



Issue: # 003

September 12, 2008

If you know of a family that will be new to Clyde Hill Elementary this year please forward this email on to them. They can click on the "Join our mailing list" button in the right column. To unsubscribe click on the link at the bottom of the newsletter.

The Bellevue School Board held a special meeting on Wednesday soliciting community input. Many opinions were voiced. One thing remains clear: parents want both the district and the union to work tirelessly to settle their differences and get our kids back in to the classroom.

Don't hesitate to contact the district, the school board, and the BEA to tell them to keep this process on track and to successfully end it. The faster the better.

School board member email addresses are below:

bentleyp@bsd405.org; millsp@bsd405.org; murphym@bsd405.org;
bushnellj@bsd405.org; marksc@bsd405.org; clarkk@bsd405.org

The website for the Bellevue School District is:

<http://www.bsd405.org>

The website for the Bellevue Education Association union is:

<http://www.bellevueea.org/>

Bargaining between the district and the union is ongoing with the help of two mediators. School remains closed on Friday. Please continue to check the union and district websites for new information.

The Bellevue Education Association website has added the flyer that was handed out at the District's Special Board Meeting. The flyer is titled "A note to parents" and answers why the teachers are on strike.

The District website has added its September 11th proposal on the

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Important Dates

All scheduled activities are postponed until further notice.



curriculum. They have also included the most up to date salary and benefits offer.

Lisa Brock
PTSA President

NEWS

Letter from Ross Hunter, 48th district Representative

Below is a letter from Ross Hunter, Representative for the 48th district. He is also on the Basic Education Task Force and is Chair of the Finance Committee. He has been asked by many about the strike and school funding and this is his response dated 09/08/08, provided solely for information with respect to school funding. Keep in mind he is not at the bargaining table and opinions stated are his own (i.e., curriculum).

I've received a lot of mail suggesting I "intervene" in the Bellevue teacher's strike. I am trying to be helpful in having them come to agreement, but my legal role is somewhat limited - I can't force anything to happen one way or another.

The Board of Directors has the option to take legal action if they want - it's up to them. Typically boards do not ask for an injunction until a strike has gone on much longer than Bellevue's has. Doing so tends to cause much friction, and the board and the union have to get along forever.

There are two issues the district and union are negotiating now - money and the curriculum.

I believe they are close to an agreement on curriculum. There is a sweet spot between mandating total uniformity and not having a curriculum. Most parents think that all the teachers should teach pretty much the same content in an Algebra 2 class, and that the different elementary schools should pretty much cover the same science topics in any given year. Doing this improves our ability to hit the ground running when they get to middle school. This doesn't mean we have to control every aspect of every day for the teachers. I believe this will get worked out.

For the six years I've been in the legislature I've worked on school funding. The amount we provide the districts to pay teachers is clearly inadequate, and the lack of a regional adjustment in salaries is a big problem for those of us in high cost areas.

Clyde Hill Elementary

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Attendance:
(425) 456-5002

Attendance [email](#)

PTSA Office:
(425) 456-5046

The school board and the teachers face some structural difficulties that I've been working for years to remove. These problems in many cases prevent the district from offering the teachers what they want. I believe (and hope) the two sides will come to an agreement this week.

It's important to know that the state sets teacher salaries, not the district. The state also limits districts in the amount of money they can raise with local levies. The state has a constitutional requirement to balance equity with school funding, so there are parts of the system that are counter-intuitive. This is so Bellevue doesn't blow away Yakima in spending per student. Bellevue has historically maxed out the limits here, and I expect this to continue. Right now there is an amount below the max that isn't being collected because the state raised the amount we sent to the districts, not because the board deliberately asked for less than they could.

The state will provide a cost of living increase equal to the Seattle area CPI to all the teachers. This will be around 5.1% for this year, and whatever inflation winds up being in the next 2-3 years. Each teacher automatically gets a raise every year based on experience of about 2 to 3% in addition to the inflation adjustment.

The district is allowed to offer "supplemental contracts" to the teachers that add additional time, responsibilities or incentives to what they do, and then to pay them at the state-mandated rate for this time. This is what the district and the teachers are working out now. This money comes out of the local levy. This is in addition to the inflation and experience adjustments.

The district is also limited by the requirement that they keep a responsible ending fund balance. The district would have to trade off class size or the 7 period day to free up additional money. They could also make administrative reductions, though I think they've done a lot of this and there may not be a lot of options left.

I share the teachers frustrations at the inequities between Bellevue and other districts. The cost of living is significantly larger in Bellevue than it is in Eastern Washington. This is why I've tried to get a bill passed adding this to the teacher's salary schedule for years. As you might expect, the rural legislators are not excited about this proposal.

The legislature created a task force to try to redesign the funding structure for K-12 to try to fix some of these problems. I serve on this task force and expect to release a report in the next month or so with a complete revision of the system. I'm as frustrated as you are at this point. It will then fall to the legislature to implement and fund the new system.

Representative Ross Hunter
Finance Committee Chairman
333 John L. O'Brien Building
Capitol Campus
Olympia, WA 98504

Hunter.Ross@leg.wa.gov

Volunteer Opportunities

Union Gospel Mission Women's & Children's Shelter

Hidden Village Boys & Girls Club. When we were serving lunch today to the kids we got to talking with the staff who serves this branch. Tomorrow the staff is painting from head to toe and expressed a need for new carpet, commercial cleaning of the floors and a bookcase to store reading materials. I have a carpet company willing to donate the carpet and some friends of ours who do commercial cleaning willing to take on the floors but I need some help with carpet installation.

NEED: Installation of carpet is \$350 for the labor. If we could get a couple of lattes worth of cash from everyone we could have a major transformation for these kids. Bookcase - If anyone has an extra bookcase ready for a new life, let me know and we can bring it over.

Union Gospel Mission Women's and Children's Shelter has ongoing needs but some immediate ones that would be a tremendous help if you're able.

NEED: Cooking Oil (as large & cheap as you can find)
Pasta Noodles (spaghetti, Alfredo, any type)
Unsweetened Kool Aid or Crystal Light (they go through 10 gallons a day)
Eggs (they go through a case a week)
Ground meat

They currently have 90 women and 29 kids that are part of the program so 120 mouths to feed each day. They are extremely creative and resourceful so if you have extras feel free to expand. I am willing to take everything to them so feel free to drop it by our home or email me and we could pick it up as well.

Thanks so much for everyone's generous hearts and hands!

To sign up or if you have any questions, email [Allison Trull](mailto:Allison.Trull)

Or drop of items by her house located at 10066 NE 29th Place, Bellevue, WA 98004 or call 206-669-0096

Help Needed at the Bellevue Boys and Girls Clubs

The Bellevue Boys and Girls Club is in dire need of meals to feed the overwhelming number of children being cared for in their facilities during the strike. Typically these kids would be fed free or reduced priced breakfasts and lunches at school.

Medina parent JoAnne Buxton is organizing this effort. Over 120 kids are being fed Friday. If the strike continues next week JoAnne will again organize this effort.

Please email [JoAnne](#) if you are willing to lend a hand.

Room parents needed!

Are you interested in being a Room Parent this year? It's a great way to get to know your teacher and other parents in your class. No experience necessary! There will be a Room Parent Kick-off Meeting on September 12th (assuming the strike is over) to show you the ropes. There are typically 2-3 Room Parents per class that share the duties. Sign-ups are first come first served.

How do I sign up to be a room parent?

- . Email Leslie Feller, lesliefeller@comcast.net, with your name, child's grade level, child's teacher and your phone number/email.
- . Or, if there are still spots, you will be able to sign up on the first day of school before and after the Welcome Back assembly on the first day of school.

Room Parent questions? Call Leslie Feller 425-467-8027 or [email](#).

Clinic volunteers needed!

Do you know how to apply ice to a bump? Or provide a little TLC? Then you are perfect for the clinic! Clinic volunteers are needed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 11:30 to 12:30. On Wednesdays 11-12. You can volunteer as often as you'd like. Most volunteers will come in once a month.

To sign up or if you have any questions, email [Melissa Campbell](#).

Service team for 4th and 5th grade students

Interested in making a difference this year? Want to impact your school and local communities? JOIN SERVICE TEAM!! Service Team is open to 4th and 5th grade students dedicated to making a difference in their local and

global communities. Applications will be made available in the school office after school resumes. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to get involved and make a difference!

To sign up or if you have any questions, email [Christine Topinka](#).

Library volunteers needed

Sign up for a time slot to help a visiting class. Help with check out and restocking. Volunteers for all grade levels are needed, especially for Kindergarten and 1st grade classes.

To sign up or if you have any questions, email [Elizabeth Campbell](#)

More volunteer opportunities can be found at www.clydehillpta.org

ACTIVITIES

Bellevue Girls Select Basketball Club - Tryouts for the 2008-2009

Season: 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Girls - live in the Bellevue High Attendance Area

September 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2008 at Chinook Middle School Gym :

Grade	Date	Check-in	Tryout
5th	Tuesday, 9/16	4:45 pm	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
5th	Wednesday, 9/17	4:45 pm	5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
6th	Tuesday, 9/16	5:45 pm	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
6th	Wednesday, 9/17	6:15 pm	6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
7th	Monday 9/15	6:15 pm	6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
7th	Tuesday, 9/16	6:45 pm	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
8th	Monday 9/15	4:45 pm	5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
8th	Tuesday, 9/16	7:45 pm	8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

1. In order for your daughter to participate in tryouts, they will need to have a waiver form filled out and signed by a parent/guardian. Forms will be available at the tryout.

2. To be considered for selection on a team, each girl will need to attend both/all sessions of their grade level.

3. Parents will not be allowed in the gym during tryouts.

4. Results of tryouts will be posted on the website no later than

Monday evening, September 22nd. Website:

www.bellevuegirlsselectbasketballclub.com

BHS Cheer: Jr. Cheer Clinic

Bellevue cheer squad is hosting a Jr. Cheer Clinic on 10/04/2008. Participants will be invited to perform at the Friday night football game on 10/10/2008 with BHS cheerleaders during the third quarter. Participants will receive pompoms, t-shirts, pictures, and much more!

For more information, email [Cindy Pardee](#)

Annual School Musical

Attention All Fabulous Fourth and Fantastic Fifth Graders: immediate attention is needed if your child is interested in participating in the play. The Clyde Hill Players along with Studio East will be performing our sixth musical production.

Please join us for: The Emperor's New Clothes

This musical play will be performed by students in our 4th and 5th grades. Studio East provides the directors, script, music, sets and costumes. Clyde Hill Elementary provides the hard working, motivated students who want to have a great time. The funds paid to Studio East for this production are raised through the registration fee, ticket sales, concessions sold during the show, individual donations and our supportive PTSA.

Look for more information coming soon on the [Clyde Hill PTA](#) web site.

Or you can contact Chris West at 425-450-9504 or via [email](#)

K-2nd Grade Fall Basketball

Bellevue Boys and Girls club is currently accepting registration for the fall basketball season. If you know any families that might be interested in this league, please let them know that our registration is still open at all levels. Registration can be done by following the link below:

[Bellevue Boys and Girls Club](#)

Newsletter Submission

NEED SOMETHING IN THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER?

In order to publish an article in the newsletter, please send an email to [Melissa Campbell](#), our newsletter editor.

Word attachments are best, but email formats work too. Your submission will be acknowledged with a return email. Due to space limitations, the formatting of your article may be changed. Please do not embed graphics. Your submission must be received by noon on Thursday in order to make the Friday newsletter.

For more information on any of our programs, visit our website: www.clydehillpta.org

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