

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Supt. Bria's response to governor's proposal

Shonny Bria, superintendent of Battle Ground Public Schools, issued the following statement Wednesday in response to Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposed 2011-2013 state budget, which would eliminate some programs and make deep cuts in others, including K-12 education:

"This is a very difficult time for the state. I don't envy the governor or legislators, who are forced to make some very difficult decisions. I fully understand and empathize with the governor's statement that she is proposing to 'cut the unthinkable to prevent the unbearable.'

"But I'm also mindful that her proposed budget today is a proposal. Both parties in both houses of the Legislature will have plenty to say before a final budget is enacted several weeks from now. We simply don't know how it will shake out.

"As for Battle Ground's response to whatever comes down from Olympia, we will use the same collaborative process we've used for several years as we craft a proposed 2011-2012 budget to present to the School Board. We call the process 'Interest-Based Negotiations' and we have representatives from all of the district's labor groups at the table.

"We will not wait for final legislative action before dealing with what, by any measure, will be a grim situation. In January, the IBN group will begin meeting to develop options for possible scenarios in state budget cuts."

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designated coordinator at the Battle Ground School District, PO Box 200, Battle Ground, WA 98604.