Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)
February 19, 2014 ʹ 9:55 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.
Northern Heights Elementary

Parents: Parents attended representing 8 schools - 5 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 2 high
schools.

Executive Team/District Staff:
Superintendent Greg Baker
Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland
Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke
Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe
Communications Manager Jacqueline Brawley
Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Family Engagement Isabel Meaker
Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning Bethany Verner
Northern Heights Principal Wendy Barrett
Wade King Principal Analisa Ficklin

Note Taker:

Students from Northern Heights and Wade King shared examples of the PYP in small groups:

1. 2
nd
 Grade Unit of Inquiry (NH 2
nd
 grade students shared their current Unit of Inquiry,
including Transdisciplinary Theme, Central Idea, Lines of Inquiry, Connections to Key
Concepts, Attributes and Action. They shared examples of their work and talked about
their learning engagements, etc.).
2. Intermediate Grade Unit of Inquiry (WK students shared a Unit of Inquiry, including
Transdisciplinary Theme, Central Idea, Lines of Inquiry, Connections to Key Concepts,
Attributes and Action. They showed examples of their work and talked about their learning
engagements, etc.).
3. Student-Initiated Action (NH students talked about student-initiated action and shared
personal examples of action as related to their units of inquiry).
4. Exhibition (WK students talked about the Exhibition (IB culminating project), and shared
their process and projects).
5. Reflection (NH students shared their reflective processes, including personal reflection and
self-evaluation of attitudes, attributes and other learning within the units of inquiry).

Opportunity for Questions
Wendy and Analisa asked if there were additional questions that they could answer:

 Question: Are there teachers who would prefer to not be teaching in an IB school?
 Answer: Analisa shared that when Wade King was preparing to open as a brand new school,
Rob McElroy (who was principal at the time) shared with the community that he was
investigating the IB PYP program. When teachers applied to be considered for a Wade King
position, they knew that it was going to have an IB program. Wendy shared that in past years
at Northern Heights, there had been a ͞ƉŝŶŐ ƉŽŶŐ͟ aƉƉƌŽaĐŚ ƚŽ ǁŚaƚ ƚŚĞ ĨŽĐƵƐ ǁaƐ (math,
reading, writing, etc.)

 Answer: Wendy said she believes it would be great to have an IB middle school program
(MYP), but she also does not think students are at a disadvantage because there is not an IB
program at Shuksan. She believes students leave Northern Heights with skills and attributes
that will make them successful. She added that there are some great things that are being
done at Shuksan. Analisa added that the PYP is one way of helping to fulfill The Bellingham
Promise, but each school has their own personality and focus.
A parent reflected back to when Dr. Vedra was the Superintendent and first introduced the idea of IB