



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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Speech on opportunity delivered by BHEA Pres. Chris Bushée at the Dec. 11, 2007 Board of Education meeting:

Good evening to all. We are assembled here this evening to recognize a number of individuals who have played and will soon play an important role in our public schools here in Beverly Hills.

The Beverly Hills Education Association would first like to recognize our two outgoing Board of Education members, Alissa Roston and John Millan.

Next, BHEA recognizes the continued service of Dr. Myra Demeter and Ms. Nooshin Meshkaty. Dr. Demeter moves into her seventh year on the Board and Ms. Meshkaty into her third. BHEA acknowledges your service and looks forward to finding creative, harmonious paths toward progress.

To Myra Lurie, BHEA both recognizes your four years of service to our district and congratulates you on your reelection to the Board. I say with optimism in my voice that a new day can bring new opportunities for progress, an experience that BHEA stands ready to share with you.

And last but not least, BHEA enthusiastically congratulates our two newest Board members, Steven Fenton and Brian Goldberg. BHEA proudly endorsed their candidacies and is elated at the prospects that lie ahead over the next four years.

Tonight, a new saga begins. Question: Do we seize or squander this new opportunity? Success of any organization can be measured by its ability to capitalize on opportunity.

BHEA reaches out to our superintendent. We reach out to the new Board of Education. We wish for resolution of outstanding issues. We wish for open, honest communication. We wish for a bright tomorrow.

Respect is not taken for granted. Respect is earned. Respect is earned through good behavior, through actions that say, "You are important. You are valued. You are part of the solution."

As long as I am president of the Beverly Hills Education Association, nothing will extinguish my optimism. The 450 members of BHEA (teachers, counselors, psychologists, librarians, specialists, administrative assistants, and instructional assistants) have the truest desire to work with our administration in a positive, productive, and mutually respectful fashion. To do anything less is to shortchange our collective mission: providing a top-notch education for the students of the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

I extend my hand to our new Board of Education and to our superintendent. Together, we are stronger and smarter than if we stand alone. Let's seize this new opportunity. Thank you and let's share a nice evening together.