

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12 p.m. on Friday, June 14 through 12 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The following comments followed all the posted guidelines listed on the form and below.

- Comments are limited to 1,000 characters. One comment per person.
- The board will not hear charges or complaints against any district employee. District staff and board members cannot be named specifically in testimony.

First Name	Last Name	Association with BSD	Comments
Jenny	Ampersand	Other Community Member	<p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing to you with a sense of urgency regarding the allocation of \$750,000 in funding for Youth Service Officers-formerly school resource officers (SROs) in our schools. It has become increasingly evident that the presence of SROs does not align with the needs of our students and may even contribute to feelings of insecurity and unease among them.</p> <p>I implore the school board to reconsider the allocation of funds currently designated for YSOs and redirect them toward mental health support services.</p> <p>Investing in mental health resources will allow us to address the root causes of student distress and foster a safer, more nurturing learning environment for all.</p> <p>I urge you to take immediate action by redirecting all funding from this program. Our students cannot afford to wait any longer for the support they desperately need.</p> <p>Name            Jenny Ampersand            Graduate of ACMA</p>
Katie	Atkins	Parent/Guardian	<p>Greetings, members of the board. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Facilities Planning Committee and the community conversation around potential closure of BSD schools. As you know by now, many in the BSD community are concerned about the potential closure of our schools. Of course, none of us wants our particular school to close, but the conversation is about much more than any one school. I know there are likely to be difficult financial decisions the board has to make in the near future</p>

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			<p>in light of the state of education funding broadly. But I urge the board to take a holistic view of the situation. It is imperative that the board consider not only the money that may be saved by closing school facilities but the larger negative impacts that may result. Please consider student belonging and achievement, and the voices of the communities you have pledged to represent, and not only the near-term financial impact, when you decide how to proceed.</p>
Keri	Bernstein	Parent/Guardian	<p>I ask again that you pause the demolition and rebuild of Raleigh Hills until you have completed your “extensive community engagement about the future of Beaverton schools in the fall”. It is irresponsible (both operationally and fiscally) to move forward with a rebuild BEFORE a new plan is in place. Once the new proposals have been examined and a new plan is in place, THEN you can move forward with the plan. I do hope that this process also includes examination of the EdSpecs especially in regards to the Elementary School size, as your current specification is not based on any research or data and in practice at other schools is proving to be too big. Younger children need a smaller community to foster development and thrive. I do not want my neighborhood school to close, but I am not naive to the fact that neighborhood schools may need to close. I simply ask that it be a solution to a problem not a solution in search of a problem.</p>
Sandy	Chung	Parent/Guardian	<p>I submit this as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Oregon &amp; a BSD parent.</p> <p>Police do not belong in schools:</p> <p>Reason 1 - The ACLU of Oregon has received multiple credible reports about police in Oregon schools harming students via the following types of misconduct: physical assaults; sexual harassment; and bullying &amp; intimidating students of color, students with disabilities &amp; students from immigrant families.</p> <p>Reason 2 - Data indicates that police in schools are not effective at preventing or stopping shootings &amp; gun-related incidents.</p> <p>Reason 3 - Police do not have a legal responsibility to protect students.</p> <p>Reason 4 - Police criminalize youth behavior &amp; contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline.</p> <p>Reason 5 - Police disproportionately harm students of color &amp; students with disabilities</p> <p>For more info, please see: “Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students,” at <a href="https://bit.ly/aclu-school-cops">https://bit.ly/aclu-school-cops</a>.</p> <p>Please vote NO to police in BSD schools.</p>

Jocelyn	Daunheimer	Staff Member	<p>I am writing as both a parent and a BSD employee to express my deep concern over the district's plans to potentially close multiple neighborhood schools. The proposed plan is in direct conflict with the district's stated values of student belonging, equity and academic achievement. A plethora of research indicates that small schools lead to improved outcomes for kids, including increased attendance, teacher retention, community involvement, academic achievement, and equity for students who need the most support.</p> <p>As a district employee (SLP) at a "mega school" of over 800 students, I can testify firsthand about the challenges of creating a sense of community, inclusion, and cohesion at a school so large.</p> <p>I hope that the district will make student success it's highest priority in the next round of decision making. I fear that you will lose the trust of many community members (and the support for future bond measures) if you do not.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jocelyn Daunheimer</p>
Kim	deSully	Staff Member	<p>I don't know if it is possible but can you add a few days on to a teachers work year and use this time to train on new curriculum or other items. I notice teachers are out a lot for district things and they need to bring in subs. I would think teachers would be happy making more money and district wouldn't have to pay for all the subs and not worry about coverage on those days.</p>
Claire	Douglass	Staff Member	<p>I'm writing in regards to the possible plans of consolidating schools. As a teacher at McKay I am very concerned that this is not in the best interest for our students, families and communities. While I understand decisions need to be made I urge the school board to set high expectations for the district when it comes to authentic communication and discourse. I am concerned that telling families that there will be listening sessions and discussions is just postponing the inevitable with decisions already made. Please urge honesty and transparency in all communications. I was incredibly saddened when watching the bond advisory committee meeting to see one member speak up in reference to all of the public written comments in regards to adhering to bond language just to be essentially shut down by district staff. This felt like a way for community to make their voices heard in terms of future bonds, trust and the passing of them but once again the district shut down discourse.</p>
Jade	Gonzales	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am Jade Gonzales, the PTO President at Raleigh Park Elementary School, a Title 1 School. We appreciate the district's pause on this issue that will change the Beaverton Education landscape for generations.</p> <p>We have 3 requests and will email more details: 1. Kids should be at the center of every major decision, and Elementary Schools, the most impactful part of education, MUST be prioritized.</p>

			<p>2. We request the opportunity to present to the school board + have individual conversations with each of you.</p> <p>3. A transparent public process must include public input BEFORE any proposal is developed.</p> <p>We want to work with the district. We know that we have shared values, but placing what is best for kids at the center of the conversation is non-negotiable. Our community is very activated, and we have worked hard to stay productive. This decision requires a transparent process, including community input and representation from affected communities as a part of the proposal stage development.</p>
Diane	Hall	Staff Member	<p>Research reviews suggest a maximum of 300-400 students for elementary schools is most beneficial to students. In general, studies focused on the social and emotional aspects of success conclude that no school should be larger than 500, while those looking primarily at test scores say that somewhat larger is still effective, especially for more affluent students. Perhaps most notably, researchers focusing on the interaction between poverty and enrollment size offer a rule of thumb: The poorer the school, the smaller its size should be (Howley, C., &amp; Bickel, R. (2000). Additionally, research indicates that students in smaller schools often have higher rates of academic achievement, including higher test scores, increased rates of homework completion, and more positive academic outcomes overall (Cotton, 1996; Leithwood &amp; Jantzi, 2009). I implore you to reconsider the size of the Raleigh Hills rebuild and keep our small neighborhood schools open where we can best instruct students.</p>
Jennifer	Hoffman	Staff Member	<p>I'm concerned about how the district's bargaining team is handling bargaining with BEA.</p> <p>The district's bargaining team has not been coming to the table in a manner that is respectful and beneficial. After over 2 months of having multiple articles, the district finally returned to the table with them, but with essentially no change, and then was mad that BEA was using caucus time to get work done. I was in the room, and it was very discouraging and confusing.</p> <p>Our insurance premiums are going up (after the district also handled that with great disregard to how it affects their employees) and we will have no compensation to make up for the new costs.</p>
Lauren	Kelly	Parent/Guardian	<p>Greetings school board members and Superintendent Balderas,</p> <p>I am a proud parent of 2 children at McKay Elementary. No doubt you receiving many comments regarding the potential school closures. I sincerely appreciate the district pausing the immediate plans to recommend school closures and promising to have a community discussion regarding best steps forward.</p> <p>I urge you to think outside the box and think how we can keep our community schools open even with the new Raleigh Hills rebuild. Closing schools and shuttling students to the new school might be the easy and quickest choice, but PLEASE consider the impact this will have on students, teachers, staff, parents and families. I love my neighborhood and my daily walk to school with my children. It might seem like a small thing, but small things matter greatly. In our post-pandemic world, I cherish this</p>

			community we have created. All small school communities would say the same. Please keep our schools open!
Stacey	McKinney	Parent/Guardian	<p>As a concerned parent, former PTO president of Montclair Elementary, and taxpayer, I strongly oppose the proposed closure of Montclair Elementary School. My two children have benefited from the personalized attention and community atmosphere at Montclair. The staff's familiarity with each student has created a supportive environment for each child.</p> <p>Community schools help prevent students from feeling lost, ensuring they receive the attention they need to thrive.</p> <p>Closing Montclair would disrupt current students' education and risk diminishing the close-knit community essential for their success. This "megafactory" blueprint contradicts the district's commitment to student well-being and academic outcomes.</p> <p>Please prioritize improving existing schools with targeted investments in seismic upgrades, HVAC systems, and classroom expansions as outlined in the original bond measure. Deliver on the promise to enhance learning environments and communities across the district.</p>
Sarah	Parr	Staff Member	<p>I began to lose faith last month when I saw the chalk erased from the parking lot before the previous meeting even ended. Was this what BSD thought was a proper use of its resources? That faith continues to waver after receiving the "Next Step" email AFTER staff when home as it seems the district doesn't want to leave time to let us get organized. Opening the conversation around enrollment is fantastic but continuing to build a school of that size and not consolidate seems like a facade. Taxpayers expected their money to go to protecting and repairing their community schools, not supplying them with new furniture just to get shut down. The "extensive community engagement about the future", seems theatrical when the scale of the mega school will continue to break ground without edits. How have voter misinformation, Scholls' traffic concerns, equitable involvement of families with different needs, and mass bussing-in students changed within the board since being brought up in May?</p>
Tyler	Parr	Other Community Member	<p>Taxpayers expected their money to support/repair community schools, not to have them consolidated. The so-called "extensive community engagement" feels like a show when the mega school project continues unaltered. What changes have been made regarding voter misinformation, traffic concerns, equitable involvement of families with diverse needs, and the mass busing of students since these issues were raised in May? The only thing I've been able to see is how the board/district washed out the voices as they did to the children's chalk drawing the day of the May meeting. The "communication" award given to the district was just as laughable. My wife started with the district at a larger school, it has been such a joy seeing her come home and not dread the next day now that she's at a community school. One that closes in every 8 of those scenarios. When the board said "enrollment size", did they also mean redrawing borders? And in any choice, do schools stay open? Reopen as k-8 like promised</p>

Debbie	Plawner	Parent/Guardian	<p>We the 450undersigned express our concerns about Raleigh Hills Elementary's rebuilding plans and potential closures of McKay, Montclair, Raleigh Park, and Greenway schools. We demand transparency and community involvement before decisions are made.</p> <p>Building Raleigh Hills to a 750-student capacity harms academic performance, as larger schools decrease personalized instruction and lower achievement. BSD must disclose the planned enrollment capacity and justify this decision.</p> <p>Increasing Raleigh Hills' capacity will worsen traffic at the hazardous "Six Corners" intersection. BSD must re-evaluate its traffic impact study to ensure safety.</p> <p>School closures disrupt equitable, walkable communities and disproportionately affect low-income and minority students. BSD must involve the community in discussions to avoid inequities and maintain trust.</p> <p>We demand BSD steward resources transparently and show how proposed changes benefit our children and communities.</p> <p>See: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SOStoBalderas">https://tinyurl.com/SOStoBalderas</a></p>
Jessi	Presley-Grusin	Other Community Member	<p>I live in the Portland area and am very concerned by the proposal to place police officers on public school campuses. Placing police on school campuses does not make students or staff safer. Black, brown, low-income, queer and trans, and disabled students deserve much better than to be put in harms way like this. There is also ample evidence that bringing police into public schools negatively impacts attendance and grades. Please do not bring police into public schools.</p>
Lori	Russell	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am a proud parent of students at Raleigh Park Elementary School. The possible school closure announcement has the entire community shook. As a Title 1 school, our students are far too overlooked to benefit from being in a larger group. Many of the parents are too busy providing for the daily needs of their families to advocate for their children at school. They TRUST the district to do what is best. Doing what is best is not closing Raleigh Park Elementary. Connected to a beloved library and enormous park, the school campus alone is too valuable for the district to lose, let alone the community. It's worth allocating some of the funding from the rebuild bond into fixing the seismic problem at Raleigh Park and possibly expanding it to accommodate for a small but reasonable amount of additional students. Our state schools are failing and need the kind of collaborative, community learning that goes on at our school. I urge you to keep this in mind for the future. Sincerely, Lori Russell</p>
Chloe	Sain Thomason	Staff Member	<p>There is a great deal of funding being allocated to public safety officers having a presence in Beaverton schools. As a school counselor in the Beaverton school district, I have seen first hand the impact public safety's presence has on students. Students are afraid, concerned and feel unsafe in the presence of SROs/police officers. As one of the only mental health professionals in my building, I see a huge and dire need for more mental health professionals in our schools. Students are processing traumas that our generation may never understand. Our students need help and mental health support, not more armed/uniformed officers. Please consider the need for other professionals within our schools before committing to funding public safety. We have an opportunity to support our students in overcoming</p>

			their unique obstacles, funding mental health professionals will help us achieve that goal. Please utilize our valuable funds in a direction that is student-focused.
Mitzi	Sandman	Other Community Member	BSD Leaders: Please let the community know what the current plans are on the Raleigh Hills rebuild. Is it still proceeding as planned, as a 770-student capacity building? Or are revisions being considered? Even if school closures are off the table at the moment, please share what the current re-build status is beyond “in September...construction will begin.” Because you’ve also said that you anticipate “beginning extensive community engagement about the future of Beaverton schools in the fall.” How can those conversations be more than mere theatre if the contractors have already started building a large-capacity mega elementary school? By the time the community gets an opportunity to be part of the conversation, it will be too late and we’ll have a behemoth of a school that frankly, virtually no one in this community wants or needs, and that won’t lead to higher student achievement. (Also, I’m still VERY concerned about the increased traffic a mega school will have on Scholls Ferry.)
Stephanie	Silver	Parent/Guardian	<p>As you embark on the new facilities planning process, I want to describe what you won’t see in a spreadsheet or via committee. Raleigh Park is a place that is more than the sum of its parts. You see this in the exceptionally tenured teachers who describe a culture that transcends any given individual. It’s in the performance of the students, who, regardless of their background, are swept up in a culture of excellence and belonging. It’s in the volunteers in the garden, and the sports fields adjacent.</p> <p>Raleigh Park is a school built on a foundation of love. In a world that feels increasingly divided and disconnected, the experience at a school like this is profound. It is working. It is the best of what BSD has to offer. Closing a school like Raleigh Park would represent a profound failure of leadership. You are at the helm of this ship. Please, build on this legacy. Invest in it. This is what the voters asked you to do with their bond dollars and what we will hold you accountable to.</p>
Dawn	Singer	Parent/Guardian	The community is deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and opportunity for input regarding the Raleigh Hills Elementary School rebuild project. The decision to proceed without engaging the community, while simultaneously halting any avenues for public comment on school consolidations and closures related to this project, is troubling. This approach undermines trust and disregards the voices of those directly affected. We urge the board to reconsider and establish an open dialogue with the community, ensuring that all stakeholders have a chance to participate in decisions that impact our children and neighborhoods.
Charla	Solheim	Parent/Guardian	<p>Community schools are so valuable for creating a place for kids who live near one another to form relationships. Montclair was small enough that my daughter knew all the teachers and staff and felt very confident, comfortable, and able to learn.</p> <p>I understand the need to save money, pool resources and offer more to students, but these plans should be very thoughtful and data-driven.</p>

Isabela	Villarreal	Other Community Member	<p>The undersigned organizations are writing to you regarding allocating \$750,000 in funding for Youth Service Officers (YSO) – i.e., police – in Beaverton schools. It has become increasingly evident that the presence of police does not align with the needs of students and contributes to poor educational and mental health outcomes. We urge you to take action to end the program and when creating next year's budget, prioritize mental health support and other beneficial services instead of police in schools.</p> <p>Placing police in schools does not make students or staff safer or address behavioral issues' root causes.</p> <p>We will be emailing our full statement to board members.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>ACLU of Oregon, APANO Action Fund, Beaverton Education Association, Next Up Action Fund, Oregon Justice Resource Center, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Urban League of Portland, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, Latinos Unidos Siempre</p>
Jacki	Wisher	Parent/Guardian	<p>I am not a fan of closing down neighborhood elementary schools. Currently many large residential housing being built. These elementary schools are the first school introduction the very young children receive. At a small neighborhood school the children get the most attention to help them become great students, learning quickly with more attention and guidance. The extra guidance is provided by the neighborhood parents and school volunteers that want these kids to succeed. In a much larger school, that 1 on 1 guidance is no longer there. It takes longer to figure out what each individual child needs to learn and some never will get the attention they need to be able to grow and learn. Big schools have been noted for letting many students fall through the cracks so to speak. Much easier for the staff to teach a smaller group of kids and the district has already spent all this money on property and built the buildings. These buildibgs need to continue to be maintained and be kept open.</p>
Emily	Zein	Staff Member	<p>As a former Beaverton School District student and current staff member, I believe whole heartedly that our community needs resources to support all of our students. Spending money to put police officers in our schools does not make me feel safer. And it does nothing to support the developmental growth of our students. More trained educators, counselors, and support staff will help make our schools a safer place for all students to learn and grow.</p> <p>Black, brown, low-income, queer and trans, and disabled students deserve much better than disproportionate targeting and harm.</p>