



Battle Ground Public Schools

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BG Board, Briefly

Directors hear about art-show winners, Web site, school nurses, primary schools

The Battle Ground School Board had plenty to see, hear and discuss at its Friday, May 7, meeting at Capt. Strong Primary School. Board President Steve Pagel presided and Directors Monty Anderson, John Idsinga and Sam Kim were present; Karen Lehman had notified the Board that she would be absent.

Art show: It was the annual kickoff to the all-district student art show at Capt. Strong. Winners at each grade level were introduced to the Board. One-by one, from first grade up, the young artists -- some shy, others beaming -- were introduced and shook hands with Board members and district administrators as proud parents snapped photos. The exhibit, with 926 pieces displayed in the halls at Capt. Strong, 1002 N.W. Sixth Ave., is free and open to the public during school hours through May 28. Art show chair Jeri Stith presented the awards.

School nurses: In connection with National School Nurses Day, the Board heard from district administrator Jane Mercier about the work of campus nurses. She introduced school nurses who were present and singled out two for special recognition. Mercier described how nurses Cathy Shannon of Battle Ground High and Julia Scott of Prairie High had responded quickly and appropriately in specific life-threatening incidents involving students. Mercier said Scott, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve, will be deployed this summer to serve as chief nurse for air evacuation at Kandahar Air Base in Afghanistan. Scott and Shannon were presented with plaques honoring their work.

New Web site: The Board and audience were given a preview of the new Battle Ground Public Schools Web site, which is in the final stages of work. The go-live date is targeted for June 1. The site was designed and produced at no charge to the school district as a learning and public service project of seniors in the Digital Technology and Culture program at Washington State University Vancouver. Communications Director Gregg Herrington and Technology Services Director

Scott McDaniel unveiled the new site. Prof. Dene Grigar, director of the DTC program, at WSUV, discussed the students’ work and the DTC program. She was presented with a plaque of appreciation from the district.

In Board action, the directors:

- Approved the consent agenda, minus an item to change the district’s primary bank. That item was held over for future action.
- Approved a request to advertise for bids on security work, including cameras at various campuses, under the federal Qualified School Construction Bonds economic-stimulus program.
- Approved a request, presented by Curriculum Director Paula Koehler-Martin, to seek from the state approval for a waiver of the 180-day school-year requirement and approval of 177 days of classes the next two years. The state had previously approved a waiver for this year. The district has combined six early-release days into three full days of school and used the other three days for professional development by teachers and others.
- Gave the go-ahead for the district to join other districts and the state in applying for federal “Race to the Top” grant funds. This could result in as much as \$1,226,000 for Battle Ground Public Schools over four years under this program.
- Engaged in a lengthy discussion with primary school principals and assistant principals – as the directors had in previous meetings with principals at other grade levels – about the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade schools. After the round-table discussion about the challenges, successes and initiatives under way and planned for our primary schools, the Board approved the primary-school improvement plans.



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