



Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS) Key Communications

Kate Wearn & Lorrie Melton (co-chairs)
Thursday, May 14, 2026
District Offices – 1985 Barkley Boulevard

Welcome and Introductions Co-chairs – Lorrie Melton & Kate Wearn

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Baker gave flowers and Kate and parents gave thanks to Lorrie for serving two years as co-chair. He asked for anyone interested in serving as co-chair with Kate next year to contact him or Kate.
- Dr. Baker shared some recent events and updates over the past few weeks, including staff appreciation week, APIDA event this week, children's art walk, Anything Goes performances at Sehome and construction work at Community Transitions.
- Dr. Baker gave an update on budget and shared information about the state prototypical model. The state gives funding to districts based on a formula that isn't realistic or amply funded; districts, including ours, use local levies to subsidize the areas that aren't fully funded. This is getting more and more challenging as costs go up due to inflation and the dollars from the state are not keeping up with escalating expenses.
- Facilities planning: the task force is still meeting and working through. He encouraged folks to [listen to the radio interview](#) he did about this topic.

Fifth grade outdoor experience

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Ari Feeney shared an update on work happening in the district related to outdoor education, especially around an alternative to fifth grade outdoor (mountain) school. The district is looking at two different one-day options at Camp Kirby, a five-hour vs. 12-hour day of activities. Funding for mountain school was reduced for next school year due to budget challenges.

PACS members filled out an exit ticket with feedback on fifth grade outdoor education opportunities.

Technology in our schools

Director of Teaching and Learning Bill Palmer shared information about technology in schools; including topics in the news; how children interact with technology in our classrooms; an update on our work groups looking at early childhood and middle school students; cell phones and AI.



He shared that we are calibrating tech use and using it intentionally (vs. how reliant we were during COVID).

- [Link to Bill's PPT](#)
- [Healthy Technology Panel](#) (filmed in spring 2025 at Wade King, referenced in meeting)

Bill answered questions about iReady and the district's ability to filter and obstruct access to certain sites and apps on district-issued devices.

A group of parents/guardians stayed for an additional agenda item related to federal Title I funds and offered feedback to district staff.

The May meeting was the last PACS meeting of the year. We'll see you in the fall!