



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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TO: All BHEA Members
FROM: Christopher Bushée, BHEA Certificated President
DATE: Nov. 11, 2008
RE: News Update

There are several important things happening over the next few days.

THIS WEEK:

- **Wed., Nov. 12: Interim Superintendent** – In the wake of Supt. Kari McVeigh's resignation, the Board of Education will vote on approving the employment contract for Dr. Jerry Gross to be our interim superintendent until a permanent replacement is found. The closed session Board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the district office, after which the Board will convene in open session to vote on approval of the contract. Here are some noteworthy items:
 - Dr. Jerry Gross is the wife of a former BHUSD superintendent, Dr. Gwen Gross. Gwen Gross was our superintendent from 2000 to 2003.
 - If approved, Dr. Jerry Gross' employment contract with our district will contain the following provisions:
 - Will start on Nov. 17, 2008.
 - Will earn \$1,100 for each working day.
 - Will not receive any health, welfare, or retirement benefits.
- **Wed., Nov. 12 and Thurs., Nov. 13: Superintendent Survey** – As our district begins the search for a new permanent replacement for Supt. McVeigh, BHEA would like to conduct a survey of its members. The survey question is: "Would you support Ilene Straus as the next superintendent of the Beverly Hills Unified School District?" This survey is open to all certificated and classified BHEA members. The survey will be conducted via secret ballot to ensure accurate results. Please check with your BHEA site representative to participate in the survey. The survey will end on Thursday afternoon.
- **Wed., Nov. 12 through Fri., Nov. 14: Class Size Survey** – Next week, BHEA will begin negotiating the class size article at the certificated bargaining table. BHEA has placed into each certificated mailbox a short survey to help define our interests on class size. Please complete the class size survey and return it no later than Friday, Nov. 14 to the certificated bargaining team member at your site.

NEXT WEEK:

- **Tues., Nov. 18: Board of Education Meeting** – BHEA is urging all members to attend this meeting that will occur in the Media Center of Beverly Hills High School. It starts at 7:00 p.m. BHEA will be organizing two or three speakers to address our Board members on the following items:
 - Inclusion of BHEA members on the interview panel for our next superintendent.
 - An update on the implementation of intervention programs in our district and the elimination of developmental courses at Beverly Hills High School.
 - The bargaining crisis affecting our BHEA instructional assistant members who have been unable to reach agreement with BHUSD on salary and benefits from the *previous school year* and who have seen many of their jobs contracted out to a private company that charges our district three times the hourly rate of our own instructional assistant members.
 - How turnover of staff affects our educational mission.
 - The benefits of genuine collaboration between administrators and unit members.

BHEA urges your presence to support our speakers and to make an impact on our Board members!

Finally, thanks to the approximately 60 BHEA members who attended BHEA's happy hour last Friday. It was a successful event. It was enjoyable to spend time in a relaxed setting with so many of our colleagues.