



The Consensus

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BHEA.org

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The Official Newsletter of the Beverly Hills Education Association

BHEA Monitoring Multiple Issues

K-3 class sizes, a potential high school testing schedule, and the middle school honors math program are among the areas the Beverly Hills Education Association is paying close attention to throughout the district

K-3 Class Sizes

Over the summer, the Board of Education and district office became aware that certain K-3 level classes were reaching their maximum capacity of twenty students per teacher. Any additional students enrolling during the school year would require the district to hire additional staff and move students around. The board decided to take a chance and keep average K-3 level class sizes close to 20:1 rather than hire additional teachers to start the year. According to one board member, this was done to allow the district to instead fund new positions such as the Dean of College Admissions and high school head counselor and to pay for staff raises. The board member stated that “[the board] rolled the dice” and it did not work out as more K-3 level students than expected enrolled in the district after the school year began.

To address this issue, Superintendent Dr. Gary Woods informed BHEA that he planned to tell the board that the district could increase K-3 average class sizes to 24:1 since he believed the district was no longer participating in the class size reduction program.

BHEA President Telly Tse disagreed. Addressing the board at the October 28 Board Meeting, Tse said, “an increase to a class size of 21:1 [or above] at the K-3 level has to be negotiated at the bargaining table.” He further stated that BHEA was not advocating for the hiring of additional staffing simply to make room for a few additional students but would be open to a solution that could address the concerns of both sides such as extra compensation for the teacher in the impacted classroom.

After some discussion, the board voted 3-2 (Margo and Goldstein dissenting) to maintain a hard cap of 20:1. Next, the board voted 4-1 (Margo dis-

BHHS Testing Schedule: The Board wants teachers to develop a testing schedule at the high school. Here is what some of our teachers have to say.

FOR: *“The current situation has to be improved. Certainly, whatever solution we come up with may create other problems but we have to be willing to look at solutions. After all, we want kids to do the very best they can. In college, teachers schedule their exams weeks in advance. A testing schedule would encourage our teachers to do the same.” - Anonymous, BHHS*

AGAINST: *“Multiple tests on any particular day is a fact of life for students and adults. If adults step in to “fix” students’ problems, a valuable life lesson will be missed. If teachers give adequate notice and teach appropriate skills, no official schedule is necessary. Students’ struggles will prepare them for the challenges ahead in college and life.” - Malia Frutschy, BHHS*

senting) to approve hiring a credentialed long-term substitute teacher to be in the impacted classroom to maintain a 20:1 K-3 average class size.

The implementation of this decision has raised concerns among members. No process has been established to determine how a K-3 teacher is chosen to receive additional students nor is there a plan in place to provide impacted teachers with training on how to work with a second teacher in the classroom. The two impacted classrooms are now at 22 students. BHEA is continuing to carefully monitor this issue very closely and will provide additional updates as they occur.

Middle School Honors Mathematics

After initially voting on June 2 to eliminate honors 6th grade mathematics, the Board reversed course on September 23 and directed the district staff to identify supplemental honors materials and possible curriculum and implement them in 6th and 7th grade math classes this year. When asked about this by middle school math teachers, one board member stated that the reversal on the original decision was due to community feedback that the board had not

considered as strongly before.

As a result of this matter, BHEA has filed a grievance regarding the process in which this decision was reversed.

In a meeting with BHEA President Telly Tse and several middle school math teachers, Board Vice-President Dr. Brian Goldberg stated that he would support additional staffing and teaching assignments in order to place students appropriately. He also encouraged math teachers to let the Board know exactly what resources they needed at which point the Board would decide if they will fund it.

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As a BHEA member you can use your phone to receive important news and updates. Here's how:

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2. Enter the class code: @bheam

Or visit this link:

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By joining BHEA on Remind, you are agreeing to receive messages via push notifications, SMS, or email. Your phone number will not be shared with BHEA or anyone else in the group.

Congratulations!

The winners of the Remind Raffle are Julia Pelikhova (HS), Marian Strauss (HS), and Mary White (HM). They will each be receiving a \$20 Amazon Gift Card. Thanks everyone who signed up for Remind!

Have a question or concern?

We have many resources available to help you find the information and answers you need.

- Visit our newly-renovated website at www.bhea.org
- Contact your school site rep (they are trained and happy to help you)
- Email us at info@bhea.org using your personal email address
- For potential grievances, email (again, using your personal email address) Grievance Committee Chair Christopher Bushée at christopherbushée@gmail.com

BHEA Members Give Thanks

Our Colleagues Share Who They Are Thankful For This Holiday Season

Chris Bushée
BHHS Science Teacher

"I am thankful for so many of my colleagues it is hard to mention just one. Chris is an amazing mentor and friend. Thank you Chris for all you do for your fellow educators in our district and for CTA."

- Telly Tse, BHHS Teacher

Eddie Deguia
BHHS Information Technology Specialist

"I am sure that I am one of many people who is grateful for Eddie's patient manner and brilliant problem solving when it comes to keeping the high school technology up and running. Thank you Eddie!"

- Karen Boyarsky, BHHS Librarian

Dana Findley
BHHS Teacher

"We are so lucky to have Dana back at the high school and leading our dance company. The students love her and her shows are top notch."

- Loren Newman, BHHS Teacher

Malia Frutschy
BHHS Teacher

"I'm thankful for Malia. She is always more than willing to help her colleagues; she's a giver. Whether it is watching your students while you run to the restroom, giving you a plastic spoon to replace the one your forgot to put in your lunch bag, or sharing some research she did on Thomas Paine that she thinks would make your lesson more interesting, she is always there. She also gives so much to her students. In addition to teaching full time while getting her master's degree, she is an adviser for the National Honors Society and Model UN. She gives up countless weekends to make sure students can go to Model UN conferences all over the city and the state. She makes every day better for her students and her

colleagues. I am grateful to have her."

- Catherine Pincu, BHHS Teacher

Patricia Garcia
BHHS ASB Finance Technician

"A big shout-out to Patricia Garcia. She has never ceased to willingly and unconditionally help with questions, procedures, and record-keeping for the high school library. Thank you for your support and your smiles."

- Karen Boyarsky, BHHS Librarian

Julie Goler
BHHS Teacher

"Julie does so much for our school and community. She inspires us to be better and to get involved. Plus she knows the best restaurants in town."

- Loren Newman, BHHS Teacher

Andre Law
BHHS Administrative Assistant

"Every morning when I walk into House A I am greeted with a huge smile. We have been working together for seven years and I cannot imagine working without him. He is beyond helpful and charming to those who walk into the office without ever seeming overwhelmed. He's just the best!"

- Kate Marks, BHHS Counselor

Celeste McDonald
BHHS Counselor

"Celeste always does what is best for kids. She is a positive force on our campus."

- Loren Newman, BHHS Teacher

Marla Weiss
BHHS Teacher

"Marla teaches with passion and she lives her life with passion. We are fortunate to have an educator like Marla on our staff."

- Loren Newman, BHHS Teacher