

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12 p.m. on Friday, April 26 through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The following comments followed all the posted guidelines listed on the form and below.

- Comments are limited to 1,000 characters. One comment per person.
- The board will not hear charges or complaints against any district employee. District staff and board members cannot be named specifically in testimony.

First Name	Last Name	Association with BSD	Comments:
Dr. Sumit	Mehotra	Parent/Guardian	<p>At Oct'23 board meeting &amp; BSD Engage, parents submitted request for bus service to south of Sato within 1 mile.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Walking to school from south of Sato is not safe for kids walking alone. Several near miss accidents witnessed by various parents.</li> <li>2. Current pathways involve crossing the busy roads (159th &amp; Brugger; Kaiser &amp; Ernst St). Walkway along the Kaiser with no physical barrier is very risky.</li> <li>3. Parents are suffering with work time loss as must accompany kids to school due to unsafe walking conditions.</li> <li>4. Walking bus doesn't work with the large group without enough volunteers and barrier protection along kaiser road. Parents as volunteer does not work.</li> </ol> <p>Parents request is to either add bus to the south of Sato within 1 mile, or atleast add school staff volunteers at (159th &amp; Brugger; and Kaiser &amp; Ernst) and recommend county to install a physical barrier all along the kaiser road for kids' safety. Parents should be able to leave kids walking from their home on a safe walkway.</p>
Elizabeth	Schulz	Staff Member	<p>AsanemployeeofBSDfor20yearsandparenttochildrenattendingBSDschools;IwouldliketodiscusstheSIGNIFI            CANTchangestooourinsurancecoverageandrates.Health            insurancebenefitshavealwaysbeenasellingpointfornewemployeesaswellasretaining            employmentforcurrentstaff.IstronglyencouragetheBoardtomakeapromptdecisionto            increasetheinsurancecapPRIORToourMay31deadline.Noonemakingafinancial            decisionshoulddosoWITHOUTALLOfthefactsTheproposedRegenceoptions</p>

**Belong. Believe. Achieve.**

			<p>information we have regard to prescription coverage is MACA. What does that mean? Our benefits are the ONLY benefitsequal among Admin Certified and Classified staff. While most Admin won't have difficulty paying the higher difference in premium without our AMAZING benefits or the ridiculous premiums and HUGE oop increase that the proposed will ensue. Our least paid staff will have to choose if they can AFFORD to stay employed in BSD. If teachers cannot afford to go to the doctor because of costly deductibles they will come to school sick and others will get sick or they will be forced to stay home leaving students with a Sub if there are enough OUR STUDENTS future is at risk.</p>
Anne	Conner	Staff Member	<p>It is very disheartening that Mountain View Middle School will be having construction for the next two years and yet very little modernization will actually be happening. We are now being told that we will only be getting seismic upgrades, solid walls, and new ceiling tiles. In the meantime, all teachers will have to pack up their classrooms, move rooms, and some will be in portables next year and the year after. The PE Department will be without several spaces. We have asbestos in the walls, carpets are stained and likely have mold in them, wood paneling everywhere, barely any natural light, water that tastes like dirt, fake whiteboards, etc. Mountain View staff are very dedicated and our students deserve to have a nice school to go to. Many staff members, students, and community members see the improvements around the district and feel forgotten about. It would be nice for the district to put some money towards making our school a safe and inviting place to be.</p>
Becky	Reichard	Other Community Member	<p>As a former BSD parent and public librarian who partnered with BSD school libraries, I can attest to the need for consistent, quality school library staff. While the public library is the door to preschool literacy, the school library supports school age literacy. The role and value of school libraries in building literacy cannot be overstated. This is why reading scores are higher in schools with library programs. It's not just reading to kids, even though that is extremely important. It is knowing the literature, how to present it, how to make it accessible, how to embed it into students' lives so they see the relevance and importance and personal satisfaction of learning. You cannot achieve this with a revolving door of library staff. This requires people with education and the ability to build student relationships and know their libraries intimately. It requires an educated, quality staff that is fairly compensated who retains their position. BSD, make the choice for libraries!</p>
Dianna	H	Staff Member	<p>Please encourage those representing BSD in bargaining with BEA and OSEA to share their proposed increase in the Employee Insurance Cap or confirm no increase close to the May 1st open enrollment date and certainly before May 31.</p> <p>Many low-paid staff are stressed due to changes in insurance plans for 24-25, facing tough choices between low initial pre-tax deductions/high deductibles or high employee pre-tax deductions to keep plans similar to last year's. This effectively reduces funds for essential needs like medication, medical care, mental health care, food, and/or rent. Please urge the decision-makers to expedite the process, as the open enrollment period begins 5/1.</p>

			This is essentially a pay cut to so many employees that can't afford it. We ask that you give a little nudge to the decision makers where you can, to hurry this along.
Yun-Pei	Tu	Parent/Guardian	<p>After the change of school boundaries two years ago, many good students were forced to leave BSD for better school environments. Here, I would like to propose a plan for sending our kids to the Summa program held by Tumwater Middle School instead of Meadow Park. The BSD Board has the authority to decide this matter.</p> <p>Reasons list below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tumwater just started the Summa program, and it is possible to include more students. There are only 4 and half schools that feed the Summa program in Tumwater. However, there are 9 and half schools that feed to Meadow Park. Bethany has 4-6 Summa students each year.</li> <li>2. Bethany Elementary School loses the battle of the change of school boundary which made our students force to do the lottery of option schools, go to private schools or even let the family to move out of the neighborhood.</li> <li>3. No school bus route problems for Summa students.</li> <li>4. Stoller Middle School does not have enough capacity to accept more students due to crowded Tag classes.</li> </ol>
Janet	Poulos	Staff Member	<p>As a BSD teacher/parent, I'm shocked that BSD Library Media Assistants are paid so little they rely on food stamps. Please consider that LMAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• earn less than BSD bus drivers, Para 1s &amp; 2s.</li> <li>• plan/teach lessons to all grade levels every week.</li> </ul> <p>Unlike Para 1s/2s, but like certified staff, LMAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teach entire classes</li> <li>• are responsible for students in emergency situations.</li> <li>• must plan their own lessons, without guidance from a certified staff.</li> </ul> <p>At the March 19 school board meeting (video minutes 19:48-21:50) SATO LMA Tammy Frye spoke of studies which proved that qualified library programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase scores on standardized tests &amp; student achievement</li> <li>• increase graduation rates of low income students, students of color &amp; those with disabilities</li> <li>• double advanced writing scores</li> <li>• increase elementary math scores</li> </ul> <p>If BSD truly wants to promote equity, BSD LMAs should receive wages on which they can live, without food stamps. Please compensate them accordingly &amp; value their work!</p>

Barbara	Weiss	Staff Member	<p>I have also mailed a letter to the Board, which I truly hope you read. This is my conclusion to that letter: As you get involved with bargaining for insurance premium caps, wages, etc., please remember how hard your classified staff work in BSD's special education classrooms. How vital they are to the running of these rooms. How it impacts their day when the classrooms are understaffed (we have to watch for and deal with seizures, do tube feeds, monitor or feed students with feeding protocols, deal with aggressive behaviors, change diapers, etc., in addition to working on IEP goals). How frequently they feel unappreciated and sometimes unseen by school administration. How expensive it is to live in today's world, and how their absence would impact the schools if they felt the need to find alternate employment. I have been a paraeducator II for 20 years with BSD. Thank you in advance for listening to comments from classified staff.</p>
Yihsun	Yang	Parent/Guardian	<p>There is an ongoing problem with bullying within the Five Oak MS based on <a href="https://www.greatschools.org/">https://www.greatschools.org/</a>. Additionally, I am deeply concerned about the well-being and support provided to our TAG students from Bethany ES.</p> <p>TAG students are often targeted for several reasons. Firstly, their exceptional academic performance draws attention, resources, and opportunities. Unfortunately, this success can make them susceptible to bullying. Some bullies may be envious of their achievements, while others perceive them as a threat to their own status and academic success.</p> <p>Bethany ES is the top performing ES and FiveOaks MS is the lowest performed in BSD academic. By Placing Summa students from Bethany ES to Tumwater MS has minimum impact to the middle school loading and adds no commute burden to the parents. Distance from Bethany to Tumwater and Bethany to MeadowPark is within 10% difference. TAG students are placed with closer academic level helps reducing the issue forementioned.</p> <p>Sincerely, YY</p>
Tina	Garcia	Staff Member	<p>The athletic trainers have been overlooked by the district for almost 2 decades. In the 17 years of our job's existence in BSD, we've not once been considered for job betterment or improvement wages or otherwise. When the school district conducted Trupp studies, they didn't even include the athletic trainers' position! We are told we must work on non contracted days without pay and without accruing flex time purely because we are "exempt". We save BSD millions in liability and lawsuits, we save the district losses of instructional time as students do not have to miss class to go to ERs, doctors, &amp;/or PT clinics, and for us to be overlooked as a profession is the highest form of disrespect. We are licensed health care professionals and are severely underpaid compared to our neighboring school district colleagues. BSD has 5 National award winners, 1 sits on the National &amp; state sports med advisory committees. BSD ATs set the bar for others, it's time to compensate us for our expertise.</p>