



Board Members on Leadership, Communication

Board members' comments from the Feb. 27, 2007 Board of Ed. meeting on the topics of leadership and communication:

- Board Vice-Pres. Myra Demeter said that the Board is united, has remained focused during transitions, and holds our superintendent accountable. Demeter said that common goals should take precedence. She asked, 'What is leadership?' She asked the Board's critics, 'Is the focus on the child?' She concluded by saying she is 'proud to be a member of this Board of Education.'
- Board member Nooshin Meshkaty said she wants to make the district better for 'all students' and that it is important to 'stay positive.' She thanked teachers, administrators, Board members, parents, students, and community members. She said we need to stay united. She said that negative political practices nationwide may be coming to BHUSD. She said we need more tolerance and respect. She said that 'educators' need to collaborate better.
- Board member Myra Lurie said that she 'appreciates teachers.' She said that it is a huge commitment to be a Board member. She referred to some communication in our district as 'hyperbole' and 'falsehood.' She said she has no apologies for the changes to curriculum that the Board has overseen. She commended Supt. Kari McVeigh. She said that we should 'be collaborative in all of our decision-making.' She said that hissing and booing by audience members during Board meetings is bad. She said she would like to move forward from this point on. She concluded by saying that we need respect and truthfulness.
- Board member Alissa Roston said that Board members were not invited to last year's HS retirement party. She said that McVeigh has invited parents and teachers to come together via a task force and said that BHEA has not responded to this invitation. She said she does not support some teachers who have stopped releasing exams as an expression of union solidarity. She said that we need to work together on communication. She said that 'misinformation' is being distributed.
- Board Pres. John Millan said that a 'dichotomy' exists in BHEA communications. He said that BHEA 'mischaracterized' the district's approach to changes in developmental classes. He said that comments attributed to the Board at the Dec. 15 Board workshop about the future of our district's French program were 'offhand' comments. He said he supports principal-teacher communication. He said he disagrees with how BHEA reports on Board member's non-verbal expressions during Board meetings. He said that he does not agree with the term 'unilateral' being used to describe the test release directive since McVeigh offered a task force. He said that parents need to be part of the process regarding the test release issue. He said he disagrees with BHEA that there are copyright issues regarding release of exams. He said that he assumes that most tests are written by teachers and not constructed from copyrighted material. He asked why a *Consensus* article on CLAD did not appear more prominently. He said that the recent 5.4% salary/benefits agreement 'cost us millions' of dollars but that a *Consensus* article about it did not appear prominently. He said some BHEA communication is 'not based on true facts.' He said that 'constant improvement' is important. He called for an end to 'bullying.' (Editor's note: BHEA and BHUSD celebrated the 5.4% salary/benefits agreement with a joint communication signed by both parties. Also, our Human Resources Dept. has sent numerous e-mails this year to employees about CLAD and the issue was discussed at more than one BHEA Rep. Council meeting.)