



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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Speech on the contract extension for Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services delivered by BHEA Pres. Chris Bushée at the Apr. 22, 2008 Board of Education meeting (closed session):

I would like to draw your attention to Closed Session Agenda Item IIe. This item is titled “Contract Extension—Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services.” Earlier today, I asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sal Gumina if this is intended to be a discussion item or an action item. He told me that it could be either.

So, I chose to speak to you today not so much to address the merits of whether a contract extension for this position should be granted, but rather the timing of this decision. If this Board decides today to extend this contract, you will have committed future funds towards the salary and benefits of this administrative position. I strongly believe that such an action on your part at this time would be premature. Superintendent Kari McVeigh has said publicly that some assistant superintendent positions may need to be downgraded in status in the future. A contract extension for this position at this time would presumably lock in the current compensation structure for some time to come.

Also, this Board has not yet decided to commit additional funds for the salaries and benefits of the other 500 employees of our district. Until you make such a decision, I urge you to refrain from acting on this contract extension. Your action today would directly benefit only one, single employee in the face of massive layoffs, position closures, and a breakdown at the bargaining table.

Thank you for your attention.