

August 2010

Dear parent and/or guardian:



Please consider joining us for a two-day planning session on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22 and 23. During these two days, approximately 200 community members, parents and district staff will envision the district’s future and help set the stage for the next strategic plan.

A long history of strategic planning focused on student success

This district has a twenty-plus year history of creating strategic plans with the community’s help. The October event will continue that tradition of success and involvement.

The school board began planning this process in 2009 and since last winter has been actively involved in a series of board study sessions and in-depth community discussions. In these discussions, the board gathered very specific information and knowledge about the questions below, enriching district understanding of community perceptions and expectations:

- What is it that students need to know and be able to do to be successful in their futures in an increasingly diverse and competitive world and global marketplace?
- How can community partnerships support the district’s mission of each student learning well?
- What is the current and future potential for technology to impact students’ learning and society, and what are the implications for Everett Public Schools.
- How can the district and community best embrace, welcome, learn from and support students and families of diverse backgrounds?
- What does it mean for a student to be “work, career and college ready?”
- What is *Core 24*, and what do these additional academic requirements mean for students, families and the district?
- What has been or should be the role of teacher facilitators (master teachers supporting other teachers) in the district?
- What does *school readiness* mean? What is necessary for a child to enter preschool and kindergarten ready and able to learn and supported to succeed?
- What are the barriers and societal pressures that can prevent students from succeeding in school?

Mark your calendar

Should you decide to participate on Oct. 22 and 23, I am certain your contribution will add even more depth to the insights gained from the previous conversations. Please turn to the other side of this letter to complete an application for this community engagement event. I look forward to seeing you at this event and throughout the school year as we all focus on helping each child in the district learn to high standards and graduate on time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Cohn
Superintendent

Other not-to-miss events this school year:

1. October – *High School & Beyond* family nights for families of students of all ages. College is a possibility for all students, and preparation for college begins years before high school. You will learn about paying for college, scholarships, community colleges and four-year universities and technical schools. Translations, interpreters, and transportation will be available. More information coming soon, or call 425-385-4086 for more information. Oct. 19 at Cascade High; Oct. 20 at H.M. Jackson High; Oct. 21 at Everett High.
2. Oct. 25-29 – Elementary and middle school parent conference week.
3. Jan. 26, 2011 – *Celebration of Innovation* (formerly called the *Technology Fair*) at Cascade High School, will showcase district use of technology and how students are becoming prepared with skills to be successful in the 21st century.