

**BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 8, 2022**

P&O Committee Members Present

Brit Toven-Lindsey, *Berkeley Arts Magnet*
Nimota Abina, *Cragmont*
Jonathan Weissglass, *Emerson*
Jerry Liang, *Malcolm X*
Heather Rose, *Oxford*
Elisa Frozena, *Ruth Acty*
Weldon Bradstreet, *King Middle School*

Nicole Chabot, *King Middle School*
Ron Chung, *King Middle School (Alt.)*
Olivia Lim, *Longfellow Middle School*
Kate Jordan, *Willard Middle School*
Aaron Glimme, *Berkeley High*
Esfandiar Imani, *Berkeley High*
Terry Pastika, *Berkeley High*

P&O Committee Members Absent*:

Sophina Jones, *Sylvia Mendez*
Chris Rauen, *Washington*

Erin Holland, *Longfellow Middle School*
Shauna Rabinowitz, *Berkeley High*

**Alternates and co-reps are not marked absent if another rep is present. Currently there is no representation from Pre-K, BTA, BIS, John Muir Elementary, or Thousand Oaks Elementary, and only one representative from Willard Middle School.*

Visitors, School Board Directors, Union Reps, and Guests:

Cielo Rios, *Emerson parent and PTA Equity VP*

BUSD Staff:

Brent Stephens, *Superintendent of Schools*
Rubén Aurelio, *Associate Superintendent for Ed Services*
Kathy Fleming, *Director of Local Partnerships*
Ruth Steele-Brown, *Director of Evaluation and Assessment*
Danielle Perez, *BSEP Program Specialist*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held online via Zoom. At 6:31 p.m. Chairperson Bradstreet called the meeting to order.

2. Establish the Quorum/Approve the Agenda

The quorum was established with 11 voting members present, later increased to 13.

Co-Chair Bradstreet noted that items #6 and #11 would be removed from the agenda. The amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Chairperson's Comments

Nicole Chabot and Weldon Bradstreet

Co-Chair Bradstreet thanked members for attending and continuing the committee's work. Co-Chair Chabot shared that right now district committees are in a very busy moment, with her experience being that the SBAC and P&O are talking about meaty things, but don't have answers laid out just yet. The next few months will be an exciting time when the rubber meets the road.

4. Public Comment

Cielo Rios, Emerson parent and Equity VP of the Emerson PTA, shared that she was in attendance to represent her school community in the discussion of mental health services and Response to Intervention (RtI) resources for students.

5. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Brent Stephens, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Stephens provided a district COVID update. The previous day BUSD announced that it would follow the state, county, and local guidance of strongly recommending masks indoors without requiring them any longer. County Health cited several factors that guided this decision, and BUSD will conform. The strong recommendation but not requirement for masking will be true indoors and outdoors on BUSD properties, for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. Dr. Stephens shared that he felt if the past week is any indication, we will still see many students and staff still in masks, as we have outdoors seen many still in masks even though that requirement was lifted this past week. The district will work to promote a positive climate on campuses as the guidance shifts.

6. Board Update

Ana Vasudeo, School Board Director

Director Vasudeo was not able to attend due to a conflicting commitment.

7. Director's Comments

Kathy Fleming, Director of Local Resources

Director Fleming explained that staff corrected a typo in a slide presented at the last P&O meeting. The slide showed multi-year enrollment information for each school, and the Longfellow entry was corrected. The updated slide is in the meeting document folder and was sent to members via email. The Site Fund allocation info previously shared remains correct.

Regarding the question about funding around Oxford's decline in enrollment, she shared that as the district is involved in '22-23 budget development, and Principals will have the opportunity to forward funding requests to district leadership using a special collection tool to be rolled out later that week.

8. Approval of Minutes

February 22, 2022

Chair Bradstreet asked if there were any corrections to the February 22 meeting minutes. Rep. Weissglass noted that the description on page 6 of item #11, Associate Superintendent Aurelio's response to a question about alternating cohort sizes, seems more definitive than he recollected. Associate Superintendent Aurelio clarified that at Emerson and John Muir, where cohorts alternate annually between 3 kinders 2 kinders, those cohorts will move through each grade without any condensation of classes between the 3rd and 4th grade levels. Ms. Perez recorded the clarification in the 2/22/22 minutes.

The [amended 2.22.22 P&O Meeting Minutes](#) were approved by unanimous consent.

9. Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) Update

Dr. Brent Stephens; P&O SBAC Reps Nicole Chabot, Shauna Rabinowitz, and Terry Pastika

Dr. Stephens recapped the milestones in BUSD's budgeting process that were shared at the last P&O meeting. The next step will be to incorporate committee and community feedback into revised proposals from staff with a new reduction goal. Feedback is being solicited through committees and in a survey that had been sent to all families and staff earlier that day. He explained that the district is midway through the overall process, and this evening's SBAC discussion focused on a potential modest reorganization of Educational Services including the Office of Family Engagement and Equity. The SBAC will meet again in 2 weeks and will talk about an A-G grant and expanded learning opportunities grant. Then a set of recommendations will go to all advisory committees, and then take the form of staff recommendations to the School Board.

Co-Chair Chabot noted that the district is really making concerted efforts to solicit feedback from committees, parents and staff stakeholders across the district. In reaching out with those surveys, this is parents' chance to speak up. She appreciated how the district casting a wide net and trying to mesh the feedback together qualitatively and quantitatively. This is new this year, it's something she has never seen as a part of the SBAC process before. Rep. Pastika commented that receiving the amount of information in SBAC is like drinking through firehose, that the complexity of information presented in SBAC is on another level of magnitude compared to the already-complex discussions that take place in the P&O committee. It's very important for everyone to fill out their surveys to help inform these discussions substantially.

10. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in 2022-23: High Quality Instruction, Teacher Template

Kathy Fleming, Director of Local Resources

Director Fleming presented the Recommendation for BSEP Class Size Reduction Funds in 2022-23, and explained that the Teacher Template memo and document are combined as one PDF file. With a P&O vote to recommend it, it would then go to the Board of Education on March 23rd for final approval.

Co-Chair Bradstreet asked for a motion to approve the Recommendation for BSEP Class Size Reduction Funds in 2022-23. Rep. Chung motioned, Rep. Jordan seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

11. BSEP High Quality Instruction Programs (Professional Development, Program Evaluation, Expanded Course Offerings, Classroom Support) Budget Preview

Kathy Fleming, Director of Local Resources

Director Fleming explained that this item would be presented at a subsequent meeting.

12. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in 2022-23: Expanded Course Offerings, and Counseling and Behavioral Health

Kathy Fleming, Director of Local Resource and Rubén Aurelio, Assoc. Sup. For Ed Services

Director Fleming presented [slides summarizing the BSEP ECO, and BSEP Counseling and Behavioral Health programs](#). Regarding the slide with the overall P&O annual timeline, she noted that the BSEP and BERRA audits will come to the P&O as soon as the documents are ready, but there has been a delay in the timeline from the auditors. She also explained that the committee is reviewing the ECO and Counseling plans at this stage because both involve FTE allocations to sites that are needed for site planning. She referred members to review the first drafts of the [‘22-23 ECO Plan](#) and [‘22-23 Counseling Plan](#).

Rep. Chung asked, regarding the potential changes to the ECO budget outlined in slide 9, whether the positions were intended to continue long term if they have been funded through one-time money up to this point. Director Fleming answered that the district is trying not to eliminate those positions. Associate Superintendent Aurelio explained that the positions being discussed had been paid by an expiring grant, and they are TSA positions providing both site and district-wide support in math, and literacy, which are services we do want to continue.

Rep. Frozena noted that she is receiving this information through the lens of how she can take it back to her school’s SSC meetings. In hearing about potential program reductions for ‘23-24 year, she requested context about how a site could anticipate that to impact their budget. Director Fleming answered that the fund balances in BSEP resources are built up strategically at the beginning of each new measure, to draw down on through deficit spending as program costs increase. However, the cost of programs is increasing to a point that the spending from our fund balance is more than can be sustained in a new measure. The managers and this committee will be looking into that this year to develop a better understanding as we move forward the end of our current measure and planning for measure renewal.

Rep. Glimme asked for the expected “lifetime” of the new Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) grant, whether it’s expected to be a one-time or ongoing funding source, as that obviously impacts where the 1.2 FTE at BHS ends up in the long term. Associate Superintendent Aurelio answered that it will be roughly \$1 million per year in ongoing funding.

Director Fleming explained that the intent would be swapping expenses into the HQI program of Professional Development, while removing costs from HQI Expanded Course Offerings proportionally, resulting in no reduction in courses offered and no change in total expenditure in HQI overall. Associate Superintendent Aurelio added that the ELO grant is specifically for programming outside of the school day, so the district is looking at taking things that BSEP currently funds outside of school day, and paying for them instead from the ELO grant, then moving in other FTE into the PD budget. Rep. Pastika asked if the positions being discussed would be fully funded by BSEP, or if they would also be getting supplemental funding from other sources. Associate Superintendent Aurelio answered that some of those staff would be multi-funded to fulfill their full-time level of employment. Rep. Pastika noted that this relates to accountability issues, if positions serving a BSEP function are funded from multiple areas outside of BSEP. She felt that it makes setting and implementing accountability provisions more difficult. Director Fleming responded that multi-funding individuals’ salaries is somewhat normal, though it can be frustrating from an accountability sense. Rep. Pastika asked if the committee can earmark this for further conversation when planning for the next measure, to understand how to

implement accountability for some of these roles when funding comes from different sources with different compliance measures. Rep. Glimme offered a clarification that PD and ECO are in the same bucket in the BSEP measure (HQI). Many times state and federal grants are significantly more restrictive than BSEP, and we can use more flexible BSEP funds to optimize full use of that state or federal funding, even if that restricted funding isn't enough on its own to pay for a full-time position. This is a classic example of that practice, which frees us up to do something we really want to do, despite some restrictive funding.

Rep. Rose asked why counseling for middle and high schools is paid from BSEP but not counseling at elementary schools. Director Fleming responded that elementaries utilize site budgets for mental health, and the funding was established at a time when middle schools did not have adequate counseling support. Rep. Glimme added that BSEP planners made this decision years ago when the middle schools, King in particular, were using a significant portion of the site budget to hire counselors. In the measure before last, we moved middle school counseling into its own solid funding stream in BSEP because it was seen as such a critical piece. This is something that elementary schools could advocate for in the next measure. Rep. Rose was curious if this would overlap with the reading/literacy coach positions at the elementary schools, as it is required for elementary schools to cover .25 FTE of Literacy Coaches. Superintendent Stephens noted that last year when the district had a large amount of one-time COVID money, the Board set aside half a million dollars to increase counseling at elementary schools; we didn't fill it out quite as much as we wanted to due to staffing issues but we did fund for 5 more full-time counselors. Moving into '22-23 we won't have that kind of funding from COVID funds, but we will receive a large 4-year grant from the state and city that will provide upwards of \$2.5 million. The district hasn't fully planned for those expenditures yet, but the elementary counseling component from COVID is close to the top of the list in priorities for that new grant money. Regarding the apportionment of literacy coaches, managers will need to go back to do more studying for the historical context and rationale of that funding.

Rep. Chung asked about the rationale behind the number of counselors funded at each middle school. Director Fleming answered that it's related to school size and enrollment. Rep. Chung asked if there are ways to consider higher needs at different school sites outside of enrollment.

Co-Chair Bradstreet asked how SSCs and parents can advocate for a stake in the new BSEP measure, and from these new grants. Dr. Stephens responded that BSEP categories for current measure are defined, per the legislation language promised to our voters. There is not a lot of play in BSEP right now, we're learning that, and in fact we need to curb spending to land this measure in a safe place. He recommended bringing questions to site Principals and SSCs, another good place is here with the P&O to the extent that there is spending capacity. And another good place is the school board, and a number of opportunities are coming up soon for that in particular. In terms of influencing a new BSEP measure, in about a year's time the planning process will begin.

13. For the Good of the Order

Rep. Pastika, proposed that in the next meeting's agenda we set aside time to discuss evolving the P&O updating process to the Board to make it more targeted. Now that we've been showing up consistently for more than a year and a half, it seems like a good moment to check if we like what

we're doing, and whether we want to do anything differently. The committee will postpone its next statement until this discussion takes place.

Rep. Rose asked for clarification around how Principals will request funding. Director Fleming answered that there is a meeting for management and site administrators to roll out the budget survey or collection tool to assess needs for next year. Dr. Stephens added that we will give an overview of the budget to Principals, and give them a survey to use when interacting with school communities and SSCs and bring feedback back. There is not a huge amount of funding in the general fund, so this assessment is not meant to be a promise or commitment to fund every ask, but a uniform way for Principals to report the needs of school communities.

Rep. Chabot thanked Rep. Pastika for all her work doing these statements for a year and a half, and noted that she has asked for others to help present them in the Board meetings as well. She looks forward to talking about this at the next meeting.

Rep. Jordan asked if there was an email attachment that the committee hadn't yet discussed. Director Fleming clarified that this was only for informational purposes, it was from the last meeting, and had been shared as an example in the budget discussion.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:40 p.m.