

Honored board members--

June 15, 2022

I come before you today to thank you so much for approving the raises which we negotiated during the 2021-22 school year, as well as the new salary schedules brought forth for approval this evening with the 5.33% ongoing raise. We are looking forward to returning to the table early in the upcoming school year to begin the negotiating process again, and are hoping to see that fewer students and their families have left the area as previously predicted.

Before I wrap up my statements tonight, I would like to suggest again that the board and cabinet members of the school district continue to think outside the box with finding ways to help retain certificated and classified staff members who often cannot continue to afford to live in our area. I believe that there is land owned by the district that could be used in a creative way, in conjunction with other invested parties such as the City of Big Bear Lake or corporations like Big Bear Mountain Resort, to provide subsidized housing for some of our neediest or newest employees and their families. This could help keep vital human resources in town, promoting growth and pushing back on declining enrollment. As we all know, Air B and Bs and VRBOs are changing the landscape of Big Bear; it's vital that those in authority continue to problem solve creatively together before it's too late and Big Bear is thought of as a relic of the past. We MUST have people to run the town who can afford to live here. I would like to invite anyone on the board who would like to continue to have conversations about this topic to reach out to me via email or phone over the summer and beyond. I'm happy to delve into more of my ideas with any of you at any time.

Thank you again for your time, support, and consideration as the union continues to strive to improve our standing in regards to salary and health and welfare benefits, compared to other surrounding school districts. I know that I speak for all of our BVEA membership when I say that we greatly appreciate the financial and emotional support of our Bear Valley Unified School district board. Hope you all have a wonderful summer season and I'll see you in August!