

BSD School Board Comments

February 11, 2025

Good evening Superintendent Balderas, Board Chair Pérez, members of the board, district leaders, and community members.

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

Last Thursday, BEA members ratified the tentative agreement that we worked on for 11 and a half months. This new contract has a lot of progress for educators and students. We have language outlining the most transparent process for staffing models we've ever had, ensuring that educators have input on class sizes and caseloads. We now have language ensuring a standardized system for recording student behaviors, allowing us to identify trends and individual needs so we can intentionally and effectively support our students. We also have language ensuring prompt communication about mitigation efforts in cases of buildings with extreme temperatures, no water, and/or no electricity, making sure educators (and by proxy students and families) know what's going on.

These wins were all non-monetary—our team worked diligently to let the District know about the many cost-free issues that would move us forward in this contract and are wins for our educational community, and as a result, this contract is a net positive. I don't think it's a surprise to anyone here that we still have unmet needs that directly impact students and educators. Our students deserve more and our educators deserve more, period.

Our OSEA colleagues are starting their bargain at the end of this month and BEA will be coming back to the table in a few weeks to bargain a contract for licensed substitute educators. We stand in solidarity with workers because every worker deserves a living wage, every educator and student deserves a safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment, and our communities deserve great schools. And I know we'll all hear the same message repeatedly from management— "We just can't afford what you're asking for."

We can disagree about priorities for spending in BSD, but we can all agree that the state must do more to address student needs. Oregon schools have been underfunded— and our students and families have gone underserved for generations. We are turning our attention to our legislators in Salem to ensure they know that we are continually trying to

give students the very best experience in schools in a system that does not provide the resources educators need to do that.

This is a call to action. We all need to unite to secure a funding model in Oregon that allows us to create and maintain the schools our students deserve.

And finally, I want to highlight a resolution that the BEA Representative Assembly adopted last week in support of LGBTQ+ rights. We appreciate the efforts of the board to support immigrant students and families in your resolution last month and I have to say I'm looking forward to hearing about concrete efforts to support students, families, and staff as we too are fielding questions we don't know the answers to.

We wanted to also lift up the LGBTQ+ community who is under attack by the current federal administration. In our adopted resolution, we insist that the Beaverton School District (BSD) publicly support the right of all individuals to safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environments, free of bullying and harassment, including LGBTQ+ students and staff, and celebrate the diversity of all students and staff and that BSD reaffirm, strengthen, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies, including protections for LGBTQ+ students and staff to ensure their safety and recognition of their rights.