

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED MINUTES

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MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, September 1, 2004
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

CALL TO ORDER

President John T. Selawsky called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Board recessed to Closed Session.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: President John T. Selawsky
Vice President Nancy Riddle
Director Terry S. Doran
Director Shirley Issel
Director Joaquin J. Rivera
Student Director Lily Dorman-Colby*

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 49819(c))

- Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
- Consideration of Student Expulsion
- Collective Bargaining
- Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- Public Employment Appointment
- Liability Claims
- Property Acquisition

Reconvene in Public Session

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:34 p.m.

*The Student Director does not attend Closed Session.

Report Closed Session Action

President Selawsky reported that the Board discussed the following items in Closed Session:

- Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
- Collective Bargaining
- Public Employee Appointment

No actions or decisions were made during closed session.

Approve Agenda

Directors Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote:

That the Regular Meeting Agenda of September 1, 2004 is approved as amended. The amendments are:

- that Items 4.1-C, 4.4-C, and 4.5-C are pulled for further clarification.
- that Item 3.1-A is moved to the Consent Calendar

TEACHING AND LEARNING PRESENTATION

The Reading Recovery Program

Reading Recovery Teachers: Tom Prince (Rosa Parks School) and Lividia Evans-Taylor (LeConte School) spoke about their experiences in the program. There are Reading Recovery teachers at all schools as well as an English Language reading teacher at Rosa Parks. Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention for students who have the greatest need for reading and writing skills. Classroom and Reading Recovery teachers perform student assessments. Classes are 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week for 12 to 20 weeks. By the end of the classes, the students are caught up with classroom peers and continue to make progress in the classroom setting.

With early intervention and highly trained teachers, children can raise their literacy rate with enormous progress. Reading Recovery teachers also build strong relationships with parents, inviting them in to view lessons and suggesting ways to assist with daily homework. Books are sent home every night that parents can read with their children. This gives children and parents an opportunity to practice skills and strategies between lessons.

The other important piece of this program is to work with the classroom teacher to make sure he/she has the professional skills needed to continue to make good progress with the students. It offers teachers assistance in strategies and brings expertise in reading and writing into the classroom. Children served include the bottom 20% of all kids in 1st grade and small groups of students in the 2nd and 3rd grade. The children served in the 2nd and 3rd grades are usually students who are newly enrolled into BUSD.

The key to the success of this program is the training model. It provides three levels of support to ensure a stable structure sustained over years. The three levels are:

- university trainers who train and support the district Reading Recovery leaders

- district Reading Recovery leaders who train and support site based Reading Recovery teachers
- site based Reading Recovery teachers who support and train classroom teachers.

Part of the year-long training includes developing skills in using and analyzing data to help inform instruction. In addition, all Reading Recovery teachers hold a reading teacher certificate awarded by the State of California. Many of the teachers have also earned one or more Master's degrees. Teachers also participate in on-going professional development called Continuing Contact. They meet once a month. Through professional development teachers focus on:

- Examining data
- Analyzing patterns and trends
- Reflecting on instruction
- Adjusting teaching methods

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no testimony at this time.

REPORTS

Union Representatives' Reports

No one addressed the Board at this time.

Superintendent Report:

Opening Day: The Superintendent congratulated staff and parents – especially Kindergarten parents – for a smooth opening of school. Staffing assignments were almost complete, except for a couple teacher fingerprints that were delayed by the state. Until fingerprinting is completed, substitute teachers will cover the classrooms with these new teachers to meet liability requirements.

Staff continues to monitor enrollment, especially at the high school. The Superintendent notes that it is not uncommon for enrollment to be under projections at this time of year, although it is a little higher than this time last year.

Willard Middle School Beautification: The Superintendent then discussed the recent activity and publicity surrounding the beautification project at Willard Middle School. Feeling the misinterpretation or misunderstandings could be cleared up easily, she asked the Public Information Officer, Mark Coplan, to present a pictorial report about the project.

Points covered during the presentation:

- Pictures in the media were over a year old and did not represent accurately the current garden.
- Purpose of project was threefold – safety, accessibility, and to improve the school's entrance and curb appeal.

- New drop-off, pick-up for students would be on Telegraph Avenue, rather than Stuart Street. A widened sidewalk and walkway through the gardens into the school provided better safety options and made the school entrance more inviting to students.
- The walkway through the gardens into the school needed to be widened to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Concrete areas near the old entrance and near the basketball court are being replaced with greenery.
- Vegetable garden, which is part of the educational curriculum, is full of vegetables. Plants from the vegetable garden and other gardens were removed for safe keeping by parent volunteers prior to construction starting. These will be replanted when construction is completed.
- When completed (late October 2004), the improvements will help make Willard a more inviting school campus.

Director Selawsky stated that as a parent, he found Stuart Street impossible as a drop off area. Director Issel thanked the PIO for the presentation and stated she is pleased that the district is out of crisis mode so that accurate, proactive information can be presented to the public. It represents that systems are being stabilized.

Board Members' Report:

Student Director Dorman-Colby stated that opening day at Berkeley High School went well. There were 3,000 students walking through hallways ready to start class.

Director Issel commented that with the County Office of Education approving the BUSD budget with no stipulations, it will leave more time for the district to do better planning and refocus on teaching and learning.

Director Rivera was pleased to hear that everything went well during opening day and thanked all the staff who worked so hard to make sure schools were ready to receive our students. He commented that schools he visited seemed quite calm. In addition, he had attended a couple receptions for Kindergarten parents earlier in the week and everyone was quite excited to bring students to our schools.

Director Doran congratulated staff for a successful opening day; there were smiling faces by students and staff. Things seemed to be running very smoothly. He commented that he had lunch at BHS with many participating students and that the food was edible.

Director Riddle commented that she visited Berkeley High and helped freshmen find their classes.

Director Selawsky congratulated the student director on the article about her in the local newspaper. He then reported that the County gave BUSD's budget a positive approval for the first time in his four years on the board, saying it took three years of recovery time to get there. He thanked the Board for doing the hard work it took to get an approved budget without stipulations. He then reiterated how important the financial foundation is for the district, saying that if the financial foundation is shaky,

the district cannot build on it. He was also pleased with the opening of school. The two schools he visited had an electric atmosphere. Principal Slemph was in the quad directing BHS students. LeConte also had a great opening. He thanked all staff, classified and clerical. He reminded the public that the Adult School does not open till September 7.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Motion: Directors Rivera/Doran and approved unanimously on voice vote.
That the Consent Calendar be approved as a block except for Items 4.1-C, 4.4-C, 4.5-C.

Human Resources Items

2.1-C Approval of Human Resources Report 04-15

Business and Operations Items

4.2-C Approve amended agreement to bid schedule No. 1330 to have Interstate Brands West Corp provide bread products to the district for the amount of \$25,000. This is a contract extension from an award by the Board in June 2002. Education Code 17596 authorizes the Board to extend these bids up to three years. The Board authorized a one-year extension.

4.3-C Approve amended agreement to bid schedule No. 1329 to provide produce to the district by Piranha Produce, Inc for the amount of \$90,000. The contract extension from June 2002 is for one year, per Education Code 17596. The Board corrected a date in the Board packet to read "2002" rather than "2992".

4.6-C Approve contract to hire Baker/Vilar Architects to complete the design of flood protection from the street storm sewer at Malcolm X Elementary School. It also addressed three other projects at Malcolm X: improving the play yard by overlaying existing asphalt and painting lines; further determine whether a large elm tree in the play yard should be removed and replaced with a large mature tree (as recommended by an arborist); renovate the play yard turf.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1-C Authorization for the Purchasing Manager to execute contracts and purchase orders for services contracts in excess of fifteen thousand dollars.

Motion: Directors Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote.
The Student Director questioned the dollar amount spent for catering in Item #3. It was explained that the catering was for two events for a combination of about 80 people.

There was another question about Item #4: cellular phone services for Berkeley High School. The phones are provided for staff that needs to be contacted immediately (i.e., Special Education teachers, vice principals, or the custodial

supervisor). Director Rivera asked staff to analyze cellular phone service in the district to make sure we are using it efficiently and economically. It was reported that the Deputy Superintendent already has it on his list of things to review. The Superintendent did point out that there is a difference between the phones that are used as pagers and those that are only cellular phones.

4.4-C Approval of Next Steps for West Campus and Related Properties

Motion: Directors Issel/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote. Facilities Director Lew Jones reported that staff was putting forward a proposal for long-range planning that combined the development of one property (West Campus) with the future of two other properties (2134 Martin Luther King where current administrative offices are located and Oregon/Russell Street where other administrative offices, teacher services, the technology center and maintenance shops are located). The approach suggested for adoption is to select a consultant to help guide the initial planning. Staff will solicit Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) some time in September.

Consultants will collect and define the potential use of West Campus, analyze potential future uses for the Oregon/Russell complex, define permitting issues, and report to the Board by March or April. Potential uses for West Campus could include an administrative office, teacher center, and educational services for students. The potential timeline would be to present a report to the Board in March or April.

Director Issel asked to amend the motion to include the study of Hillside and other surplus property in the district. There was some discussion about having a separate process for the Hillside property rather than including it with the current proposal. Director Issel withdrew her amendment.

Director Selawsky commented that the Board has not yet discussed the West Campus project and they may want to make changes to the proposal. Furthermore, he was concerned about the January and February timeline for community meetings or discussions, saying that it may not be adequate timing and may “short shrift” the community process.

Director Doran suggested that future discussions about West Campus include the city council member from that district. He also requested that staff provides a series of alternatives for the project to allow the community to respond to a multitude of possibilities. There was additional discussion about the need for adequate analysis so that the district’s needs are clear and practical prior to seeking input and priorities from others.

The Superintendent said the district will bring people into the process early. The district will rely on the consultant to help define the process.

- 4.5-C Next Steps for Planning East Campus
Motion: Directors Doran/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote.

Staff proposed dividing the site plans into two parts: one for demolition of the current buildings and a second to build a field. By dividing the plan, demolition of the current buildings could be accelerated. If approved by the Board, a site committee would be convened to participate in the selection of an architect. The design of the field is still under discussion.

Director Doran commented that the item indicated that the Board had not yet reached conclusions about the East Campus project. He wanted the language corrected to reflect that the Board voted last spring to work with the City to move forward to close Derby Street.

The Superintendent said staff understood clearly the Board's direction, but the language in the document meant that final conclusions about how the fields would be placed was unclear. Staff will strike the first part of the sentence and use "Since final plans have not yet been approved" so there is no further misunderstanding.

ACTION ITEMS:

Educational Services

- 3.2-A Approve Out of State travel request to National Board for professional teaching standards conference

Motion: Directors Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote.

BUSD teacher Susan Katz will represent the district at the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards at a conference in Atlanta between September 16 through 19. The Superintendent reported that it is difficult to get board certification. The only cost to the district is the cost of a substitute for two days while Katz is at the conference.

INFORMATION

Business Services

- 4.1-I Maintenance and Measure BB Update
Tabled.

- 4.2-I Measure BB Financial Update
Tabled

BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Schedule of Board of Education Meetings for 2004:

September 1, 2004

September 13, 2004 – Special Meeting

September 22, 2004

October 6, 2004

October 20, 2004

November 3, 2004

November 17, 2004

December 1, 2004

December 15, 2004

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no Extended Public Testimony at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

President Selawsky declared the Special Meeting of September 1, 2004, adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Secretary, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District