

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 23, 2018

BUSD Offices –Technology Room 126
2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

SBAC Committee Members Present:

Dan Lindheim	Audit Committee	Jessica Hilton	BHSDG
Frank Hernandez	BCCE	Rosa Luevano	BHSDG
Joseph Colton	BCCE	Nicole Chabot	P&O
Linette Robinson	BCCE	Bruce Simon	P&O
Cathy Campbell	BFT	Eric Weaver	Superintendent Appt.
Cynthia Allen	BFT	Robin Henke	Superintendent Appt.
Matt Meyer	BFT	Becca Todd	UBA
Janine Waddell	BFT	Erin Schweng	UBA
Chanika Gunn	PTA	Mark McAnally	Local 21
Mara Kolesas	PTA	Stephen Murphy	Local 21

SBAC	Committee	Members	Absent*:
Cynthia Allen	BFT		
Stephen Collins	Local 21		
Stephanie Upp	P&O		

Visitors, School Board Directors, and Guests:

BUSD Staff

Josh Daniels	BUSD School Board
Pauline Follansbee	Assistant Superintendent
Natasha Beery	Director BSEP
Jay Nitschke	Director Technology

- 1. Opening and Roll Call (see members present above)**
- 2. Introduction of Committee Members (actually this happened after Supt's Welcome)**
- 3. Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

4. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Evans welcomed the committee members, staff and public. He noted this is the second year that the SBAC is facing going through the process of recommending cuts to the budget. This work is tough, but necessary, so that the District can focus limited resources on the needs of our students. The SBAC fosters a transparent process that includes members who represent the entire district. He thanked the committee for their partnership in the process of prioritizing student and district needs to that ultimately

a recommendation can be made to the Board in 2019.

The SBAC has 17 members, with representation from staff via bargaining units, from the BSEP P&O, community members. A description of the SBAC and prior documents are here:

www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/business-services-division/berkeley-unified-budget/superintendents-budget-advisory-committee-sbac/

Last year the Board asked for \$2.1 million in budget reductions, and ended up with \$1.8 million; this year the Board has charged the Superintendent to come up with another \$2 million. The timeline requires getting recommendations to the Board in February.

Supt. Evans expressed a desire to improve on last year's process, based on suggestions from committee members about how to ensure that the discussions can be best organized. He is planning to meet with bargaining units, principals and other groups individually to hear their thoughts, and also will gather input through google forms for anonymous input, gather questions from the committee at and after each meeting, and synthesize questions and suggestions to report back at subsequent SBAC meetings. Dr. Evans suggested that This year would like to have meeting facilitator so that Supt and Asst Supt can participate more fully. He asked for suggestions on meeting norms. Suggestions included:

- If speaking, asking question, or commenting, please keep it brief
- Make sure when speaking that questions are directed to Supt rather than directed toward the individual who may be the subject of question.
- Speak up (hearing impaired member request)

Members introduced by name and role

2. Budget Overview

Asst. Supt. of Business Services, Pauline Follansbee shared a document that frames district budgets in terms of the "Silent Recession" <https://www.wested.org/resources/silent-recession/> This document is also in the shared SBAC Google Drive.

The PowerPoint entitled 10-23-18 SBAC (in the shared Google Drive) was used to highlight some of the key points made by Ms. Follansbee:

- Districts are now in a cycle of perpetual budget reductions. With costs increasing, including pension costs, and LCFF at full implementation, only getting COLA, revenue is a not keeping pace with expenses.
- CALSTRS and CALPERS rates have more than doubled. The dollar impact of STRS is higher to district because we have more employees in that fund, who are paid more.
- Special Ed costs are increasing. We need to meet needs of all students, including SpEd, and do so effectively and efficiently with our limited resources. An example of SpEd costs from budget to actuals 2017-18 also show significant increases.
- The overall projected fund balance for the District both before and after budget cuts shows that the budget is currently projected to be balanced, but does not allow for additional expenditures, including compensation increases, without further reductions.

- During the period of restored funding under LCFF, a number of ongoing expenses were added to the budget, including compensation increases, additional programs and staffing

3. Next Steps

The floor was opened for questions and requests for information:

Q: Re Special Ed costs, what role will SpEd Director play in SBAC discussions

A: Director Hamilton is leading a concurrent SpEd advisory committee that could report out. November 14 there will be presentation to Board on SpEd, will remind committee members.

Q: Looking at ongoing or one- time cuts?

A: ongoing

Q: Eventually will we get information on how BUSD per student SpecEd costs compare to other districts? And what is the population compared to other districts?

A: Will get info. Believe it's a slightly lower percentage

Q: Would like to see amounts other districts are cutting as a percentage

A: Will ask other Alameda Co. Superintendents

Q: Re the chart to show what got through the great recession, and as money came back into the system show cuts were made + what new costs were taken on. It would be helpful to see the last two years. We need to give employees a raise, where will it come from?

A: Will add last two years.

Q: Would like to see the SBAC and Supt recommendations from last year.

A: Will provide before next meeting.

Q: Would like to have Director of Special Ed attend

A: That may be possible, although we also have an SBAC member who can report on SpEd committee

Q: Request for list of consultants

A: This can be provided.

Q: Could we get a copy of the Unaudited Actuals?

A: Vivian Ferguson will provide.

Q: Regarding the Google Drive and handouts, can you also email the doc to outside for those who are having trouble accessing the Google Doc?

A: Yes, and others are being added to the Drive as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm

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