

\*\*\*News Advisory for Thursday, January 22, 2015\*\*\*



**Contact:** Greg Sholl, 409-504-5038 OR Sebrina Dollar, 409-201-2134

## **Beaumont Teachers Association, Educators and Community Rally to Maintain Multi-Year Contracts for BISD Contract Employees**

**Beaumont, TX-** On Thursday, teachers and community supporters will call on the Beaumont ISD Board of Managers to maintain multi-year contracts for all contract employees. Two year contracts are the standard in the Golden Triangle and Southeast Texas region. Port Arthur, Nederland, and Port Neches Grove all offer two year contracts. Several districts in the Houston area and around the state are also utilizing multi-year contracts to attract and retain the best teachers.

“The key to student success is a stable, quality classroom learning environment. We’re bleeding educators right now and our students suffer when there is a high rate of teacher turnover,” stated Sebrina Dollar, Vice President of the Beaumont Teachers Association. “We want to walk into our classrooms, inspire our students, and become better teachers every year, and that is harder to do when we are constantly worried about losing our job.”

Multi-year term contracts elevate teaching as a profession rather than reducing its status to “just a job.” A one-year term contract shifts the teacher’s focus from teaching and instruction to job protection. Teachers are less likely to get to know students and parents and put down roots in their community under one-year term contracts in an uncertain job market.

Maintaining two year contracts will help stabilize the employment practices of BISD in terms of recruitment and retention. One of every seven teachers in Beaumont during the 2012-13 school year was not teaching in Beaumont at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year. The cost of this turnover for the district may be as high as \$1.6 million, based on estimates from the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future.

**WHAT: Rally to Maintain Multi-Year Contracts**

**WHERE: BISD Board Room 3395 Harrison Ave. Beaumont, TX 77706**

**WHEN: Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m.**

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