



# BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

*Educational Employees Working Together*

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Speech on layoffs delivered by BHEA Pres. Chris Bushée at the May 9, 2008 Board of Education meeting:

“Good afternoon. Two months have passed since our district issued 35 layoff notices to certificated members of BHEA. These notices advised employees that they *may* or may not have a job in our district next year. Your action today is going to replace the unsettling emotions associated with the uncertainty of the last two months with the more definite emotions of either profound joy or profound sorrow. Your action today is going to finally tell these 35 employees if they *will* or will not have a job here next year.

Our school district’s budget reflects the values we hold as an institution of learning. Where we allocate our financial resources speaks to our priorities. And when financial times are tough, the veneer of our budget dissipates and exposes our priorities in ways that had been more easily masked in better times.

BHEA advocates for the employees of our district. We believe that when our budget is prioritized to invest in workers, then we have invested in our mission to work on behalf of students, that we have met the goal of this institution of learning.

You have 35 workers who want to return to work next year. BHEA urges our Board members to keep to a minimum the disinvestment in human capital.

Good luck with your deliberations. We will be waiting on pins and needles.

Thank you.”