

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### **Veteran School Board member Lehman steps down, cites uncertain job future**

Karen Lehman, a three-term member of the Battle Ground School Board, announced her resignation Saturday, citing out-of-town work commitments coupled with employment uncertainty.

She said Saturday she initially expected to finish this term and not seek a fourth this fall, but circumstances prompted her to step down now.

“Within the past two years, our economy has been a challenge for many of us,” Lehman said in a statement she read aloud at the conclusion of Saturday’s Board meeting. “I know for myself, I have had to do a fair amount of work out of town in order to earn an income that would help support my family.

“Unfortunately, at times I have had to travel for work and miss meetings. . . I do not know what I will be doing or where I may be working after June 1 of this year.

“ . . . Because I feel it would not be fair to create an undue hardship for myself, other Board members, Shonny (Bria, superintendent), or the students within the district that I serve, I am reluctantly announcing my resignation . . . This has been an honor and a privilege, and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity to serve.”

Lehman is a special education consultant and assistant college professor who works in Arizona, New Mexico and Washington. She holds a doctorate of education from Washington State University. She and her husband John have three children who graduated from Battle Ground High School. She was elected to the School Board in 1999 and re-elected in 2003 and 2007.

Superintendent Bria was out of state attending her father-in-law’s funeral. Board President Steve Pagel said “the Board, the community and the kids” are indebted to Karen for her service. The positive strides this district has made during her tenure have been monumental. We will miss her experience. The Board has a substantial gap to fill.”

Under district policy, as directed by state law, the remaining four Board members will appoint a replacement from among applicants “after suitable public notice.” The replacement will serve until Lehman’s term ends late this year. He or she may run for a full four-year term in the fall.

Pagel said more news will be forthcoming within days about the application process.

Applicants must reside in Lehman’s Director District No. 2, which runs east-west across the school district. The east and central part of her district extends from the East Fork of the Lewis River south to the Hockinson School District. The western part of her district is north of downtown Battle Ground.

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