

Good evening Supt. Balderas, Board Chair Pérez and members of the School Board.

For the record my name is Lindsay Ray and I am a high school math teacher currently serving as the president of the Beaverton Education Association.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I know that I am excited as staff and students are coming back into buildings. I don't know that we will ever truly be back to "normal," but I do know that there are countless opportunities that this year will bring.

I want to echo the words of Dr. Balderas in his welcome back message yesterday: *"Our schools are not merely buildings; they are communities where each student, family and staff member is an essential part of our BSD tapestry. Within our walls, we celebrate diverse backgrounds, cultures and abilities. We demand inclusivity, and we foster an atmosphere of respect and understanding. Here, everyone is seen, heard and supported."* I'm so thankful for that sentiment coming from our superintendent, and I'm hopeful that we can all strive to support one another in these tumultuous times.

I'm looking forward to a collaborative and productive relationship with District leadership, including the school board, and I'm excited to connect with each one of you. I know your role as school board directors is not easy, and I'm hopeful that we can work together to make sure Beaverton remains, in my humble opinion, the best school district in Oregon.

One of the things I want to bring to your attention today is the impact of our changing climate. We continue to see record high temperatures every year, our air quality regularly suffers because of wildfire smoke, and snow doesn't seem to be a "once every several years" occurrence anymore. With that said, I hope that special attention is being paid to the HVAC systems in all of our schools to keep students and staff safe and comfortable each and every day.

I also want to remind everyone that we are bargaining this year, which I know is simultaneously exciting and exhausting. I am hoping that we can work together throughout that process to come to agreements that ensure Beaverton has the schools our students deserve.

Finally, I'd like to say to all of our staff, thank you for your continued commitment to our students and to making our district and this community a place to learn, to be seen, and to thrive. To our students, welcome back to your school communities—we're excited you're here.

And to our community, thank you for your continued support—we're able to serve our students authentically because of your trust in us. Let's have a great year.