

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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April 30, 2011

Ken Root picked to fill School Board vacancy



Battle Ground School Board President Steve Pagel swears in Ken Root, April 30, 2011.



At full strength again: From left, Battle Ground School Board member John Idsinga, Superintendent Shonny Bria and Board members Sam Kim, Steve Pagel, Ken Root, who was selected earlier in the day (April 30, 2011) to fill a Board vacancy, and Monty Anderson.

Ken Root, a member of the Battle Ground School District’s Fiscal Advisory Committee and numerous other volunteer organizations and whose work history includes a year of teaching, was selected Saturday, April 30, to fill a vacancy on the district’s Board of Directors.

Root, 51, is western regional sales manager for Rosenberger of North America, a supplier of test and measurement devices for the microwave industry. He and his wife Katy, a physical education teacher at Maple Grove Primary, have two children, a daughter who has graduated from high school and a son who graduates in June from Battle Ground High.

Root temporarily fills the vacancy created March 26 with the resignation of veteran Board member Karen Lehman due to job conflicts and concerns. That term expires late this year. Root said he intends to run in the fall for election to a full four-year term.

There were four applicants for the appointment: Root, John Fitzgerald, Peter Uskoski and Amy Wheaton. Applicants had to be residents of Director District 2, which Lehman had represented. The four were interviewed separately in a Saturday morning public meeting by Board members Steve Pagel, Monty Anderson, John Idsinga and Sam Kim.

After a closed session to discuss the applicants’ qualifications, the Board members voted in a regular public meeting 3-1 for Root, with Anderson voting for Uskoski. Root was sworn in immediately and participated in the remainder of the Board meeting.

Root graduated in 1982 from Chico State University in California and taught physical education in elementary school for one year before switching careers. He is on the district’s Fiscal Advisory Committee, which comprises district residents from various occupational and civic backgrounds. It was formed after the successful 2010 levy as another channel for public feedback and suggestions to the school district on fiscal matters.

Root also is active with the Battle Ground High School Boosters Club, the BGHS 2011 Grad Night Committee and other school programs. His service to the community also has included participation on the Battle Ground Rose Float Committee, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Race for the Cure, Relay for Life and others.

All applicants were asked during their interviews if there is anything in their background that could, at some point, create embarrassment for the Board and Battle Ground Public Schools.

Root, who plays ice hockey and golfs, drew laughs from the Board and audience when he responded, “Do you mean besides being chubby?”



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