



Battle Ground Public Schools

Director of Communications: Gregg Herrington, (360) 885-5337

PO Box 200 • Battle Ground, WA 98604-0200 • Office Location: 11104 NE 149th Street • Brush Prairie, Washington
District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

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BG Board, Briefly

Meeting at Capt. Strong Primary School on May 20, the Board was briefed on several ongoing programs and initiatives now planned or under study that are designed to improve and enhance learning. The Board met later that day in a special meeting at the district office to interview candidates for temporary appointment to Director District 4. Then, on Saturday, May 21, the Board resumed Friday's regular meeting and appointed Mavis Nickels to the vacancy created April 30 with the resignation of Sam Kim after nearly 16 years on the Board.

Recognition of teachers – Six Battle Ground Public Schools teachers were recognized and congratulated by the Board for having earned certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The accomplishment marks the successful completion of a rigorous one- to three-year program aimed at improving teaching techniques and styles.

The teachers are: Joe Accuardi, instrumental music, Prairie High; Patricia Chevalier, first grade, Glenwood Heights Primary; Kent Graham, HomeLink River; Georgianne O'Donnell, sixth grade, Laurin Middle School; Susan Remmen, HomeLink River, and Jennifer Sawyer, first grade, Tukes Valley Primary.

Classified RIF letters – Superintendent Shonny Bria and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Marcia Christian reported that an agreement could not be reached with the Public School Employees union for a delay in issuing Reduction in Force (RIF) letters until the Legislature acts on a state budget. Consequently, RIF letters to classified workers will be issued before Memorial Day. They said the decision on the size of the classified RIF list will be based on a potential worst-case financial scenario. The actual number of layoffs could turn out to be lower than the number of RIF letters.

Channel One – The Board heard a report on the Channel One classroom television news service, which has been used in some of the district's middle schools since

1993. Presenters were David Gray, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, Paula Koehler-Martin, director of curriculum and professional development, and Brian Hanson, assistant principal at Daybreak Middle School.

Response to Instruction and Intervention – David Gray, Paula Koehler-Martin and Ellen Wiessner, assistant director of special education, briefed the Board on a new program aimed at improving student outcomes in learning and behavior. The central practice of “Response to Instruction and Intervention” is monitoring how students respond to instruction and behavioral supports and is grounded on the core principals of effective teaching, access to a standards-based curriculum and the belief that all students can learn and achieve high standards. The program is being applied initially at Capt. Strong and Tukes Valley primary schools.

All-day kindergarten pilot program – Jill Smith, executive director of teaching and learning, Barbara Baird, principal at Maple Grove Primary, and Jennifer Kerr of Learning Support Programs briefed the board on progress toward establishing a pilot, tuition-based all-day kindergarten at Maple Grove Primary in the coming 2011-12 school year. This follows a survey of parents of incoming kindergarten students throughout the district. A high interest was reported at Maple Grove Primary. No action was sought at this meeting.

Daily starting and ending times – In another briefing to the Board about an initiative being studied, David Gray, Prairie High Principal Jason Perrins and Bruce Kelley, director of assessment and research, discussed the possibility of changing school start and ending times.

Changes for all grade levels are under consideration, with high schools a chief concern. The Board was told that “Research bears out that most high school students are considered sleep-deprived” and that there is substantial evidence that high-school-age students have a greater chance for success if classes start later than has been traditional in Battle Ground. The two comprehensive high schools start at 7:30 a.m. The district is considering advancing the start and ending times between 30 and 90 minutes.

Special Education -- In another of the occasional briefings for the Board on various district programs, David Gray, Special Education Director Jane Mercier, and Ellen Wiessner made a PowerPoint presentation on the district’s special education program.

Art Show winners -- The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5 p.m. for the introduction of winners in the annual school district art show, which involves

students at all grade levels. The entries are mounted in the hallways at Capt. Strong Primary and open to public viewings until the end of the month.

Special meeting to interview candidates

The Board reconvened in a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 20 at the school district office to interview the three candidates for temporary appointment to the School Board. They were Eric Silvey, Dominic Webber and Mavis Nickels. The Board then adjourned to an executive (closed) session to discuss the candidates' qualifications.

Nickels appointed to Board vacancy

Saturday, May 21, the Board met at Battle Ground High School to resume the Friday regular meeting. In the first order of business, Directors Steve Pagel, Monty Anderson, John Idsinga and Ken Root voted 4-0 to appoint Mavis Nickels to the Board. She fills the Board vacancy created by the April 30 resignation of Sam Kim. She was sworn in by Board President Steve Pagel and immediately took her seat on the board. The appointment lasts until December. Nickels and any other registered voter residing in Director District No. 4 may run for a full four-year term in this fall's election. For more on the Nickels appointment, see battlegroundps.org.

The board approved the consent agenda after removing two items for consideration at another time

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