



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

Web: BHEA.org

241 Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills CA 90212

Phone: (310) 277-9364

Letter to Editor of the Beverly Hills *Weekly* on management style by BHEA Vice-Pres. Mark Frenn, dated Nov. 19, 2008:

“At Tuesday’s School Board meeting, former board member, John Millan, chose to deliver another defensive speech in which he confessed his anger at the various surveys, conducted by the teachers and staff, that have shed a very unfavorable light on the effectiveness of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Ilene Straus. Unfortunately, Mr. Millan chose to attack Chris Bushée and me personally rather than show concern that the professional staff seems to be overwhelmingly dissatisfied with the policies and management style of Dr. Straus. Furthermore, Mr. Millan tried to discredit the surveys, all of which reflected very poorly on the job performance of Dr. Straus, rather than accept the possibility that a vast majority of the teachers and staff might have a valid point. By attempting to turn this professional discourse into a personal battle while trying to discredit empirical evidence because it is uncomfortable to hear, Mr. Millan has discredited himself and any other board members who would subscribe to such tactics. If those in public office cannot entertain criticism of their policies or the policies of their managers without becoming defensive, then they should not be serving in such capacities.

The tide is changing in Beverly Hills Unified and Mr. Millan has missed the boat. The teachers and staff are tired of the mediocrity and ineptitude that has become commonplace in our district. We can no longer tolerate poor management decisions that impede the learning of our students or the effectiveness of our programs. We can no longer accept school board members who refuse to include the teachers and staff as full partners in all educational decisions in the district. We will not be dissuaded from our goals to return our district’s former reputation as a premier academic institution where enthusiastic students learn in a positive environment, and where the school board and staff demonstrate mutual respect and trust.”