

BSD School Board Comments

March 11, 2025

Good evening Superintendent Balderas, Board Chair Pérez, members of the board, district leaders, and community members.

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 tonight by uplifting our classified colleagues. Last week was Classified Employees Appreciation Week, and I want to emphasize that our schools would not run without classified staff. Almost every part of a student's experience is impacted by a classified staff member. I'm so thankful to our OSEA colleagues for their tireless commitment to making our schools safe, clean, accessible, and welcoming. OSEA just started bargaining their full contract with the district, and we stand in solidarity with them as they fight to better all of our working conditions, which are student learning conditions, and to recruit and retain dedicated classified educators.

Speaking of bargaining, BEA is about to return to the table with the district to bargain the contract for BEA guest educators (or substitute educators). I know every administrator, educator, and student can agree that having a robust, well-trained, and enthusiastic pool of guest educators is vital to the success of students in Beaverton. Our first bargaining session is April 2, and we have a team who is ready to come to the table to fight for respect, better processes and time to do our jobs well, and competitive compensation to ensure that great substitutes continue to choose Beaverton schools.

Over the past couple of years, our union has emphasized a need for increased transparency and accountability from the district. I see that the Superintendent's contract is up for renewal with amendments this evening. One of the board's responsibilities is to hold our superintendent accountable, with transparency, for the work that he is doing to meet the goals he has set. When this item is discussed, please take the opportunity to show the community that you too value accountability and transparency by having a robust discussion about the ways the superintendent is working toward those goals (just as our educators in buildings experience). When this contract renewal is done without that robust discussion and evidence to show progress on those goals, it erodes the trust of our community and our staff.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the absolute chaos and uncertainty at the federal level as this presidential administration continues its relentless efforts to dismantle the very

structures that support our communities. Today, we learned that nearly half of the Department of Education's staff will be let go—a devastating and deliberate step toward gutting and ultimately eliminating the department altogether. The newly confirmed U.S. Secretary of Education has even called this the Department's "final mission."

Make no mistake: this is an attack on public education. The consequences will be both immediate and long-term, hitting our most vulnerable students the hardest. But we will not waver. We will continue to educate, to create safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces, and to be the unwavering stability our students need in an increasingly uncertain world.

As a union, our mission is clear: to protect, promote, and strengthen public education. And we will fight with everything we have to do just that. We call on everyone listening—parents, educators, district officials, community members—to stand with us. Public education is a right, not a privilege, and together, we will defend it.