

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2025 through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. 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, comments listed oldest first.
- 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 |
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| Fernando | Cruz | Parent/Guardian | I'm a Highland Park parent and alumni and this week a land use action notice from the City of Beaverton showed up at the school: LU22024-01018 Highland Park Middle School Partition PP22024-01010. It looks like the school district is dividing the property into two based on the Wilson Avenue boundary. This set off alarm bells to myself and I'm sure the many neighbors care for and value the forest at the northwest corner of the middle school property. In a time when the Beaverton School District is quietly plotting to "decommission", and likely sell off the school properties to private developers, we have every reason to believe the district is selling out our neighborhood by pulling publicly owned land out from under our community's feet. A forest that's been intact longer than the school has been standing should not be sold off just because it's not directly related to the school's functioning. KEEP ALL BEAVERTON NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS STANDING and KEEP GROUNDS INTACT! |
| Tamarra | Ragland | Parent/Guardian | I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the Beaverton School District's lack of transparency regarding the proposed closure of McKay Elementary School. Many of us, as parents and community members, are frustrated and disheartened by the absence of clear communication and meaningful engagement in this process. McKay serves a diverse student body, including 50% children of color, and it is more than just a school—it is a vital community anchor. For many students, McKay is a place of safety, belonging, and support. Closing it would disproportionately harm those who need it most and fail to meet the needs of our children. |

Belong. Believe. Achieve.

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| | | | <p>The failure to involve and inform the Beaverton community in a transparent manner is troubling, and the ongoing disregard for our concerns is unacceptable. We, as parents and community members, are dissatisfied with the lack of accountability and the potential harm this decision could cause. Our community deserves better, and our children deserve an education</p> |
| Mitzi | Sandman | Other Community Member | <p>Regarding discussion on the optimal size of elementary schools in the BSD, it seems most of the data from BSD is centered around factors such as cost/square foot, or efficiency of bus routes.</p> <p>We have elem schools with <300 students and some nearing 900. Has any qualitative and/or quantitative analysis been done on which school sizes are most effective as it pertains to student success and belonging? Has BSD looked into factors such as reading/math scores, teacher/staff tenure at a school, parent participation, community involvement, etc when comparing schools of different sizes? I've heard anecdotal stories such of the chaos at lunch and higher educator turnover at the 900 size schools. Does capacity have an effect on the overall sense of belonging, security, and connection each student experiences? As a young elementary student, does having the principal know your name make a difference in the success? These are the questions that should largely guide our Ed Specs and L-R planning.</p> |
| Barbara | Weiss | Staff Member | <p>As we near bargaining for our classified employees, please remember these things. The price of practically everything we pay for, groceries, water!!, auto and homeowners insurance, and the deductibles we pay since our medical insurance plans cover less than they used to, have increased. While the 4.75% COLA we were able to bargain for was welcomed, it actually only increased my paycheck by \$166 (before taxes), and I'm sure I'm close to the top of the pay scale for a Para II, as this is my 21st year in the district. While I have a mortgage, MANY of our classified employees are renting. Rent is increasing for many of them, and not commensurate with raises in pay. They are worried they may need to relocate to be able to afford rent.</p> <p>Classified employees would like to put away money each month for the future, and retirement. When you can barely cover monthly expenses, that makes saving difficult. While those things may not impact some of you much, they greatly affect them.</p> |
| Christine | Meliza | Parent/Guardian | <p>How are we able to have conversation with the school board about the proposed closure of 4 elementary schools. We absolutely cannot pause this conversation. It is clear the goal is to pause the conversation until it is too late and you've done what you want to do, without having to listen to the families you are supposed to be serving. BRIC long term planning committee meetings are a complete waste of time and tax payer dollars. Please create real conversation platforms to address the CURRENT proposed closures.</p> |
| Annie | Wach | Other Community Member | <p>I want to praise the district for our strong instructional materials reconsideration process, and encourage them to continue to protect the rights of our librarians and students to access information freely and engage with a wide variety of viewpoints.</p> |

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| Dawn | Singer | Parent/Guardian | <p>The BSD community neither wants nor values the "joy-only strategy" touted by the Communications and Community Involvement Department, as outlined in their annual report. This approach, which the department highlights with pride, is focused on using social media to create a façade.</p> <p>Rather than fostering genuine transparency and trust, this strategy is designed to obscure the district's pressing issues. While the department showcases the "exemplary work of staff" online, it fails to address critical matters such as staff without contracts and the deeply consequential pending school closures.</p> <p>This "joy-only" narrative is an attempt to distract from the district's shortcomings in adequately supporting school staff and students—the very heart of our educational system. Meanwhile, those in the District Central Office benefit from their carefully curated portrayal of "joy in BSD" ignoring the foundational challenges that threaten the health and success of our schools.</p> <p>Be honest, BSD.</p> |
| Patrick | Abell | Parent/Guardian | <p>We recently bought a home in the Raleigh Park neighborhood primarily to send our two young kids to Raleigh Park Elementary. We have been very disappointed with how the district has handled this potential school consolidation and closure process. The 2022 levy funds are seemingly being used to construct a new large elementary school that nobody wants. The Ed-spec driving the entire strategy is outdated and misguided. The district seems to be attempting to push the plan through without considering meaningful feedback from school district families. The money spent on the consultant (hired to "guide the discussion") seems excessive and wasteful. I'm hopeful that the district will slow down the process and increase transparency, but until that happens we will continue to explore all options for how best to educate our kids.</p> |
| Liana | Bernard | Parent/Guardian | <p>I've been struggling for the past 3 years within the beaverton school district with how my child, and I have been treated. I have escalated numerous complaints with the district, but never am contacted with an update, or any change in how we are treated. Being a single black parent is already tough. I always have been a hands on parent, extremely involved in my childrens lives , both at home, and at school. The goal of this is to support my kiddos, encourage them to make the right choices knowing I am involved, and in full communication with the staff. The other part of this goal is to support the schools staff in anyway to assist in enforcing rules, and respect. I've been blocked out numerous times, and reported to the district each time. I've been spoke down on, ignored, and disrespected countless times, and its time a change is made. Parents deserve to be informed. Children shouldn't be targeted, repeatedly reprimanded in the most extreme ways. It very discriminatory behavior.</p> |
| Keri | Bernstein | Parent/Guardian | <p>I am disappointed by the response from district employees to the communities requests for more communication and transparency. In December the facilities team came back to the Board to report out on the Raleigh Hills Elementary Design Capacity Update. They provided NO data or information to support their recommendation to continue with the build as planned. This is unacceptable. If the team actually investigated multiple options as they claim, there should be documentation and proof. We deserve to see this evidence. Please do better on communication. I now ask that you please begin looking into, and sharing with the community, the options for which students will be attending Raleigh Hills upon</p> |

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| | | | completion. The community has a lot of ideas for Raleigh Hills including returning to a K-8 model, an options school, and others. It is clear the BRIC meetings are not focused on these decisions, which is what the community was hoping for. Please, Please involve us in making these decisions. |
| Stephanie | Silver | Parent/Guardian | Planning to BRIC, but this approach is not building trust. We are extraordinarily skeptical about the underlying goals of this \$250k contract. Is this a consultant simply hired to justify what you already plan to do? Will working with these consultants actually change any long term plans of the district? Please bring more transparency to the challenging topics of budgets, buildings, and so on, so that the community can engage and share in decision-making. We are reasonable, engaged citizens who want to be a part of setting priorities in a world with limited funds. We want to retain the title schools in our community, and we want BSD to adopt a smaller ed spec. Parents are (reluctantly) exploring legal action related to the misuse of funds and deliberate obfuscation of intent with regards to the Raleigh Hills build, and its relation to potential school closures. Please don't force us down a litigious path. |