



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Feb. 14, 2012

BG Board, Briefly

Board OKs offer for land near BGHS



Left: 1.48-acre parcel, looking north from parking lot of BGHS auto technology shop.

Right: 1.40-acre parcel looking west. (District Stadium is on photographer's left.)

The Battle Ground School Board Monday, Feb. 13, approved the possible purchase of two adjacent parcels of land totaling 2.88 acres abutting District Stadium and BGHS softball fields.

The property is immediately northwest of the stadium complex. One parcel, which includes an occupied house, is 1.48 acres. The adjacent parcel, which is bare land, is 1.4 acres. The Board approved a maximum price of \$355,146 total, pending final approval by the sellers. The land, at 602 NW Fifth Ave., is owned by Dane and Barbara Walla.

“It’s a buyer’s market,” Board President John Idsinga said Tuesday, Feb. 14. “This purchase (would) square off the high school campus. It’s a great piece of property for future use for the school district. We’re looking 30 to 50 years into the future.”

Following a 25-minute executive session after the regular meeting Monday, Board members Idsinga, Steve Pagel, Monty Anderson, Mavis Nickels and Ken Root voted 5-0 in open session for the district to proceed with the possible purchase.

Old Amboy school, counselors, math and suicide prevention occupy Board

Old school OK'd for police training – The school district is making plans to raze the old lower portion of Amboy Middle School, which was replaced in 2007 by the new school immediately east of it. With the project on the district's radar, Detective Steve Fox of the Clark County Sheriff's office told the Board the CCSO would like to use the building while it is still standing for training by the bomb squad, SWAT team and other units. He said training would be during daylight hours on week days and neighbors would be notified in advance.

Fox and members of the School Board noted that the burning of the old Central School in Battle Ground on Jan. 21 provided a wonderful opportunity for hundreds of firefighters to train in the structure in the weeks leading up to the blaze as well as on the day of the fire.

With the Board's encouragement, Fox said the CCSO would be happy to use the training opportunity as an educational experience for students at the adjacent middle school, perhaps with demonstrations of equipment and techniques.

In response, Board President Idsinga said, "It would be a great thing for the old school to be used for educational purposes right up to the end of its life."

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included authorization for the training. No date has been set for the old school's demolition.



BGHS students honored – The School Board congratulated and presented certificates of appreciation to BGHS students Samantha Coates, left, and Kyle Harris. The girls played key roles in planning and conducting the Feb. 4 "Walk to Stop" benefit for youth suicide prevention in which 215 people participated. The event raised \$2,000 from donations and the sale of donated T shirts and refreshments. "Thanks for making the community aware," Idsinga told the girls.

Counselors thanked – The Board approved a resolution honoring school counselors that was read by Denice Harvey, director of Career and Technical Education and counseling throughout the school district. It was presented in

connection with National School Counseling Week, which was Feb. 6-10.

Earlier, in a Board workshop, Harvey and Jodi Wicks, bereavement manager at Southwest Washington PeaceHealth Hospital, led a 90-minute discussion with the Board and others from the school district and public about the various personal and societal situations that often contribute to youth suicides and ways to head off such tragedies.

New math materials, instruction update – Paula Kohler-Martin, director of professional development and curriculum, briefed the Board on the adoption of new math materials and concurrent instruction adjustments in Kindergarten through eighth grade, which were launched at the start of the school year. She was joined in the presentation by Susan Watson, instructional support specialist for mathematics.

Watson also described the “Green House” pilot project at Glenwood Heights Primary school to improve math teaching techniques. Koehler-Martin said the project is going extremely well and “has transformed that campus” in terms of math instruction.

Policy changes approved – The Board approved changes to policies 6220 (bid requirements), 2125 (sexual health education), 2195 (highly capable programs) and 2110 (transitional bilingual instruction). These are posted on the district Website, battlegroundps.org, and can be accessed via the “School Board” link on the right side of the district home page, then scrolling down to “School Board Policies.”

Energy savings project – The Board approved a resolution stating the district will apply for an Energy Operational Savings Project grant from the state. Under an earlier grant in the same program, lighting and plumbing fixtures throughout the district were upgraded, resulting in significant savings in energy costs.



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