April 23, 2018

Dear BESD Staff,

Teachers, administrators, and support staff, please know that the Governing Board, and Superintendent’s Cabinet support your involvement in the movement to create additional state funding for public schools in Arizona.

We are thankful that in BESD we have been able to provide meaningful raises over the past seven years due to voter-approved overrides, Proposition 123, and student growth. We also feel fortunate that because of student growth, we have been able to address Proposition 206 (the minimum wage increase) in a manner that addresses compression for all employees. In addition, we are proud that we have always considered all employee groups when salary decisions are made. Last year, when the Governor approved 1.06% for teachers, we were one of the only districts in the state to creatively leverage other funding to give it to ALL employees. Our Governing Board is proud to advocate for public education throughout the state, as well by being involved and informed, earning the respect of many across the state. You will continue to hear their voices advocating for public funding.

We encourage you to make your voices heard in a manner that is constructive, professional, and respectful. We also ask that you continue to put the educational, emotional, and physical needs of our students first. We thank you in advance for continuing to do so throughout any future walk-ins and actions.

We take pride in all the things we have accomplished working together. The Governing Board, administration, teachers, and support staff of BESD make an incredible team. We are also proud and thankful for our relationship with the Buckeye Education Association and the communication, trust and collaboration we have with them. We have accomplished so much because we have stood together. Although we are currently investigating logistical and contractual obligations, rest assured no one’s job is in jeopardy if she/he participates in activities supporting increasing funding for public education. As we all navigate this turbulent time, please know we are PROUD to stand with you.

Should the Governor’s funding proposal be approved, or any new funding become available, we will work together as we’ve always done and consider all employee groups as salary decisions are made.
Again, please know we appreciate each and every one of you and your contribution to BESD. You truly make this the greatest district in the state of Arizona, and we are proud of each of you.

Sincerely,

Marcus Eades, Governing Board President

Dr. Kristi Sandvik, Superintendent

Maria Moreno, Buckeye Education Association President