

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting
December 14, 2005
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

ADOPTED MINUTES

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

President Terry S. Doran
Vice President Joaquin Rivera
Director John T. Selawsky
Director Shirley Issel
Director Nancy Riddle
Student Director Teal Miller

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))

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

President Doran called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Closed Session Actions:

Nothing to report

Approve Agenda of December 14, 2005

Riddle/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

Teaching and Learning Presentation

Robert Ithurnburn, Principal of Willard Junior High and teachers George Rose, Tamara Kessler, and Sharon Arthur discussed the Positive Behavior System (PBS) system used at Willard.

Public Testimony

There was public comment given in support of keeping Derby Street open and constructing a multi purpose playing field. Marge Issel reminded the Board about the Senior Scholars Program.

Reports

Michele Lawrence – Superintendent Lawrence reported that she attended Dorothy Dorsey’s funeral and again expressed condolences on behalf of the Board of Education and the District. She also recognized the Berkeley Public Education Foundation for providing over \$160K in educational grants.

Student Director Teal Miller shared highlights about the Youth Commission recent forum on lowering the voting age.

Director Nancy Riddle extended holiday greetings to all.

Director John Selawsky talked about his attendance at the successful kindergarten fair. He also attended a celebration in honor of Maudell Shirek. He reminded everyone that Lois Hetland will be speaking on January 10, 7 p.m. at Longfellow on Educating the Whole Child: The Essential Role of the Arts. He too wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

Director Shirley Issel attended the 9th grade support team meeting at BHS and was impressed with the remarkable progress they are making on reducing truancy.

Vice President Rivera wishes everyone a happy holiday season

President Doran acknowledged Doris Davis, Purchasing Manager for the District who will be retiring this month. He provided highlights of the recent 2 x 2 meeting with the City where they discussed the Derby Street project, the warm water pool ongoing debate, and future presentations between the District and the City.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Riddle/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION CALENDAR

Item 2.1-A – Filling the vacant data processing manager position

Issel/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.1-A – First Interim Report

Eric Smith, CBO and Song Chin-Bendib, Director of Fiscal Services, presented a review of the First Interim to the Board. There were many questions and comments from Board members: Nancy Riddle had concerns about the use of placeholders rather than explicit numbers. She would like a detailed breakdown of all placeholders. Director Rivera asked for a detailed explanation of variances in the Cafeteria Fund and Director Riddle questioned the Fund’s decrease from the adopted budget. Director Issel commented that she would like to see more of a cushion in the BB fund.

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.2-A – Yearly Facilities Plan Modification

Lew Jones, Facilities Director, was present. There was considerable discussion about this item particularly around the Derby Street issue. Vice President Rivera asked that it be presented in narrative form i.e. what will get done, and what will not get done. President Doran would like a cost estimate for the EIR done as soon as possible and asked that this item be modified to include that request.

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended: cost estimate for EIR to be initiated separately from the Yearly Facilities Plan Modification item

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 3.1-I – Monthly enrollment and ADA report

Vice President Rivera expressed his ongoing concern about higher enrollment with lower ADA. Superintendent Lawrence explained that the attention we are giving to attendance and SART should begin to show positive outcomes.

4.1-I – Facilities Plan update

Received for information

Extended public testimony

None

No public announcements

President Doran adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Terry S. Doran, President
Board of Education

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education