



BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educational Employees Working Together

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Speech on transparency delivered by BHEA Pres. Chris Bushée at the May 26, 2009 Board of Education meeting:

“Good evening. I’m glad to see this subject on the Board agenda tonight. The item reads: ‘It has been requested that the Board have a discussion on parity across school sites regarding the allocation of funds, enrollment and staffing.’ It is an important matter. Sometimes perceptions of bias are real and sometimes they’re not. Determination of parity versus bias depends on analysis of good, solid facts. From the employee perspective, we are continually interested in knowing and providing input at appropriate intervals on parity issues because as union members, we internalize parity as a guiding principle for our own organization.

The district administration is entrusted with making recommendations to this Board on the allocation of funds, enrollment, and staffing. I know that the district administration takes this role seriously and puts forth tremendous effort in its analysis of information before making recommendations. To this end, the residents of Beverly Hills, the families who we serve, and the staff who contribute to our educational mission...we all have a stake in the financial and staffing decisions this Board makes. So, while public discussion on this subject may reveal areas of good parity and poor parity, we as a district should not shy away from the issue. Rather, we should thank the district administration for its hard work, expect transparency, offer both supportive and critical feedback, and do so in a respectful, matter-of-fact tenor. Public education is just that, public. Discussion of tax dollars and how they’re spent is often emotional, but needs to be vetted and decided upon using the best, most reliable, and most impartial information available. Thank you for your attention.”