



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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Letter to Editor of Beverly Hills *Courier*.

The Beverly Hills Education Association agrees with *Courier* publisher Clif Smith when he writes that our incumbent Board of Education members may be too quick to denounce legitimate criticism of our district's performance. Teachers certainly recognize that there are problems gripping our district. We wonder why our current Board members can't seem to face these facts. Has BHEA been too militant lately or not militant enough? Many years ago, Beverly Hills' teachers were among the highest paid and most respected professionals anywhere in the California school system. Today, both beginning and veteran teachers in Compton earn more than teachers in Beverly Hills. A teacher in Arcadia with 14 years of experience can earn \$12,000 a year more than in Beverly Hills. Ironically, BHUSD probably receives more money on a per-pupil basis than any other district in California, thanks to our City's generous financial support. Our district's inability to stay competitive has destabilized the learning environment. We have suffered the largest exodus of credentialed staff in recent memory—39% turnover since 2004. That's 139 departures in a staff of 353 in less than four years. Did you know that 60% (12 out of 20) of our administrators have been hired since 2005?

BHUSD needs Board members skilled in solving problems, not deflecting criticism. This is why BHEA supports school board candidates Brian Goldberg and Steven Fenton. They will bring to our district the team-building skills necessary to unify parents, teachers, and administrators to best serve our students.

Christopher Bushée
Beverly Hills Education Association