

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12 p.m. on Friday, August 9 through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 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
Jeff	P	Staff Member	My note is in regard to ongoing BSD/OSEA contract negotiations. At the time of this comment submission, the BSD COLA offer to classified employees is insulting (less than 2%). The bargaining team is trying to position the offer as 3.75%, but that includes market reclassification as well. COLA is an inflation adjustment that impacts ALL classified employees equally. The reclassification adjustments should be bargained separately and with complete transparency.
Christine	Sinner	Staff Member	Classified staff members need to have a living wage. If our health insurance increases by 10% and our wages increase by 3% we are still down 7%. Many Classified staff take home about \$2000 a month. A lot of Classified staff work for the BSD for the great benefits despite the low pay. If that is no longer the case, it will be increasingly difficult to hire good people. I have three open positions at my school and the hiring pool is very shallow. Our students deserve good people to help them. You get what you pay for. Please support our Classified staff by covering the increase in benefits costs.
Robert	Slater	Staff Member	Why is the school district only offering a less than 1% COLA? This seems like an intentional insult.

Belong. Believe. Achieve.

Jennifer	Knight	Parent/Guardian	As a parent of 2 middle schoolers, I request that the Board take urgent action in response to the BEA resolution shared in June to ban cell phones in schools. The district policy "JFCEB on Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media" is woefully outdated (from 2015). Since that time, dozens of studies show that smartphones hinder education, increase anxiety/depression, hinder proper socialization, perpetuate inequalities among students, and more negative effects (for an abundance of stats from various sources, visit phonefreeschools.com, or consult "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt). If BSD is serious about its promise to "Belong. Believe. Achieve." then I feel there is no more cost effective and efficient way towards quickly achieving this than getting smartphones out of the school day. This is not something to ponder for another year (I first submitted these comments over a year ago). Our children are reaping the ill-effects of outdated practices/policies NOW. Thank you.
Claire	Douglass	Staff Member	I am writing in regards to the Raleigh Hills rebuild. As a teacher at McKay the value of a small school can not even be explained. As a teacher I know every student in the school, their families and their stories. Teaching at a large mega school does not appeal to me at all as I love the community and connections within a small school. Also, from a safety standpoint I noticed in the pictures of the new build the district has posted it looked like windows were on classrooms out to the hallway. This would not be a safe design in terms of being out of sight from danger. Hallways are also where students who are not regulated tend to end up and this would cause distraction and chaos. I urge the board to reconsider the size and safety of the new Raleigh Hills rebuild.
Nancy	Bolton	Parent/Guardian	<p>Hello, I am writing regarding the ongoing rebuilding of Raleigh Hills and plan for a 700+ school on that site. I had two kids who went through Montclair. Each of them had an unexpectedly good experience. As parents, we both volunteered at the school and felt deeply connected to the school community.</p> <p>I understand that the student body at Montclair has been shrinking and that is a problem. However, based on my discussions with other parents whose kids attend mega-schools, the mega-school model is not healthy for kids. It is hard to have a cohesive sense of community in a large school. The communal areas are often loud and overwhelming from a sensory standpoint, including the areas where kids go to have special instruction.</p> <p>I understand that a change may need to be made. However, instead of building one new mega-school, I strongly encourage you to make changes to increase the student body in several small successful small schools that we already have in our community.</p>
Amy	Starke	Other Community Member	My husband and I have lived in Beaverton for 32 years, and our two now-grown sons attended Beaverton schools (Montclair, Whitford, Beaverton HS and School of Science and Technology). I was a volunteer at Montclair (Art Literacy) and a band mother at Beaverton HS. Montclair is a small elementary school and my children thrived there because of its smallness. We knew most of the teachers' names and the teachers knew most of the children. I don't feel that they lacked anything because of the small school. They had music and P.E. and Art Literacy along with the education

			<p>fundamentals. A bigger elementary school may have more bells and whistles and extracurriculars, but that can't make up for the anonymity and feeling of being a little fish in a big pond, or a tiny cog in a big machine. I understand that Beaverton School Board has to steward taxpayer dollars wisely and faces tough decisions, but I feel that keeping the smaller schools open is critical for our children's future.</p>
Alysse	Cruickshank	Parent/Guardian	<p>62 3rd graders is too much for 2 teachers please considering hiring a 3rd teacher at West TV</p>
Megan	McMillan	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am incredibly concerned about the safety and ability for 800 families to get to a consolidated Raleigh Hills elementary off Scholls Ferry road. As a two lane (only one in each direction) road that is used as a major commuting thoroughfare, there is already a frequent backup of traffic during both the morning and afternoon rush hour on that road between Allen Blvd and Six Corners. Raleigh Hills is not safely walkable because it would require walking through the dangerous Six Corners intersection (for Montclair families) or crossing Beaverton Hillsdale Highway and cutting through a busy parking lot (for Raleigh Park families), so we will all have to drive because many of us will still be unbussed for living <1mi away. What a traffic nightmare--both for parents trying to make an early bell, and for business commuters with no lane to pass around the long line for parent dropoff which is sure to extend into the street in both directions. This is no location for an 800 student school.</p>
Christine	Seaman	Parent/Guardian	<p>As a parent of two students at West TV, one of which is entering 3rd Grade this fall, I am alarmed at the potential unacceptable class sizes (~31 students) that would result from the proposed two teachers/classes. My daughter loves school and loves learning but she is also not someone who is comfortable speaking up in large groups so I worry that a large class size would diminish her ability to succeed. In addition, the more kids the more distractions and stress is created for both kids and teachers inhibiting their ability to learn. I'm sure you are aware that smaller class sizes have a wealth of benefits to students (and their teachers) and that those benefits at an early age extend through their academic lifetimes. With just a couple weeks left before the school year begins, I strongly suggest that all efforts be made towards adding a 3rd teacher to teach 3rd grade at West TV to allow the students to continue on a good path of learning and enrichment per the district strategy.</p>
Tiffany	Mathes	Parent/Guardian	<p>Parents of the third-grade class at West TV Elementary have to fight every year for our students, so here we are again. Our class is uniquely large for the school's size and requires the addition of a third teacher. Our teachers should be able to meet the needs of all students and provide an equitable experience to this grade level without the added burden of managing 10 more students than any other class in the school. We know that smaller class sizes are a crucial piece of realizing the vision expressed in our district's strategic plan. As a teacher, I can personally attest to the importance of small class sizes. I am able get to know my students' needs academically, socially, and emotionally in a</p>

			<p>way that can feel impossible when stretched to my own professional limits. Please live up to the ideals of our guiding principles and allocate a third teacher for the third-grade class at West TV Elementary now.</p>
Justin	Mathis	Parent/Guardian	<p>Not sure why we have to do this every single year, but here we are. The upcoming third grade class at West TV is the largest group at the school. It has been every year since they were Kindergartners. Each year we have to plead with the district to add a third teacher, because having an elementary classroom (I would argue any classroom) with more than thirty students in it is detrimental to everyone. Could an additional third grade teacher please be added to our school? Thanks, and I look forward to doing this all again next year!</p>
Stephanie	Silver	Parent/Guardian	<p>I would like the members of the school board to ask and consider why BSD leads the region with the largest elementary ed spec at 750 students, when comparable districts plan schools that are much smaller. For example, Portland builds to 600, Seattle builds to either 500 or 650, and Salem-Keizer plans for 400-600. Why, in 2024, is Beaverton building schools that are 20-35% larger than nearby districts?</p> <p>As you consider this, please see 2021's Long Range Planning document, page 78, for approaches to building. "Approach B" is aligned with community needs, as it seeks to "retain neighborhood schools without building unnecessary space." "Approach A", which appears to be the misguided strategy utilized in the Raleigh Hills build currently, will build a mega school that will close several neighborhood schools and gut the surrounding area.</p> <p>These decisions will last for decades. Please, reduce the ed spec from 750 to 500-600. And do not devastate our communities with Approach A.</p>
Mitzi	Sandman	Other Community Member	<p>I'm dismayed at the lack of communication from BSD regarding the valid community concerns around the Raleigh Hills Elementary expansion. It's been requested several times & in many ways to keep the community better informed and yet, there has been no formal communication since the June 12 update that states "the construction of Raleigh Hills is moving forward." Several of us in the community have pieced together that there may be discussion at the School Board Work Session on Aug 13 on reducing the size of the RH building and changing the scope of the project but it's all conjecture, and we know that time is of the essence as Pence Construction finishes demolition and moves on to construction in early September. Please show respect to the parents, students and broader community by acknowledging the issues brought up repeatedly in Board meetings, public comments, email, Superintendent Chats, social media and so on, that the current plan is not acceptable to the majority of the community</p>

Mamiko	G	Staff Member	I am a paraeducator in a sped program at an elementary school in BSD. Last school year was very challenging with chronic lack of proper staffing, aggression and violence in the classrooms, staff/student injuries, lack of concrete support from special education department, and lack of meaningful support for parents of students with severe special needs by BSD. Our classrooms were very unsafe due to misplacements and lack of placement options. All sped department seemed to care about was legal student-staff ratio. This tendency was very dangerous as in reality mere numbers/class size could not ensure staff/student safety. Substitute staff to our classrooms were very hard to come by. They fear for their safety. Those that subbed for us were often untrained. They unknowingly fueled student dysregulation and aggression and often became the targets and got hurt. We are about to start a new school year with very similar situations. Please do better to ensure our safety.
Patrick	Abell	Parent/Guardian	<p>The community would appreciate more clarity from the school district and school board about the financial goals related to Facilities Planning. Are you seeking to reduce yearly operating costs by a certain amount? To even out the cost per student in the district?</p> <p>If reducing costs is a factor, how are you considering impacts of school closures on other areas of the budget (such as transportation)? As you look to reduce spending, are you considering all budget areas (including the many high-cost, niche middle school programs) as you consider the closure of elementary schools, which are the foundation of the K-12 experience?</p> <p>The community is populated with reasonable people who understand the concepts of limited funding and real-world tradeoffs. Without insight into the key goals, the community can neither fully understand nor effectively partner with the school district in this decision-making process.</p>
Aleida	Adams	Staff Member	I have observed 3 of the most recent bargaining sessions between BSD and OSEA. I am so proud of my union bargaining team and the hard work they are doing for all classified staff. We need to feel supported and respected. There are far too many of our staff who are forced to work multiple jobs, and worry about whether they can pay their rent or access their medications. The current proposal does not come close to resolving these problems. The district has already encountered issues staffing key support positions such as Para IIs. If the COLA proposal by the district does not increase enough to come close to the skyrocketing cost of living experienced by its employees, staffing issues will continue. I have personally experienced the difficulties in maintaining consistency and stability in routines for elementary students when a support position is filled by a rotating list of substitutes, if at all. The district must do better, our staff and students deserve better.
Michele	Fideler	Staff Member	This is my 30th year in the District and I've always been proud to say I work for BSD. I am lucky to have a spouse who was able to help support our family, but not everyone is that fortunate. I know of many of my co-workers who are struggling to make ends meet, and who are considered homeless so I hope that you will approve more funding to support the reasonable COLA increase that OSEA has proposed. If I were single, I could not survive on my wages even though I work 260 days per year and

			also work many nights and weekends for the Athletic Department. I've also worked other part time jobs up to an additional 30 hours per week over the years to help support my family. Thank you for your consideration.
Andrea	Miller	Staff Member	I have been proud to be a Beaverton School District graduate, and a paraprofessional for nearly 20 years. The people working here are committed employees who give deeply of themselves in support of these students every day, not because it is a job, but because we all believe in the mission that is education. Please see us! We are here because what we do every day MATTERS. Thank you for your consideration.
Dena	Green	Staff Member	I am a Paraeducator II and have been since 2007. Working in education has never been particularly lucrative but since the cost of living has risen my salary won't pay the rent anymore. I have been at the top of our pay scale for quite some time so all I can hope for is a respectable cost of living adjustment. I sit at the bargaining table where they tell me they can't offer us more than 3.75% when according to salary.com the cost of living went up 3.9% in Washington County last year alone and according livingwage.mit.edu the minimum living wage is over 59,000. So we are already in a deficit, rising slower than the actual cost of living and now paying even more for insurance that used to be free, right before open enrollment. Many of us can no longer afford to stay and do the jobs we have loved for so many years. The rising cost of insurance cost many of us about 10% of our pay, so 3.75% COLA as you can see still comes out to a pay cut. People can't afford to come work here and live
Dawn	Prochovnic	Other Community Member	To the Beaverton School District Administration and School Board, I am writing from my perspective as a longtime BSD volunteer, parent of two BSD graduates, and a persistent and vocal advocate for multiple BSD funding measures. The District's communication and community involvement efforts related to the destruction, rebuild, and student occupancy plans of Raleigh Hills School, coupled with the potential future closure of one or multiple elementary schools has been abysmal. I feel duped and misled by the marketing efforts and materials that promoted the Bond Measure. I'm embarrassed and regretful that I fell for the District's inauthentic communication, and that I advocated so widely and so emphatically for the Bond Measure that funded this project. This isn't the first time I've fallen for the District's misleading communication techniques, but it is the last. Community trust has been severely damaged; it must be rebuilt. Please do better. Sincerely, Dawn Prochovnic, MA
Sarah	Parr	Staff Member	Please consider why BSD leads the region with the largest elementary education specifications at 750 students, while larger districts plan significantly smaller schools. Portland builds schools for 600 students, Seattle for either 500 or 650, and Salem-Keizer for 400-600. In 2024, why is Beaverton planning to create schools that are 20-35% larger than those in neighboring districts when voters

			<p>asked for smaller ones?</p> <p>I ask that you refer to the 2021 Long Range Planning document, specifically page 78, which outlines various approaches to school construction. "Approach B" aligns with community needs, aiming to "retain neighborhood schools without building unnecessary space." Unfortunately, the current strategy being implemented, similar to "Approach A" in the Raleigh Hills build, risks creating a mega-school that could result in the closure of several neighborhood schools, thereby undermining the fabric of our communities.</p> <p>Please return to the promised k-8 build or go smaller.</p>
Tyler	Parr	Other Community Member	<p>I'm deeply concerned by the lack of communication from the Beaverton School District (BSD) regarding the serious community concerns surrounding the Raleigh Hills Elementary expansion. Despite numerous requests, there has been no formal communication since the June 12 update, which merely stated that "the construction of Raleigh Hills is moving forward." This silence is unacceptable, especially as several community members have had to piece together on their own that a discussion might take place at the School Board Work Session on August 13 regarding a potential reduction in the size of the Raleigh Hills building. But this is only speculation, and with demolition nearly complete and construction set to begin in early September, time is running out.</p> <p>It's critical that BSD address the concerns raised by parents, students, and the broader community—concerns voiced repeatedly in Board meetings, public comments, emails, Superintendent Chats, social media, and more. The current plan, which</p>
Lilliana	De La Garza	Student	<p>I'm really worried about how the Beaverton School District (BSD) isn't listening to our community's concerns about the Raleigh Hills Elementary expansion. We've asked so many times for better communication, but there hasn't been any official update since June 12, when BSD just said, "the construction of Raleigh Hills is moving forward." It's frustrating that we've had to figure out on our own that there might be a discussion at the School Board Work Session on August 13 about making the school smaller. But no one really knows for sure, and with demolition almost done and construction starting in early September, we're running out of time.</p> <p>I don't want to be in a mega school, I don't want my school to become a mega school. And I especially don't want other schools to close and damage people's neighborhoods.</p>
Dawn	Singer	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am writing with deep concern about the proposed closure of Montclair Elementary, a small but vital cornerstone of our community. Montclair is not just a school; it's a nurturing environment where every child receives personalized attention, and where parents and educators work together in close partnership.</p> <p>In an era where schools are becoming larger and more impersonal, Montclair stands out as a place where every child is known by name, where teachers can focus on individual strengths and</p>

			<p>challenges, and where a true sense of belonging is fostered. The relationships built within these walls are profound, creating a supportive network that extends far beyond the classroom.</p> <p>Transitioning our children to a 750-student school would mean sacrificing this unique, close-knit environment. The loss of Montclair would not only disrupt our children's education but also weaken the tightly knit fabric of our community that has been carefully cultivated over the years.</p> <p>Please keep Montclair.</p>
Brandi	Wachs	Parent/Guardian	<p>"If you have to conceal what you are doing, it is probably something you shouldn't be doing" - My Mom's wise words to me as a child.</p> <p>This is what the Bond committee, Board, and District did when marketing for their Facilities Improvements Bond, because if there had been the slightest whisper that small schools potentially will close with the rebuild of RH, then this Bond would not have passed. So, they kept that info. quiet and now the community is furious at this deceit. Should the re-build of RH lead to closures of the critically important smaller schools, there will be generations hurt and irreparable damage done.</p> <p>I live near Raleigh Park, my daughters attended Raleigh Park, I ran the Jog-aThon at RP, my brothers attended RP, and my Mom was PTO president at RP. Closing this school would decimate decades of memories for LOTS of families.</p> <p>Smaller schools have tremendous benefits that should be obvious to anyone that cares about children. Please choose smaller schools.</p>