

## **School Board Comments**

January 30, 2024

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.

I would like to start this evening by acknowledging the incredible work of the BSD maintenance department. Several of our schools were impacted by the recent ice and wind storm, some in small ways and some in very big ways. I know that crews were in schools working to mitigate those impacts as quickly as possible in challenging situations, and we are all grateful for their work. I also want to acknowledge the staff in those affected buildings—their tireless efforts to maintain comfortable and engaging learning environments for students in the midst of damage from the storm has been remarkable.

I know that later tonight we will hear a report on the district's partnership with the Northwest Regional Educational Service District. I want to emphasize that the educators in the ESD are a vital support for some of our most vulnerable students here in Beaverton and across the northwest corner of Oregon. Our staff and students in Beaverton rely on numerous services from educators in the ESD each and every day. The union representing educators from Northwest Regional is currently in mediation for their bargain with district management. I hope you'll join me in demanding the Northwest Regional Board to come to a swift and fair settlement.

Speaking of bargaining, we are about to start bargaining here in Beaverton. BEA and BSD have our first session on February 15th from noon to 4 pm. You can tune in on YouTube if you're looking for something fun to do that afternoon. We are excited to start the important process of bargaining. Our working conditions as outlined in our shared agreements in the collective bargaining agreement reflect our students' learning conditions, and we are eager to find ways to improve our schools. I am confident that we will be able to find common understanding and shared goals as we negotiate.

Finally, as we start a brand new semester, I want to acknowledge that board members have been out visiting schools. Our staff so appreciate you taking the time to visit classrooms and walk through hallways, to see our incredible dual language educators in action, making students feel seen and heard, to see the tiny miracles that happen in our

specialized programs as educators bend over backwards to get students' needs met, to see our BH&W teams in action as they deescalate a student who's become dysregulated, to see a plain old math lesson that may or may not go according to plan, and to really just be at the center of everyday life in Beaverton Schools. I hope that during those visits you are engaging with educators and students alike and seeking to understand how we can continue to make our schools better.