

School Board Comments

October 7, 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 am here tonight with many Beaverton educators, current and former Beaverton students, Beaverton families and community members to stand united in our profound disappointment.

Last Thursday evening, I received a call letting me know that BSD was moving our bargain to mediation. Thirteen minutes later, before I had the opportunity to even inform the majority of our bargaining team, an email was sent to all BSD staff and soon after to BSD families to not only announce that management had moved to mediation, but also to paint an incredibly incomplete and misleading picture of bargaining.

Negotiations are about moving toward each other and we have been moving. We brought a package to the bargaining table in June that was a clear move toward settlement. We moved toward BSD by approximately \$162 million, and yet the District did not seriously engage with us at the table.

We remain committed to fighting for a quality education for Beaverton students. .

We are in the midst of negotiations and this is a process. The BEA bargaining team met last Thursday for eight hours to identify ways to come to the table with movement. While it is the District's right, we didn't ask for mediation, and we feel that we were making progress at the table. In fact, our bargaining chair emailed the BSD bargaining chair to let her know that we would be coming to the next bargaining session (originally scheduled for tomorrow) with three articles, including a tentative agreement. Hours later, we were met with the email that claimed that bargaining had stalled and no movement had been made, which was baffling. Yesterday, We reached out again to ask if we could meet with the BSD team as scheduled tomorrow to share those articles and the TA and were told no.

I am also very confused why District management chose to use ParentSquare, a platform meant to communicate with families about school-related topics, to push out a one-sided narrative about bargaining to the Beaverton community. I know of folks who have been given strict guidelines about the use of ParentSquare and have been warned about using it for advocacy of

any kind. I'm troubled that management would choose this moment to suddenly communicate about a bargaining issue on this platform, violating your own policies.

This action has ignited righteous anger within the ranks of BEA educators, as well as our larger Beaverton community. At BEA, we believe in transparency and accountability—values that are core to our work and that are reflected in our commitment to open bargaining. Open bargaining ensures that our community sees exactly what is at stake when it comes to the future of our schools. We are fighting for professional respect, and that means real accountability, shared decision-making, and a commitment to transparency.

Finally, in response to the award from Forbes, BSD has been a great place to work, largely because our union has fought for working conditions that attract highly-qualified educators and learning conditions that our students deserve, because Beaverton educators are showing up day in and day out to support students coming from every walk of life, and because Beaverton families and the Beaverton community support our schools.

Looking ahead, we are committed to fighting for a fair and sustainable contract. Our members and our community are paying attention to the decisions being made by BSD management and elected leaders in the thick of this, and we expect better. Since the district has decided to cancel the session for tomorrow, we hope to see you all outside our first mediation session.