

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED MINUTES

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MINUTES, SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 13, 2003

District Administrative Offices

2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

CALL TO ORDER

President Joaquin J. Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Board recessed to Closed Session.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Joaquin J. Rivera
Vice President John T. Selawsky
Director Terry S. Doran
Director Shirley Issel
Director Nancy Riddle

Administration: Superintendent Michele Lawrence, Secretary

Prior to Closed Session, as necessary, staff/employee comments are taken per Government Code Section 54957

No one addressed the Board at this time.

Recess to Closed Session (Government Code Sections 3549.1(d), 54956.9(a) and 54957) and Education Code Section 49818(c)—Board Conference Room

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation
- b) Consideration of Student Expulsion
- c) Collective Bargaining
- d) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- e) Public Employment Appointments
- f) Liability Claims
- g) Property Acquisition

Report Closed Session Action

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:44 p.m. President Rivera reported that the Board discussed and took the following action in Closed Session:

e) Public Employment Appointments

The Board made the following appointments:

Ms. Rory Bled	Vice Principal, Berkeley High School
Ms. Denise Brown	Dean, Berkeley High School
Mr. Matt Huxley	Vice Principal, Berkeley High School

President Rivera announced that the Board also voted unanimously to change the title of Mr. Eric D. Smith from Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations to Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations. President Rivera assured everyone that this is only a title change. There are no financial implications. He said this title change is in the best interest of the District since the two Associate Superintendent positions—Educational Services and Human Resources—will not be filled.

Approve Agenda

Motion: Directors Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote:

That the Special Board of Education Agenda of August 13, 2003, is approved as written.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Seven speakers addressed the Board.

BOARD STUDY SESSION

Information and discussion regarding the comprehensive Assessment and Improvement Plan conducted by the FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team)

Superintendent Lawrence explained the purpose of tonight's special meeting and reviewed the history of the necessity for the District to have a FCMAT review. She said in 2000, the District received from the State of California a financial penalty in excess of a million dollars because of a failure to submit a document related to Staff Development Buy-Back Days. Due to the significant burden and financial ramifications this penalty caused, many attempts were made through legislation to reduce the impact and forgive the fine. In 2002, with assistance of Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and others working with the state controller's office, legislation was crafted to reduce the penalty and direct resources to assist the District in improving its management and financial systems. As a condition of the legislation, a mandated study conducted by FCMAT was prescribed to analyze five distinct areas: (1) Community Relations; (2) Personnel Management; (3) Pupil Achievement; (4) Financial Management; and, (5) Facilities Management.

Ms. Lawrence said as a supplement to this Study and in order to facilitate better internal monitoring the Superintendent has assigned each standard, which is to be reviewed again in October, to a central office administrator. It will be that administrator's primary responsibility to collaborate with others to bring about the desired improvements and provide documentation of progress. Objectives that were already identified and were an area of concentration before the Study began have also been noted. Central staff will present these areas of concentration to other managers and principals so they, in turn, can solicit participation in corrective efforts with teachers, students and parents through the various site councils and advisory committees. It will also be essential that our staffing and budgetary considerations are aligned to our objectives and consequently this, too, should be a consideration in future planning by these various groups. She then deferred to the FCMAT representatives.

The FCMAT representatives were:

Mr. Joel D. Montero, Deputy Executive Officer
Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team

Dr. Roberta Mayor
FCMAT Management Analyst

Michelle Plumbtree
FCMAT Management Analyst

Curt Pollock
Director, Management Consulting Services
School Services of California, Inc.

Jack Weinstein
Project Manager
Schromm Associates Management Services

Maribeth D. Smith
Senior Associate National School Reform
Community Training and Assistance Center

Elizabeth Wells
Consultant
Administration & Governance
California School Boards Association (CSBA)

Mr. Joel Montero, Deputy Executive Officer, FCMAT, said the District is making great progress. He said he is encouraged by the progress the District is making. Mr. Montero said the FCMAT report is neither a report card nor a grade. It is a standard-based program for growth. Dr. Roberta Mayor, FCMAT Management Analyst, gave a brief history of the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team. She then identified the Priority Standards to be addressed by the Berkeley Unified School District staff as follows: Community Relations—16; Personnel Management—20; Pupil Achievement—20; Financial Management—20; Facilities Management—18.

Mr. Montero said the FCMAT team's next visit in the District will be in October 2003.

Director Riddle said this report affirms most of what we already know or perceive. She recommends that community members read the Executive Summaries.

Director Issel said she finds this report very useful. She suggested that the Board agenda the FCMAT report at a future Board of Education meeting and have a discussion about how the Board wants to address their role as addressed in the FCMAT report. She suggested that the Board President appoint a Board subcommittee to review the report and bring it back to the entire Board. Director Issel said the Board needs to be clear regarding its vision and align the Superintendent's evaluation with this vision.

Vice President Selawsky inquired about how the grade point averages reported on the survey of responses from Berkeley teachers were calculated, the percentages did not seem to correspond to the resulting GPA. He requested that the FCMAT representative research this question and provide a response to the Board.

President Rivera requested that staff provide periodic progress reports to the Board regarding our progress of the FCMAT report.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rivera declared the Special meeting of August 13, 2003, adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Secretary, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

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