



**Board Summary: Community Linkage Special Meeting
Bellingham High School
April 19, 2017**

The Bellingham School Board of Directors

2. Meeting Purpose – Explanation of Community/Board Linkage:

Ms. Diaz Hackler described the purpose of community linkage meetings, noting t

To meet demand, our staffing costs will increase significantly. And yes, we are looking at ways to find enough resources to make similar changes at the middle school level.

The new high school schedule will also allow us to eliminate the zero-hour schedule so students will no longer have to get up extra early to participate in a field of study they are passionate about.

To the extent our staffing allows, we are moving to a model with as much uniformity as possible at each high school in terms of course offerings. But the new schedule will also give students more of an opportunity to migrate to another school to pick up a couple of classes, if needed. There are simply more opportunities.

○ Challenges/Wish Lists:

{Alison Terry Storms}: I am consistently impressed by the support of BPS for our programs at Mt. Baker Theatre. The passion and interest of staff is there; teachers seem clear on the importance of exposing young people to the performing and visual arts early. But there is just not enough funding. We (MBT) offer scholarships, and I am hoping we can partner with Bellingham Public Schools Foundation. It is important for every student to have these opportunities, not just those with financial resources.

Uniformity in offerings needs to be a priority. The district should define what a music program is, what is expected, and how it will be supported in terms of funding, so if a student leaves one school and goes to another within the district, there is a base level of support for each program.

More transparency is needed in terms of the connection between the district's support of the arts and its goals and how the program actually looks in the various schools.

When leadership changes in schools, so02.159

supplies at home. There is no consistency from elementary to