

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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HR director, ‘Chief’ principal picked

Battle Ground Public Schools Superintendent Shonny Bria Monday announced her choice of Linda Allen, principal at Chief Umtuch Middle School, to fill a vacancy as Director of Human Resources for the district, contingent on approval by the Battle Ground School Board June 18. The post has been vacant since the double failure of school levies in 2007, Bria noted.

David Cresap, the assistant principal at “Chief,” was named by Bria to replace Allen as principal, also pending Board approval.

Allen and Cresap are graduates of Battle Ground High School and have deep family roots in the area. Allen is the granddaughter of Winnie Dobbins, a legendary Amboy School cook for many years who was named one of the district’s “100 Heroes” at its centennial celebration in January. Her mother, Evelyn, was a teacher at Yacolt and Amboy.

After high school, two years at Clark College and an accounting job, Allen stayed home to raise children – she and her husband David have four, plus eight grandchildren. She eventually returned to school and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Portland. Her first teaching job was in 1993 at Amboy Middle School.

In 2001, Allen moved from the teaching job in rural Amboy to the former Lewisville Middle School in downtown Battle Ground as an assistant principal under Kent Martin. She remembers the first days and weeks of that 2001-2002 school year not only for her new surroundings and new job, but also for the terrorist attacks in New York City and a school bus drivers’ strike.

“Getting through all that made me realize that just about anything is possible,” Allen said.

In 2004, she became principal at Lewisville. In 2008, as Lewisville closed, she moved a stone’s throw to the new Chief Umtuch Middle School as principal. She is president of the Battle Ground Principals Association. In her new post she will report to Assistant Superintendent Marcia Christian.

“Being away from the kids is going to be different,” she said of the district-level job. “I will miss them, but that will be an incentive to get out and visit the schools.”

Also pending Board approval, Allen will be succeeded by Dave Cresap, a descendant of the pioneer Cresap family that homesteaded in Battle Ground in 1866 and has been active in civic life ever since.

Cresap has been an assistant principal at Lewisville and then Chief Umtuch for three years after teaching math and doing a principal internship at Hockinson High School.

“I’m looking forward to this,” Cresap said. “I’ll be following in some pretty big shoes. Linda has been a great mentor.”

Prior to his Hockinson job, Cresap taught five years in Vancouver at Lake Shore Elementary School and before that was in higher education for 12 years, teaching math at the University of Portland, where he earned his doctorate in math, and at Portland State University.

Cresap’s first teaching job was at La Center High School for five years, starting in 1980. He and his wife, Elaine, have three children, three grandchildren and a fourth grandchild en route.



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