

**Official Minutes
School Board Community Linkage with
Families of English Language Learners
Shuksan Middle School Library
October 24, 2013**

Linkage Attendees:

Representative parents/guardians of English Language Learners (ELL), students, and a recent graduate
Board

- Kids are safe.
- There is vigilance about ensuring kids go down the right path.
- Teachers are extremely supportive.
- There is an opportunity for students to interact with kids from other cultures.
- I like how it talks about the whole child. We all want to be loved.
- Diversity is valued. There is no discrimination; no sense that one culture is better than another.
- Respectful human beings -- that is important.
- Respectful and compassionate; honest and ethical citizens; well-rounded community members engaged with the broader world; multi-lingual readers and speakers.
- Diversity, compassion, and service build community.
- The Bellingham Promise makes sense to me. My kids are really happy with the schools.

What in The Bellingham Promise could be improved?

- I see there is a commitment to a strong culture and creating character, but I really don't understand The Promise.
- Why don't we have pre-school in all the schools? Only people with really low incomes qualify for pre-school, so those of us who work, we are "punished." If you work, it's bad [said in jest].
- I would like teachers to address more about respect: respect for self and community, to increase self-confidence.

How does The Bellingham Promise connect to English Language Learners?

- I trust the school to leave our children there.
- At Cordata the staff and everyone is nice to my children.
- I learned a lot, and my kids learned a lot in the Strengthening Families program. I would like to see more of those types of programs.
- Thank you for the school supplies.
- I want to make sure there are people to help [students

- For my child, having time and structure to do homework in the school environment is really helpful. The