

## **School Board Comments**

May 28, 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 want to start this evening by talking about bargaining. I'd like to echo Kyrsti's words of disappointment that the BSD team was unprepared to come to the table to hear initial proposals from OSEA. I'll be the first to acknowledge that we all have a lot going on and the end of the year is one of the most stressful times in the calendar. As Kyrsti said, both BEA and OSEA bargaining teams are made up of educators who volunteer countless hours of their time. The work is time-consuming and the work is important. Our OSEA colleagues deserve that time and effort from the District team just as much as we do and we stand in solidarity with them.

As for our own bargain with BSD, you're probably expecting me to ask for you as the board to support our proposals around insurance caps and cost of living adjustments, and you're right! I am—especially in the wake of the wildly increased insurance rates, we have members who are relying on a fair compensation package to ensure they can live in our community, access the medical care they and their families depend on, and make ends meet without second and third jobs.

We also have several proposals on the table around establishing concrete processes, accountability, and systems that help us to understand where we need to do better. We've encountered a resistance from BSD to implementing systems, particularly around student behavior and the impacts thereof. How can we do better for our students if we refuse to admit what's happening? If we can't call a referral a referral or a room clear a room clear, if we purposefully warp the truth of the realities that our students are facing, who does that serve? It certainly doesn't serve our students. I ask that the board encourages the BSD team to approach these proposals with curiosity and with the willingness to own that, in many places right now, things are a mess—we must have the courage to acknowledge and understand that mess before we can start cleaning it up.

Over the last couple of weeks we've gotten word through rumors and speculation, and then the news media about the consideration of closing schools in BSD. Regardless of the hypothetical future budget implications that might necessitate conversations around closing schools, to have those conversations without bringing in community members, families, and staff is not only

disrespectful to everyone who is a part of these school communities, but also renders those discussions absolutely useless. While I see that the plans have been put on hold for now, we unequivocally demand that when those discussions are started up again that there are concrete and transparent processes in place that definitively include those missing voices.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the amount of money that BSD is sending to the Beaverton police department for Youth Services Officers (my understanding is that is \$750,000 this year, increasing over the next few years). I don't believe that these funds should be put toward law enforcement in our schools rather than impactful student services like counselors, social workers, student managers, etc., and I wonder about the scope of the work of YSOs who are not BSD employees and how it might overlap the work of BEA members. I hope that there will be robust engagement with BEA leadership as well as BSD community, staff, and student engagement as we move forward with this program.

In every corner of BSD, all of our work can be improved with increased transparency, accountability, equity, and shared-decision making. We are a strong school district with engaged community members, dedicated and thoughtful staff, and incredible students. Let's move forward together to keep it that way.

Thank you for your time this evening.