

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

Official Minutes
October 4, 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 – Absent
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

Motion to approve the regular meeting agenda for October 4, 2023:
Shanoski/Liao and unanimously approved 5-0

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 OAH Case No. 2023070364 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Vasudeo/Shanoski and approved unanimously 3-0.
	3.1.2 BUSD Case No. 20232410 Motion to accept staff recommendation: Vasudeo/Shanoski and approved unanimously 3-0.
	3.1.3 OAH Case No. 2023060628 This matter was table for a future meeting.
3.2	Collective Bargaining - Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Samantha Tobias-Espinosa) Motion to approve staff recommendation: Shanoski/Babitt and unanimously approved 3-0.
3.3	Superintendent Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957) The Board discussed and provided direction. No action was taken.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Ford Morthel announced a successful Walk and Roll to School Day today in BUSD. She went on to share that conversation about student and staff safety have been ongoing, they have been heightened in the past days by concerning incidents. The Superintendent met with members of the BHS community, specifically members of the BHS Safety Committee and looks forward to continuing this very important conversation in concert with the various groups that convene around safety matters across the district. She also shared that staff recently reviewed safety recommendations dating back to 2011, noting that many of which have already been implemented. The BHS and District webpages will be updated to reflect the list of recommendations and BUSD’s response to each one. Continuous updates will take place in an effort to make the most current information available.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 12 people addressed the Board:

One comment on the decision making process for BUSD choosing to install artificial turf .

One comment on Longellow’s modernization project and in opposition to artificial turf

Two comments on access to gender neutral bathrooms at BHS

One comment on the BUSD complaint process.

Six comments requesting reinstatement of COVID leave, separate from sick leave.

One comment on safety concern during BHS lunch period

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

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

UNION COMMENTS

None

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board directors provided individual comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Vasudeo/Shanoski and unanimously approved 5-0.

DISCUSSION

Update on Measure Y1 (Vote 16) (15 min)

Consultant Margaret Prinzing provided background on Vote 16 dating back to November 8, 2016 when Berkeley voters passed Measure Y1. Measure Y1 lowered the voting age to allow students who are at least 16 years old to participate in their School Board elections. This required the City of Berkeley to adopt an ordinance to allow youth to vote under four conditions:

1. City and County elections are consolidated
2. Youth voting cannot increase costs
3. City funds cannot be used to cover related expenses
4. All systems and procedures must be technically ready to accommodate youth voting.

In a subsequent meeting, the Registrar Office identified additional items that would have to be worked through in order to make youth voting feasible:

- Figuring out how to run two-ballot elections (youth voter ballots would only include school board election information)
- Determining whether the company providing software had the ability to modify its platform to accommodate youth voting without compromising the way it processes its general elections.

In 2022, Oakland voters passed Measure QQ extending the same provision to Oakland youth that Measure Y1 provided youth voters in the City of Berkeley.

As of today, the implementation phase is set to rollout in November 2024. Next steps include:

- Office of the Registrar's software vendor addresses software updates necessary to handle youth voting (as the updates start rolling out, tests will take place to ensure software works by Feb 2024)
- The Registrar and BUSD enter into an MOU addressing all of the details involved
- The City of Berkeley adopts an Ordinance

Things to consider:

- Associated costs are still an estimate until software provider determines final numbers (Estimated one-time cost for software update is \$77k, not including cost for training and other unknowns; initial costs can be shared with OUSD)

- Ongoing, it is estimated that it will cost \$7-\$9 per potential voter (\$22,400-\$28,800) for each School Board election and these costs would not be shared with OUSD.

BSEP Measure Renewal Update (30 min)

Kathy Fleming provided a BSEP Measure renewal update highlighting the ways in which BSEP provides essential support to BUSD in its mission “to enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our world.” Her presentation provided an overview of how the built-in COLA was determined given its proclivity to fluctuate especially across an 8-year period. She walked audience through a number of potential COLA scenarios. The goal is to ensure that we maintain the ability to keep up the program offerings throughout the life of the Measure, as well as to position BUSD to maintain this same level of fidelity in the event of rising costs coupled with a low COLA.

Director Brown arrived at 8:40pm

PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION

Public Hearing for and Approval of Resolution 24-007 for Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2023-23 (Time Certain: 9PM)

President Babitt opened Public Hearing at 9pm; hearing no one, the Public Hearing was closed at 9pm.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 24-007:
Shanoski/Brown and unanimously approved 5-0.

The Board took a brief recess from 9:03pm - 9:10pm

Compliance & Improvement Monitoring (CIM) for Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervention Services (CCEIS) 2023 Development Update (30 min)

Dr. Mathew Espinosa and Carla Gayden presented on a new tool for the 2023-24 school year that will be used to monitor disproportionality. BUSD was one of few school districts selected by the CDE to develop a plan for this purpose. Their presentation included plans for implementation, as well as collected feedback from review of policies, data, and past efforts; measurable outcomes and a data analysis process for each were also included.

This item will be presented for final board approval at the next school board meeting.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

One comment calling out the reality that some students whose home language is one other than English may not be fully serviced.a

Two comments on a gun incident at BHS last week.

One comment in continuation from first public comment period about BUSD's complaint process.

ADJOURNMENT:

10:27PM