*Comment: One parent wanted to let Dr. Baker know that she appreciates his time and sharing this information with us. She also appreciates his videos, emails and other communications.*

*Question: Is there an update about what's happening with the Central Kitchen?*

The 2013 bond included funding to build a central kitchen to allow the district to make more of its own food rather than rely on processed food. The space would be about the size of the Parkview gym and cafeteria put together.

He's very excited about this. A few other schools in the US have already started this process and Bellingham staff have been talking with them. The district is currently closing on warehouse

space where the kitchen will be located, and the kitchen should begin operating next winter. The plan is to ramp up slowly.

However, all 22 schools have fresh salad bars operating now and the district has hired a new Executive Chef. The district also used foundation money to hire a Director of Wellness. These are all positive steps for the health of our students.

Additional question can be sent to Mr. Allen or Dr. Baker. They are both excited about the upcoming bond and want to inform the community about it.

**7:30**

Next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 10. Hope to see everyone there!

Adjourn.