

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12 p.m. on Friday, May 24 through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28 2024. 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.
- 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
Mitzi	Sandman	Other Community Member	I ask the Board to change the scope of the RH rebuild from the current 770-capacity K-5 plan. In BSD Long-Term Facility Planning report: APPROACH B: "A strategy for addressing areas of lower enrollment is to replace all school facilities but at a reduced size & capacity that aligns with projected enrollment. Facilities would be designed to expand to the target capacity of 750 students in the future if needed." When the 750-capacity school was set as the standard in 2013 BSD was growing w/ 40K students. Current enrollment is 38K & predictions for 2032 are 31K-35K. Ground breaking hasn't started yet at RH. Before it's too late I urge you to follow APPROACH B & revise the architectural & structural plans to a smaller school that can be expanded in the future. Most of you weren't in your position when past decisions were made, but you now hold the authority AND the responsibility to do the right thing, for our students, the community, and w/ the public dollars entrusted to your oversight.
Paul	Blechsmidt	Parent/Guardian	am very concerned about the Raleigh Hills school rebuild to be nearly triple the capacity of the current school. RH is located on the already over-crowded Scholls Ferry road in a place that's too dangerous for students to walk or bike to school. Has a traffic impact study been done to measure the anticipated additional school bus and car traffic on that road and the nearby "Six Corners" intersection of Scholls and BHH? Significantly increasing the traffic in these areas is a terrible idea. As a community member, former BSD parent, and taxpayer, I urge you to ensure that the proper studies have been done on the impact of this rebuild on the neighborhood safety. I can't imagine that significant changes to the Scholls Ferry Road won't be required if the rebuild goes ahead at the current 750+ plan.

**Belong. Believe. Achieve.**

Antonia	Alvarez	Parent/Guardian	<p>My child attends Raleigh Park Elementary school, and I am writing to express my concern about the potential closure of the school. As a licensed social worker, social work educator, and a researcher focusing on mental health, suicide and substance abuse prevention among youth and BIPOC communities, I have concerns about the unintended consequences of moving Raleigh Park students to a larger school. As a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community and the AA/PI communities, the intersections of race, sexual orientation/gender identity and school safety and connectedness are of particular concern.</p> <p>The role of a school in the safety, connectedness, and academic success of the students who attend must also be considered. Small, community schools better meet the mental, emotional, behavioral health needs of the students, while also supporting more differentiated learning opportunities. My son and our family have greatly benefitted from the affirming, connective environment Raleigh Park provides.</p>
Brooke	Arroyo Garcia	Parent/Guardian	<p>I was told by the BSD FLEX ONLINE SPED Resource, that flex online elementary Beaverton is losing their funding for SPED support. As a parent with a special education student, I need to know what and who I will be able to rely on within the flex online school to get SPED resources for my elementary age child next year as there is no current SPED resource available for next year.</p>
Sarah	Parr	Staff Member	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>BSD prides itself on community and equity. Yet, proposed plans for a mega school contradict these values, neglecting safety and community bonds. I was ecstatic to vote for a measure that promised that "projects ... distributed throughout the District to the greatest extent possible," and improve Title 1 schools. Yet, the lack of transparency regarding consolidation in the 2022 bond raises concerns about future bonds and resource distribution, especially when closures were drafted in 2019. Why offer scenarios where low-income, at-risk schools consistently face closure? Is saving \$4.8 million worth sacrificing diverse, established communities in the face of a 67 million Goliath? Consider the impact on families without stable transportation or those navigating buses and traffic around it. Your decision will shape Oregon's educational landscape. Please prioritize impacted communities, acknowledge the privilege, and seek a compromise that preserves community integrity.</p>
Carol	Powers	Other Community Member	<p>I am currently very involved with Raleigh Park elementary through a close relationship with a family with three students at that school. I applaud the district for the "pause" on further discussions/votes about changes related to opening the new Raleigh Hills elementary school. I think this was a wise move on your part.</p> <p>Related to that topic, I attended the PTO meeting at RP last week and there was much discussion about the "Educational Specification" adopted by the district in 2013 that specifies 750 as the target size for new elementary schools. This, of course, has driven the new RH design (not to mention Vose, etc. before that). I have read through this document and see no justification for how this 750 figure was</p>

			<p>chosen. I would like to understand this better.</p> <p>I am also a past BSD parent (Terra Linda, Meadow Park, Sunset) and past/current grandparent (Cedar Mill, Cedar Park, Sunset, and Jacob Wismer, Stoller, Westview).</p>
Emily	Zein	Staff Member	<p>BSD schools do not need police officers. They need trained educators, counselors, and support staff who can build relationships with students to strengthen our community.</p> <p>As a staff member I would feel less safe with police in the building. It sends a violent message to students. And does nothing to support student growth and development.</p> <p>No funds to police officers in school while you are already under paying the staff members who are face to face with students in a daily basis.</p>
Karin	Stark	Parent/Guardian	<p>The 2022 bond stated that, if approved, the money would be used to rebuild Raleigh Hills and renovate existing schools. On May 13th, we learned that that was not the whole truth. BSD kept some key information from voters because it knew that they would not have approved closure of community schools. On May 22, BSD said they would pause the discussion on school consolidation. BSD expects voters, families, and educators to believe that their voices will be heard while the discussion is paused AND a mega school is built. You have lost our trust. We do not believe that once RH is resurrected as a mega school, our community schools will be safe, that the district will listen to parents, educators and student success researchers. SHOW US NOW that you will listen by halting the Raleigh Hills Replacement construction until a transparent, shared-decision making process has been implemented.</p>
Wolverton	Emily	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am a Fir Grove parent and want to express disappointment at how the district handled the Facilities Planning Committee scenarios earlier this month, especially for the Fir Grove community by trying to call off concerns/questions/follow up by saying something is "not true" in the Oregonian, but not quite giving us the accurate picture or addressing what was in an article that was behind a paywall, and in addition, what was in a document that is readily available on a BSD website/ letterhead (that one scenario outlined a consolidation with Hiteon). We know our school building isn't in great shape and enrollment in our boundary is declining - the building has been marked for "nearing the end of its useful life" - we get it! But the Fir Grove community is extremely tight knit, and I think we could get on board with a plan for our school's future and feeder school path alongside the district if we were brought along for the ride. Hopefully we will have that opportunity.</p>
Alice	K	Parent/Guardian	<p>As a BSD parent an classified/certified substitute, I have had the privilege to work in various schools. Every school I have been in has wonderful staff doing their absolute best. However I have often noticed that the larger schools have more struggles. I strongly urge BSD to consider their alternate long-term plan that builds smaller elementary schools and veers away from planned 750 capacity schools so that we can find the "sweet spot" between fiscal efficiency and maximizing student success.</p>

Samantha	Deitch	Parent/Guardian	We are devastated to hear that BSD is considering closing smaller schools to consolidate elementary students into one mega school. The thought of losing the community we have at Montclair is unthinkable and I am alarmed by the size, the distance, and the location of Raleigh Hills after the rebuild. Please consider other, better options.
Elizabeth	Ranweiler	Parent/Guardian	<p>Please consider immediately pausing construction of a mega elementary school for 700+ students at the Raleigh Hills Elementary site and choosing one of the options to construct a smaller school instead. There is considerable community opposition to the current plan to construct a mega elementary school in that location, in part because the plan to close small community elementaries and bus students to fill a mega elementary at Raleigh Hills was not disclosed to voters prior to voter approval of the 2022 bond measure.</p> <p>I voted yes on the 2022 bond measure. If the district had disclosed that the bond money would be used to construct mega elementaries and close existing small elementaries, I would have voted no on the bond measure. Many other Beaverton voters feel the same.</p> <p>Superintendent Balderas has informed community members that you, the School Board, have the final say in the matter, so I am reaching out to you. I have also reached out to the Bond Accountability Committee.</p>
Jeff	Myers	Parent/Guardian	<p>Hello board directors. I want to share two concerns with the district's pilot of universal screeners (math, reading, and social emotional behavior assessments) with Renaissance Learning.</p> <p>The first issue has to do with student data and who has access to it. I reviewed Renaissance Learning's privacy policies, and even reached out to them for clarification. From what I understand, Renaissance is allowed to use our student's data for further research, product enhancements, etc. That sounds benign, but Renaissance staff from other countries (i.e. China) can use the data. Anonymizing the data may protect an individual's identity, but this is still a huge concern. We should either stop using Renaissance or ensure BSD student data is protected from going overseas.</p> <p>My second concern is about the need for parent/guardian notification before conducting the social emotional behavior screener and providing an opt out. This is required by federal law (PPRA). See: <a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/</a></p>
Claire	Douglass	Staff Member	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to you as a teacher at McKay. I want to ask that you slow down the district decision makers when it comes to closing our school and consolidating. I ask that you look into educational research around small community based schools before making such a drastic decision. I could write to you about the benefits of our small school or about equity concerns when it comes to asking our families to</p>

			<p>travel further to school (some without transportation) and behavior spiking in larger schools. These are all huge factors that I know others are covering so instead I ask you to consider the academic piece to our small title school. Attendance has been a huge issue in schools since Covid and one our school is tackling. We know every child and make sure they feel seen, are a valued part of a community and have a trusted adult at school. When kids come to school they perform better, they graduate! Important work is being done in our school, please come visit!</p>
Tom	Douglass	Other Community Member	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing on behalf of the plans to consolidate schools upon the rebuild of Raleigh Hills. I voted for the bond as a community member and former parent in the district. I feel like I was lied to and not given the full picture as to what my vote would result in. I do not support the closing of schools to create bigger schools. These small schools are the epicenters to communities. I also noticed that McKay, a title school is closed in all 8 scenarios. This feels inequitable and to not follow the districts mission. Having these families lose the center of their community to travel further, some without transportation to attend evening events or pick up a sick child seems to provide disproportionate harm to our most marginalized communities. As a community member, and voter on future bonds, I ask that you pause the rebuild of Raleigh Hills and devote funds to our small schools. This is an important precedent I ask you to set for the future of the district.</p>
Rina	Miyamoto-Sundahl	Staff Member	<p>I am writing to express my concern about the defunding of the position of American Indian/Alaska Native Education TOSA, which has been occupied by [name]. I am one of the teachers that [name] has been organizing to train staff in each building for Senate Bill 13 Tribal History/Shared History curriculum implementation, among many others. My understanding is that there is still a 2 year timeline left in order to even complete the trainings of staff on the Essential Understandings - that is to say, the teacher background. I am baffled at the decision to cut this position, as it leaves teachers without support or facilitation of trainings. Senate Bill 13 is a legal mandate for Oregon. Already, I know that many schools are not fully in compliance - not because of a lack of will, but because of insufficient teacher background. These trainings have been incredibly important. The district must find a way to continue to fund this important position and comply with Oregon state law.</p>
Talya	Sanders	Parent/Guardian	<p>You should immediately pause the rebuild of Raleigh Hills Elementary – do not begin demolition and construction there in June. There are several alarming elements that have come to light in the recent conversations about how to populate the new 750-student building. BSD and the community need to do important research and have critical conversations, now scheduled to begin in the fall. If you start construction on Raleigh Hills this summer, you'll be eliminating options without ever giving them a chance.</p> <p>The biggest question is, how do 750-student mega-schools best serve our students and communities? Why do you think your mega-school solution is the best solution for all neighborhoods? The district</p>

			<p>needs to rewrite the Ed Specs so each community can have the school design that meets its needs.</p> <p>If you move forward with the Raleigh Hills construction, you force decisions that will change the district for the next several decades and forever change our neighborhoods.</p>
Sandy	Douglass	Other Community Member	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm a former teacher of BSD at the high school level, a former BSD parent and current community member. I am so disappointed to see the consolidation plans regarding the opening of the new Raleigh Hills. I voted for the bond to improve our schools, provide title schools more supports and create an equitable experience for all our students. I don't feel that what I voted for is being held in good faith by these plans. Small elementary schools are crucial to their communities. Closing these down with plans to consolidate to a "mega" school does not follow current educational research. The district's mission is "belong, believe, achieve". I believe students experience a much greater sense of belonging in small schools within their community where all staff know them! I believe students at small schools stand a much better chance of academic achievement at small schools especially students who fall below the poverty line and need extra supports. Please reconsider this plan!</p>
Geena	Van Buren		<p>I am a current community member, former student of BSD and plan on sending my future children to BSD schools. Therefore I supported the previous bond. However, with the recent news of consolidating elementary schools I am very disappointed in the direction the district is heading. I believe that elementary students should be able to attend small neighborhood schools. They will have their time to be at "mega" schools in middle and high school but that is not what elementary is for. This should be a time for students to build a solid academic foundation and feel like a member of a community. They should feel seen and known by staff in a school and not just be a number. They should know the other students at their grade level, walk to school with neighbors and attend evening events. This is not possible at mega schools out of children's neighborhoods. This does not feel equitable to our students at title schools like McKay especially. Please reconsider this direction.</p>
Michele	Bell	Staff Member	<p>I am writing to urge you to reconsider the size of the Raleigh Hills Elementary and closing several small elementary schools. I have taught in BSD in 2 large schools (Vose &amp; Springville) and 2 small (McKay and Greenway). Teaching in small schools brings a special experience that the big schools cannot: the staff knows all of the students. Teachers see ALL students as their own &amp; work to support students who are no longer in their grade level. This results in better student behavior compared to large schools. It also allows the staff to know the families, providing a welcome space to poor, diverse &amp; marginalized families. In schools like McKay, many parents do not drive but will walk to school events. Moving these families further away will decrease parent participation. Decreased interaction with families will also result in needs being overlooked and fallen through the cracks (hurting the children). Teacher collaboration is stronger in small teams of 2 teachers than in teams of 4-6.</p>

Sarah	Goldhammer	Staff Member	<p>I am writing to express my concert about the defunding of the position of American Indian/Alaska Native Education TOSA, which has been occupied by [name] My understanding is that there is still a 2 year timeline left in order to even complete the trainings of staff on the Essential Understandings - that is to say, the teacher background. I am baffled at the decision to cut this position, as it leaves teachers without support or facilitation of trainings. Senate Bill 13 is a legal mandate for Oregon. Already, I know that many schools are not fully in compliance - not because of a lack of will, but because of insufficient teacher background.</p> <p>These trainings have been incredibly important. The district must find a way to continue to fund this important position and comply with the Oregon state law.</p>
Paul	Kirk	Other Community Member	<p>I signed the save-our-neighborhood-schools petition I agree with the observations, suggestions and requests regarding school size, community involvement and presence and the avoidance of inequities among the students.</p> <p>Sadly we live in an age and a society where we have to distinguish real and mis and disinformation on a daily basis and it is disheartening that BSD has been guilty of spreading disinformation regarding the recent bond measure by withholding, either deliberately or negligently vital information about the proposed closure of some elementary schools.</p> <p>I give you credit for giving your time and expertise in serving on the board. I do not give your predecessors on the board credit for the way they handled this critically important issue.</p> <p>Please make sure you truly understand your communities' needs and wishes before you start to spend the bond obtained through a deceptive campaign.</p>
Siobhan	Kirk	Other Community Member	<p>Please delay the start of the Raleigh Hills "rebuild" construction project (including mobilization and demo) to align with "planned future discussions" it is imperative that the project timeline allows for additional Community Stakeholder engagement and is coordinated with planned discussions at the start of the next school year. I understand the significance of this request and I don't make it lightly. I am quite sure that while challenging it is a feasible course of action and I am certain the Construction contract will have a suspension clause enabling the District (Owner) to direct the General Contractor to delay the start of Work.</p> <p>Taking in to account all critical data (operational, facilities repair and maintenance costs for neighborhood schools under consideration for closure) engage with community stakeholders in a forthright transparent and open process. Complete this process before final decisions regarding neighborhood school closures are made.</p>
Andrew	Sample	Other Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I have been made aware that there is serious talk of McKay Elementary being almost certain to close, and I wanted to speak out against this happening.</p> <p>From my understanding, the bill that I voted for and that was passed in 2022, was to use \$723 million taxpayer dollars to improve EXISTING facilities and rebuild EXISTING schools with the money. What</p>



			<p>the bill did not disclose, is that it would be shutting down existing schools, and consolidating those closed school students and faculties, into a newly built school with much higher capacity of 750 students.</p> <p>As someone who voted for this bill, I'm quite frankly outraged to hear that schools are being shut down and teachers/students potentially being forcibly moved into much larger school populations. This cannot possibly be beneficial to the students, and as a member of the community, I find the tactics and process surrounding this issue to be disconcerting. The wording on this bill was tactfully misleading.</p>
Aracelli	Hernandez	Staff Member	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I am writing to bring to your attention to the significant concern regarding the closure of BSD schools that the Facilities Planning Committee has been discussing. In all eight scenarios McKay Elementary is in fact due to close, [name] said himself, "No other scenarios will be presented." With that being decided, McKay staff, students and families are expected to consolidate with three other elementary schools-thus splitting up McKay's community-how is this equitable? I am outraged that a district whose promise is "Belong, Believe, and Achieve" is splitting up one of the smallest yet strongest community schools within the district. McKay is strong in its relationships with individual students to ensure their success both academically and emotionally. As a teacher and community member I am very concerned that with MEGA schools being built students will not feel a sense of belonging when staff members don't know their name, with no belief in themselves, no achieving.</p>
Keri	Bernstein	Parent/Guardian	<p>How much of the plan for consolidation of elementary schools is each board member aware of? I would ask you all that if you were not fully aware of these plans would you call for a hold on the building of the new Raleigh Hills school until a more comprehensive plan can be agreed upon. It seems to me as though there have been various plans shoe-horned together over the years without a comprehensive plan. If we need to consolidate schools let's first think about the children and make a plan in their best interest that is also financially responsible. Let's think about the best place for a replacement school and its size. 750 capacity schools are proving in the BSD to be too big. Consolidating 750 students in the SW sector of the BSD will destroy our communities. These small schools are a critical part of our neighborhoods. If we are going to loose our schools I would appreciate it being well thought out and in the best interest of the children.</p>
Lauren	Kelly	Parent/Guardian	<p>No doubt you will be receiving many comments about the recent news to close/consolidate schools in the SE part of the district. I am a parent of a current kindergartner at McKay with a second child who will be entering pre K in the fall. We love McKay elementary and the small, close-knit school community we have there. The principal and counselor greet us at the door daily. They know every child's name. It is a warm, inviting and safe place for our students' growing minds.</p> <p>My request would be that you reconsider the proposal to re-build Raleigh Hills as a 750 capacity school. The education specification for this is over a decade old and was drafted pre-covid. The ed-spec</p>



			MUST be re-evaluated. Please re-build RH at a lower capacity. 750 is not what our students and staff need. The small school community is not just for students - it's for parents and caregivers and everyone in the neighborhood. Please look at what is best for students and staff, not strictly the budget.
Dawn	Prochovnic	Other Community Member	<p>I'm deeply concerned about plans to rebuild Raleigh Hills School for 750+ students and the associated potential to close other neighborhood elementary schools to fill one too-big school.</p> <p>There are many issues of concern regarding rebuilding RHS, once a quaint K-8, into a mega school for 750+ children pulled from multiple neighborhoods, including: traffic congestion/safety, impacts on student learning, the potential for inequitable access to safe routes to walk and roll to school, and rupturing communities that are centered around their neighborhood school.</p> <p>The District depends on community support to pass levies and bonds, support I've been proud to provide in the past. I'm embarrassed that I advocated for a Bond that was sold to voters under misleading and/or false pretense.</p> <p>I urge you to PAUSE plans to rebuild RHS as a 750+ student mega school, listen to and engage with the community that supported the Bond that is paying for this project, and address our concerns.</p>
Kendra	Douglas	Parent/Guardian	McKay Elementary is vital to our kids and our community. The teachers, staff, and principal are kind and caring and know all the students by name. Community schools are what's best for our children, not mega schools with larger class sizes. Closing schools was not in the bond measure. This is a deceptive use of our tax dollars. Raleigh Hills school demo and construction should be paused if the district isn't ready to make a decision about it! Please consider upgrading McKay instead of closing it.
Meaghan	M	Staff Member	<p>I am glad there is a pause on consolidating the elementary schools. I believe more thought needs to be put into these decisions especially ones that impact our youngest learners. Research shows students do better in smaller learning environments. I know that enrollment numbers are declining so why are we focusing on building schools that hold larger amounts of students and taking students out of their neighborhood schools and smaller communities.</p> <p>I also want to ask the district to please support our compensation requests in bargaining. With the price of everything increasing and many of us facing student loan payments we had to take to even get this job, it's time for our COLA to be increased to match the world around us.</p>
Emily	Schubert	Other Community Member	As a former BSD student, I thrived in the smaller community elementary school of McKay. The community outreach that occurred while I was there was crucial for student and parent engagement. Closing schools to make larger ones will not allow for optimal classroom environments to encourage student growth, development, and learning. I also fear that larger schools will actually cause less parent involvement, which is also detrimental to the schools.

Cherise	Arthur	Other Community Member	<p>In regards to the review of [name] I have some comments and concerns. As an employee who recently retired I noticed a lot of changes in the last 2 years at BSD that have not been good. Because of the changes at district we saw less students being disciplined and causing issues for staff and other students because if you suspend for 10 days that is money the district is loosing. This is effecting staff and other students and we need to go back to how we have always had to deal with student behavior. Also the issue with changes in our insurance is very concerning to staff. We have always been considered a good district but a lot of staff don't feel that way and are frustrated with district policies and the principals hands being tied. Having to have an appointment to get into district office makes it feel very strange when we used to be able to go and talk to district employees. I suggest we find a new admin who cares more about our community than climbing the ladder.</p>
Jo	Fidler	Staff Member	<p>We need to preserve our small community schools, specifically in regards of the small schools that will be impacted by the Raleigh Hills rebuild (Montclair, Raleigh Park and Montclair). Small schools are critical in continuing the reach community relationships that they provide. If we continue to build these 700+ occupancy schools we will lose so much in relationship building, support services, and community engagement. As a teacher I know this process will continue to move forward, and I am aware that schools will have to be folded into the new building. But it is essential that it is a full and transparent process. The principals were not openly part of the conversations, it is UNACCEPTABLE to blindside these principals with lack of information. [name], found out that the school was on the potential closed list by a parent NOT by BSD admin. All community members need to be notified openly of the process and they need a voice in the process.</p>
Jade	Gonzales	Parent/Guardian	<p>I represent the Raleigh Park PTO community. Closing supportive community schools and creating mega-schools like the proposed 750-student new Raleigh Hills Elementary will be to the detriment of our students and will have ramifications for decades to come. You need to live BSD's new mission and put student achievements and community at the center of your decisions about school closures.</p> <p>We want to work together to find a new path forward, one built on mutual trust, transparent process, and authentic community engagement. Please read our full letter.</p> <p>We have three requests:</p> <p>Decouple the multiple discussions about populating the new Raleigh Hills facility from the need to address infrastructure issues at other eastside schools  Pause the rebuild of Raleigh Hills School immediately; consider alternative plans for east side facilities  Start an open and interactive dialogue – rebuild our trust in you and discuss the value of small- and medium-sized community elementary schools</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Lori	Thom	Staff Member	Out of 20+ years as a staff member, McKay School has always had the warmest most close knit community of all the schools I worked in. The success of students, both academically and personally is overwhelming. Such a genuine loving school. Closing the school would go against all the district stands for.
Megan	Stauffer	Staff Member	I am writing to express my concert about the defunding of the position of American Indian/Alaska Native Education TOSA, which has been occupied by [name]. I am one of the teachers that [name] has been organizing to train staff in each building for Senate Bill 13 Tribal History/Shared History curriculum implementation, among many others. My understanding is that there is still a 2 year timeline left in order to even complete the trainings of staff on the Essential Understandings - that is to say, the teacher background. I am baffled at the decision to cut this position, as it leaves teachers without support or facilitation of trainings. Senate Bill 13 is a legal mandate for Oregon. Already, I know that many schools are not fully in compliance - not because of a lack of will, but because of insufficient teacher background. These trainings have been incredibly important. The district must find a way to continue to fund this important position and comply with Oregon state law.
April	Powers	Parent/Guardian	We recently learned passing the bond to rebuild Raleigh Hills elementary means that the school will be rebuilt at 2-3x the size than it currently serves (750). Once the school is built, other elementaries will be closed in order to fill that capacity. Expansion of RH was never publicly announced as part of the plan. In fact, docs show this tidbit was deliberately hidden because it might affect the passing of the bond. This is completely unacceptable. BSD also never publicly announced the "Ed Specs" decision to rebuild all elem schools at a cap of 750. Schools this size are a disservice to students and communities. BSD's motto is "Belong, Believe, Achieve." No one feels like they belong in a school that large. Please pause the Raleigh Hills rebuild and evaluate other avenues - such as closing RH and redrawing boundaries to accommodate those students at nearby schools. This could save over \$60 million dollars and retain our smaller community schools where students can feel they belong.
Aimee	Jones-Suemat ysu	Staff Member	I am writing to express my concern about the defunding of the position of American Indian/Alaska Native Education TOSA, which has been occupied by [name] I am one of the teachers that [name] has been organizing to train staff in each building for Senate Bill 13 Tribal History/Shared History curriculum implementation, among many others. My understanding is that there is still a 2 year timeline left in order to even complete the trainings of staff on the Essential Understandings - that is to say, the teacher background. I am baffled at the decision to cut this position, as it leaves teachers without support or facilitation of trainings. Senate Bill 13 is a legal mandate for Oregon. Even though at my school we have gotten through many of the modules, we are not fully done. These trainings have been incredibly important and cannot be done without guidance from a TOSA. The district must find a way to continue to fund this important position and comply with Oregon state law.

Michael	Tanner	Staff Member	<p>I have always voted in favor of education, students, and educators, and will continue to do so. However, my trust in the process of approving bonds has taken a hit following the 2022 bond. In hindsight, with current decommissioning discussions, I feel misled and voted in bad faith as there was no mention of decommissioning schools. Small schools provide rich community involvement and engagement, which leads to better connections between students and teachers, and teachers and parents/caregivers. Better connections lead to better academic engagement. In a district that values equity it is not too late to follow our values, even if that means breaking contracts. The district can save tens of millions of dollars by changing course and maintaining our valuable small schools.</p> <p>“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.” Socrates</p> <p>Let our small schools burn bright with the flames of engagement, connection, and heart.</p>
Stephanie	Palmer	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am writing to encourage the board to immediately bring themselves up to speed on the Raleigh Hills rebuild situation and to consider building a smaller capacity school. The 2013 Ed Specs are woefully out of date (they don't even follow the current staffing formula for misc/pe!!) and reflect a time of growth in enrollment. The district was NOT upfront about its plans to consolidate other schools when asking taxpayers to vote for the bond to rebuild Raleigh Hills. As a parent and an educator, I believe in the power of smaller, community focused schools and that they are best for all students. As a parent, I have seen my kids thrive at McKay, where every staff member knows them and is able to go above and beyond to serve their needs, socially, emotionally, and academically. As an educator, I can say there are more kids that fall through the cracks at large schools. This is an urgent matter, but it's not too late to take action to adapt the plans to better suit the community's needs.</p>
Debbie	Plawner	Parent/Guardian	<p>As per my Change.org petition, 240 residents join me today in demanding BSD halt construction plans and engage our community in any discussion on school closures.</p> <p>Mega-schools hurt academic performance. When school sizes exceed 500 students, academic, attitude, and behavioral problems increase. This disproportionately impacts students from lower-income families and those of racial and ethnic minorities by being transferred from their neighborhood schools to larger schools outside their neighborhoods (Blatchford, 2003; Hattie, 2006).</p> <p>Dangerous Impact on Local Traffic. The expanded Raleigh Hills would increase traffic on Scholls Ferry Road and at the already hazardous “Six Corners” intersection, worsening backups and congestion.</p> <p>Losing neighborhood schools would break down the fabric of vibrant local communities. Poorly planned decisions can lead to decay, as seen with [name], and erode taxpayer trust in future investments in the Beaverton School District.</p>
Katie	Atkins	Parent/Guardian	<p>Members of the board, thank you for your service.</p> <p>I'm writing to ask that you pause the rebuild of Raleigh Hills School immediately in light of the potential</p>

			<p>domino effect of closing multiple vibrant community schools on the district's east side. Before construction begins, please reconsider what plans are best for Raleigh Hills in conjunction with other facilities' needs. In light of declining enrollment and low capacity in these schools, does it make sense to build a school more than double the current capacity, solely because the Ed Specs, which were written when enrollment was on the rise), suggest it?</p> <p>Please know that closing Montclair ES and the other schools under consideration would be a significant loss for these neighborhoods. Yes, the subject of closing schools can be emotional, but I appeal not to your emotions but instead ask that the board review the facts and BSD's commitments to seek input from the community on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you, Katie Atkins</p>
Stacey	McKinney	Parent/Guardian	<p>As a concerned parent, former PTO president, and taxpayer, I urge you to reevaluate the substantial expenditures on the Raleigh Hills rebuild project. Given the global decline in birth rates and the associated long-term demographic shifts, the necessity of such a large-scale project is questionable.</p> <p>I propose a fiscally prudent alternative: prioritize improving existing schools with targeted investments in seismic upgrades, HVAC systems, and classroom expansions as outlined in the original bond measure. This approach aligns with the bond's promise--the promise that I voted for--to enhance learning environments across the district without the financial strain of building a mega school.</p> <p>Maintaining multiple smaller schools ensures better educational outcomes through smaller class sizes and strengthens community ties, which larger schools might undermine. Let's focus on optimizing our current resources to benefit all students and safeguard the district's financial health.</p>
Christina	Cabrera	Parent/Guardian	<p>Dear Beaverton school district,</p> <p>I'm writing you this letter today with a heavy heart, knowing there is a possibility of closing McKay Elementary School. I have three daughters, two that are attending McKay Elementary school as we speak, they are in 3rd and 4th grade. My oldest daughter has already graduated from college and she also attended McKay.</p> <p>Our family has been so lucky to be a part of McKay for all these years. There are so many benefits to a smaller school, it brings families, and teachers together to build relationships and build a great support system for our youth. Keeping these schools around helps keep our young generation connected and not just a student ID#.</p> <p>I truly believe that without McKay, all of my girls would have not had the opportunity to have such a</p>

			<p>great Headstart. The teachers and staff members are the best! They care about each &amp; every student.</p> <p>I beg you not to shut these schools down. It's not just a school, it's our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
Molly	Sax	Parent/Guardian	<p>I appreciate BSD pausing the discussion of school closures and welcome the community approach described in the email on May 22nd, but as a BSD alumni, parent, and local voter, I am asking the district to also pause the planned construction at Raleigh Hills Elementary. Rebuilding that school to be filled with 750 students in fewer grades than it held when we voted for the bond is unacceptable. While my children and I had positive experiences in a neighborhood BSD elementary schools (decades apart!), I am aware that anecdotes do not amount to evidence. And so I ask the district to share with us the data and research behind the EDSPEC move to XL elementary schools. How will these large schools benefit the students and the community? Who learns most successfully in these very large schools? How is community built and sustained in mega schools so each student understands "they belong"? BSD must rebuild our trust if they want the community to vote for future funding bonds.</p>
Stephanie	Silver	Parent/Guardian	<p>I request the School Board to immediately pause construction at Raleigh Hills and right-size the project to smaller than 750. From there, conduct the community process of determining the best possible set of decisions for this area. While other schools have been built to the current edspeg of 750, they did so in a different set of circumstances and did not involve closure.</p> <p>Raleigh Park is a Title school where all students can thrive, representing the best of what the Beaverton School District can be and upholding the mission to "belong, believe and achieve". To threaten its closure is to diminish BSD as a whole. Bond dollars were allocated to important maintenance for this building + should be used to this end.</p> <p>Page 77 of Long Range Planning Document articulates an approach ("Approach B") around rebuilding facilities at smaller sizes to support the community schools. This is a reasonable path forward that will center our students' success more effectively than a 750-student facility.</p>
Dawn	Singer	Parent/Guardian	<p>Before proceeding further, despite the hiatus on meetings and conversations of the Facilities Planning Committee, I implore you to engage in a thoughtful dialogue with all stakeholders involved, including students, parents, teachers, and community members, the ones who will truly be affected by this decision. Let us not rush into decisions that could irreversibly alter the educational landscape of our neighborhoods and district without fully understanding the implications, and recall first and foremost that our students and staff are more than just mere constituents of district profit margins, and that district savings is not the most important facet of this decision.</p>
