



THE ADVOCATE

October 2015

ad • vo • cate - noun, a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy
We are advocates for one another – we are a member driven educational association!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Fall is in the air", as they say. We have been in our classrooms for about 6 weeks now. Your classrooms look wonderful! Students have settled in and you all make it look "easy", to those not currently in the profession of Education. Thank you for all you do every day! In our society as educators, we know the time, energy, creativity, knowledge and effort it takes to present meaningful lessons each day for our students from K-12th grade.

I visited eight buildings last week. I saw adults interacting with children and young-adults in each building. At the CASEE center, Rod Hallman was challenging kids to think quickly, answer a question and catch a dollar bill as they did. Everyone in the room was laughing as they watched their classmates attempt the feat. I don't know what the lesson was, but the students were paying attention. Mr. Hallman has a relationship with his students.

I listened to Jim Scheurman, the "Music Man" at Pleasant Valley Primary, as he explained to his students the after school music program and the need to get permission slips signed in order to participate. To offset panic by the ones who had forgotten their slips, he told them they would be able to join that day, but would need to bring the permission slip the following day. His graciousness prevented tears and anxiety from his young students. Jim has formed relationships with his students.

We know their names, their families, their dogs and their cats. We've taught their older siblings and some of you are teaching the children of former students. We know they have the best shoes money can buy and we know we need to personally take up a collection to buy shoes for others. We are a community of educators caring for our Battle Ground community!

-Linda

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

BGEA continues to teach without a contract. Your negotiations team, the District Office team and two mediators assigned to us by PERC (Public Employment Relations Commission) have met twice. It was agreed by both BGEA and the District to seek mediation. We will continue to address the need to increase compensation for all members. We should finish TPEP language fairly soon. We are still bargaining the Transfer language you voted for in the survey several months ago.

There has been a very lively conversation recently over current contract language and how and where each member is represented in our contract. Linda has spoken with many members who have told her that they have never looked at their contract. BGEA is negotiating a new way with a Superintendent of 15 months. From the beginning, Mr. Hottowe saw a great potential in the Battle Ground Schools.

We recognized his potential to be a great Superintendent. As we move forward, we ask him to fairly compensate his employees.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL REP - AT - LARGE

We welcome Jen Havig as our new HS Rep-at-Large. She is filling the position left vacant by Annie Lamberto, who is now pursuing her Master's Degree. We thank Annie for her service while on the Executive Board. We are excited for the perspective and energy Jen brings to our Board.

BGEA TGIF MEMBER SOCIAL

Your Exec. Board will be hosting our first BGEA TGIF on October 16th, at the BGEA office, 3:30-6pm. Spooky Treats and Creepy beverages will be served. Feel free to bring a treat with you to share – No tricks!



SCHOOL BOARD 101

You have been asked to attend our School Board meetings as often as you are able. The School Board is a governing body; but does not administer a district's daily activities. School Boards, working with the District Administrators, make decisions and set policies such as levy and bond elections, curriculum adoption, fiscal planning and employee relations.

Vision - The Board focuses the work of the district and community on student achievement through a comprehensive strategic planning process

Structure - The Board governs the district through prudent financial planning and oversight, and diligent and innovative policy making.

Accountability - The Board infuses all programs and crucial policies with specific goals and a process for evaluation, reporting and recommendations for improvements.

Advocacy - The Board champions public education in the local community, and before state and federal policy makers.

School Board members bring their own style of leadership to the school board service. There are basic characteristics that contribute to successful board service.

1. Do they understand the components of quality education?

- Does the member seek and value the knowledge and opinions of public education teachers that actually work in all public education job functions?
- Does the member display forward thinking and bring creative solutions to education?
- Does the member support equitable and sufficient school funding essential to quality education?

2. Do they understand the Collective Bargaining Process and Employee Rights?

- Does the member understand the collective bargaining process and support the right of employees to bargain collectively?
- Does the member understand the standards of employment and working conditions necessary to promote the highest quality of education?
- Does the member listen and consider opposing views before making decisions?

Please attend the School Board meetings. Ask a question regarding your current contract, personal health and well-being faced with your current work load issues. There are two opportunities during the meeting, when individuals are allowed three minutes each to speak. Teachers gave testimonies for 90 minutes at the September meeting. It was very powerful! Invite family, friends and parents to speak on behalf of educators.

Upcoming School Board Meetings:

October 26th, November 9th & 30th

Lewisville Campus | Room C-26 | 6-7pm

Incumbent School Board Director, Mavice Nickels and her opponent, Dick Rylander, were interviewed by BGEA educators for District #4 and a decision was made to endorse Mavice Nickels for District #4. Mavis will be highlighted in the WEA Endorsed Candidate Voter Pamphlet. Congratulations, Mavis. If you would like to have a conversation with one of the candidates, please let Linda know and she can arrange it.

BGEA REPS - AT - LARGE

We will have a Rep Council Meeting on October 21st at the BG HS Library. There will not be a Building Rep Training at the meeting, due to the negotiation process.

BUILDING ACTION TEAM QUESTIONS - OCTOBER

- How many trainings have you attended since the beginning of September? Name them and rate them for success.
- Is the discipline plan in your building understood and implemented well? Give concrete examples of the procedures in place. Is the discipline plan effecting student behavior?
- Are you taking your 30 minute duty free lunch? Really? Are you able to use your Prep Periods for the intent you would like? Name some ways you use your Prep Period and make it a good use of your time.



FOOD BANK FOR EDUCATORS

It has come to our attention that there are BGEA members who are struggling to feed their families. The food collected in October and November will go to our members. We have taken care of a few of our members already. If you do not have a bucket, please call Linda or come by the association office to pick one up. Please check the expiration dates on any food you donate. If you know of a member who is in need of food, please let them know they can stop by the office. Thank you, we are generous, compassionate people!

TEACHER LOAN LIBRARY BRING A BOOK - TAKE A BOOK

Please drop off any of your "great reads" as a donation to our Shared Book Library at the BGEA office.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2015 - 2016

Linda Marie Peterson, President

Carli Barnes & Marina Schwartz, Co-Vice Presidents

Caitlin Gallup, Treasurer

Jen Havig, HS Rep-At-Large

Pam Ashford, MS Rep-At-Large

Trish Voeller, Primary Rep-At-Large