



# BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

*Educational Employees Working Together*

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Web: BHEA.org

241 Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills CA 90212

Phone: (310) 277-9364

November 19, 2008

Letter to Editor of Beverly Hills *Courier*.

On Nov. 18, the immediate past president of our Board of Education, John Millan, called our district's teachers, office workers, and instructional assistants victims of a communist regime. He implied that our district's employees are spineless and succumbed to coercion when responding to a recent survey conducted via secret ballot, using locked ballot boxes, and tallied in the presence of 20 witnesses.

It appears to me that John Millan accused teachers of being less than truthful because he didn't like the survey results that show that only 6% of us support Asst. Supt. of Educational Services Ilene Straus as our next superintendent. Mr. Millan voted to hire Dr. Straus in 2006. I invite Mr. Millan to come by the BHEA office to inspect the 315 paper ballots and the recorded signatures of each survey participant.

Do I have to ask why 160-170 employees have left our district since 2004? Do I have to ask why I'll soon be working for my sixth superintendent in eleven years? Do I have to ask why teachers don't trust our district administration? Community, these are your schools. Do you expect your teachers to feel inspired in the classroom when the immediate past president of the Board of Education stops just short of calling us liars?

The current Board majority had the opportunity to distance themselves from Mr. Millan's teacher-hating comments on Nov. 18. Unfortunately, they were silent. That's too bad. Because the community won't be so silent in the next Board election less than a year from now.

Christopher Bushée  
President, Beverly Hills Education Association