

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702
510-644-6206

Official Minutes
August 23 2023

President Laura Babitt called the meeting to order at 7pm. She reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Laura Babitt, President – Present
Ana Vasudeo, Vice President – Present
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – Present
Jennifer Shanoski, Director – Present
Mike Chang, Director -- Excused
Katelyn Lao, Student Director, BHS – Present
Jhanai Dell, Student Director, BTA – Present

Administration:

Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent
Jill Hoogendyk, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Samantha Tobias-Espinosa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lyz Chairez, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Brown/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 6-0

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Vasudeo reported out on closed session:

3.1	Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956 (a))
	3.1.1 Case No. 202021-17 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Shanoski/Babitt and unanimously approved 4-0
	3.1.2 Case No. 202122-02 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Vasudeo/Brown and unanimously approved 4-0
	3.1.2 Case No. 2022324-01 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Babitt/Shanoski and unanimously approved 4-0.
	3.1.4 Case No. 202324-02 The Board discussed this matter and provided direction; no action was taken.
3.2	Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code 54957) The Board discussed this matter and provided direction; no action was taken.
3.3	Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)) - Two (2) Cases Motion to approve staff recommendation for potential case #1: Babitt/Vasudeo: 3-0 with Director Brown in Absentia For potential case #2: The Board discussed and provided direction. No action was taken on this matter.
3.4	Collective Bargaining - Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Samantha Tobias-Espinosa) This item was not discussed.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of eight people addressed the Board:

One comment in advocacy of BHS graduation not taking place on the Jewish Sabbath, and urging the Board and District leadership to commit to honoring this request given it is being made at the very beginning of the school year.

One comment asking that the district turn on the lights on the BHS practice field. Commenter thanked the Superintendent for her response and also thanked Director Shanoski for her support of the Junior Jackets. Commenter introduced Lunch with Dads taking place at Malcolm X Elementary and encouraged black males to sign up to participate.

Three comments from custodial/maintenance staff requesting that their travel stipend be extended so that they can continue to be reimbursed for the additional miles they must drive to their temporary worksite in Richmond.

One comment as a follow-up to a letter sent to the Board listing resources and tips for teachers and families of youth in need of mental health services.

One comment expressing concern with upcoming renovations at Sylvia Mendes scheduled to take place while students are in school. Requested that a suitable location to relocate impacted students during construction be identified.

One comment requesting a response to his communicated concern to the Superintendent involving an unsatisfactory evaluation.

Public Comment Specific to Surplus Property at 1130 Oxford Street (20 min)

One comment requesting that the District improve its communication to the public concerning plans for 1130 Oxford.

One comment addressing the proposed scenarios for Oxford, and asking District leadership to ensure all viable options are considered in this process.

One comment asking what is happening to address safety issues at the abandoned property. Commenter suggested that the Board consider turning it into a recreation center for the community.

One comment asking the Board to carefully consider standards and criteria to be included in the advertising of the property.

One comment from the 7-11 committee member who reported that part of the committee's recommendation includes direction to explore workforce housing as an option.

One comment in agreement to use the property for workforce housing, and suggesting that in the meantime the site be leased out for the use of transitional housing for the unhoused.

One comment in favor of using the Oxford site for workforce housing.

One comment asking for a clear flowchart that lets neighbors know who in the District they can call to report issues with alarm, blight, trespassing, vandalism, etc at the abandoned site.

Committee Comments

Superintendent’s Budget Advisory Committee	CTE Advisory Committee
Audit Committee	Parent Advisory Committee
Sexual Harassment+Gender Advisory Committee	District English Language Advisory Committee
African American Advisory Committee	PTA Council
BSEP/BERRA Planning & Oversight Committee	Equity and Excellence Advisory Committee

UNION COMMENTS

Local 21 President Stephen Collins asked the District to ensure a fair and thorough investigation into a matter involving a Local 21 member. He ceded the rest of his time to the employee who stated that the allegations in question are false and unsubstantiated.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board Directors and the Superintendent provided individual comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Brown/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 5-0.

DISCUSSION

Surplus Property Options for 1130 Oxford Street, Berkeley CA 94707 (30 min)

Executive Director of Facilities John Calise and Van Pelt Construction representative provided to the Board an overview of the process to date in identifying solutions for 1130 Oxford Street. His presentation included a timeline that highlighted several 7-11 committee meetings, which brought together a number stakeholders for the purpose of exploring all viable options to ultimately make recommendations to the Board; and listed selling, leasing, land exchanging, redevelopment, and exploration of other partnership opportunities as potential solutions to addressing surplus property. Director Calise noted that the current property valuation is roughly \$2 million. His presentation walked the Board through the process of formally declaring 1130 Oxford a surplus property, and through the potential solutions as well as the associated financial impact and challenges for each one. Questions and discussion followed, namely around the role of the City and what a potential partnership between BUSD and the City would look like.

President Babbitt asked that staff come back with information about the what the implications will be should demolition take place, and bring this to the 2x2 Committee to engage the City in the conversation, as well as include labor partners and a survey for educators to gauge their interest in potential workforce housing.

Director Shanoski added that the amount of staff time and resources necessary to determine how to increase revenue should be taken into account in the Board's direction to staff on how to proceed.

Director Brown noted the liability associated with workforce housing, as well as the impact on staff time and resources.

The Board discussed previous surveys conducted for the BAS workforce housing project, and President Babitt requested that staff revisit past survey findings as a point of reference.

Staff will return with an update to the Board at a later date.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of three people addressed the Board:

One comment asking that the District communicate with the community in a timely manner. Parents, students and families should be made aware of important updates by the District first, as opposed to hearing from other sources.

Two comments in favor of workforce housing for 1130 Oxford Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:31PM

Created on 09/15/2023 at 01:32 PM by Lyzanna Chairez