

# News Release

## Everett Public Schools

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### For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

### Dr. Gary Cohn to be Everett Public Schools Superintendent

At a special meeting on Thursday, Everett Public Schools Board of Directors voted to offer the current superintendent of Port Angeles School District, Dr. Gary Cohn, the position of school superintendent for the district. Board President Sue Cooper called Dr. Cohn after the meeting to officially make the job offer on behalf of the board. Dr. Cohn accepted the offer and added, "I am honored to be selected, excited by the challenges of working in a continually improving district, very much looking forward to meeting people in Everett, working with another competent school board and joining a great team of educators."



Dr. Cohn has been the superintendent of the Port Angeles School District since September 2001. His background in the field of education includes serving as vice president at Lake Washington Technical College, where he also served as interim president. Dr. Cohn taught marketing and business education for the Northshore School District and served in instructional leadership positions in the Lake Washington School District, where he founded a technical high school. He also taught undergraduate business communication for Eastern Washington University. Prior to becoming a teacher, Dr. Cohn worked in marketing for an international computer manufacturer.

Dr. Cohn completed a doctor of philosophy degree in education at the University of Washington. He earned a master of business administration degree from Seattle University and a bachelor's degree with majors in economics and business administration from the University of Puget Sound.

In their comments about Dr. Cohn, board members referred frequently to the leadership criteria they used to measure candidates. "There is not a point on this list that he misses," noted Cooper. "His experiences and expertise encompass every requirement the community helped us develop."

One requirement was a *commitment to being an active participant in the community on behalf of Everett Public Schools*. While in Kirkland, Dr. Cohn served as president of the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce and the Eastside Leadership Institute. Since joining the Port Angeles School District, Dr. Cohn has been focusing his energy on implementing the district's strategic plan and reinvention efforts, and taking an active role in the community. He has served on the boards of United Way of Clallam County, the Community Multicultural Alliance, Clallam Business Incubator, Peninsula Development Association, Lincoln Center Association, Haller Foundation, K. O. Erickson Trust and the Port Angeles Education Foundation. Dr. Cohn also serves on the Washington Professional Educator Standards Board at the appointment of Governor Gregoire. Gary and his wife Sue served as 2008 Campaign Chairs for the United Way.

His leisure activities have included golf, water skiing, boating, running, movies and reading. Sue Cohn is a retired high school principal, and is currently working on school and district improvement with the state Superintendent of Public Instruction. Sue holds doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Washington.

Before voting to select Dr. Cohn, board member Karen Madsen thanked staff "...for making this the kind of district where so many effective, high functioning, successful people would want to work. Your work over the years attracted an incredible group of people who want to lead this district. Twenty candidates from in and out of state applied for the position. Because we promised them confidentiality, we are not able to share with you the candidates who applied, but if you knew, you would be sharing our pride at the leadership quality your work has attracted."

In his telephone call of acceptance Cohn also spoke of the district's reputation of excellence. "I have observed the work being done in Everett and have, over the years, worked with many of Everett's professionals. I look forward to making and renewing acquaintances with such quality educators and to becoming a part of the vibrant communities served by Everett Public Schools."

The board will work with Dr. Cohn and Interim Superintendent Karst Brandsma on a transition plan. Dr. Cohn officially begins as superintendent on July 1, 2009.