

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED MINUTES

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 16, 2005
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

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CALL TO ORDER

President Nancy Riddle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Board recessed to Closed Session.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Nancy Riddle
Vice President Terry Doran
Director John T. Selawsky
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 7:30 pm.

* The Student Director does not attend Closed Session.

Report Closed Session Action

President Riddle reported that the Board discussed the following items in closed session:

- Collective bargaining – no action was taken

Approve Agenda

Motion: Student Director Dorman-Colby/ Director Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:

That the Regular Meeting Agenda of February 16, 2005 is approved as amended.

The amendments are:

- That Item 1.2- C CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballots was pulled from the agenda
- That Item 2.1-C Personnel Recommendation should read “Limited Term”, not “Probationary”
- That Item 3.2-C Resolution 04-30: Approve Berkeley Albany YMCA Contract had a second page memo cover included in error
- That Item 3.3-C New Non-Public School Placements for Special Education Students should read \$16,459.00 in expenses to the General Fund
- That all Information Items be moved to the March 02, 2005 meeting

Approve Minutes

Motion: Student Director Dorman-Colby/ Director Selawsky and approved as amended unanimously on voice vote:

That the minutes of December 15, 2004, January 12, 2005 and January 19, 2005 be approved with the following corrections:

Minutes for the Board meeting of January 19, 2004

President Riddle requested that on page 28 the text “She suggested that the staff reflects the entire population at BHS” be changed to “She suggested that SSJE must be representative of the diversity of the entire school population.”

Also, in the third paragraph on page 28, the text “wonderful life school” should be “wonderful life skill.”

TEACHING AND LEARNING PRESENTATION

Closing the Achievement Gap: The Cragmont Scholars Program

Presented by Jason Lustig and Mary Martin

The Cragmont Scholars is an accelerated support program for successful students who come from groups that are underrepresented at the college level. Successful student is defined as a student who is achieving at grade level (basic) or above the very challenging California standards. Cragmont scholars receive:

- Extended day support in the form of both weekly Friday after school or Saturday sessions 15-25 times per year
- Extended year support in the form of a three or four week summer program

- Mentors for 5th grade scholars through a partnership with Stiles Hall. They also try to provide mentors to 4th grade scholars
- Parent support meetings are held at least once per year

More information about the Cragmont Scholars Program can be viewed on the BUSD website at www.berkeley.k12.ca.us.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The following community members each spoke and gave their support for Academic Choice: Marilyn Boucher, Jeannine Villasenor, Nicolie Bolster-Ott and Julieanna Sum.

The following community members each spoke and gave their support for AHA: Essence Hardon, Carol Lashof, Carol Dorf, Per Eisenman and Rona Renner.

Trina Ostrander – and Shirley Herrera (Rosa Parks Elementary Principal) wanted to extend their thanks to the Bayer Corporation. Ms. Ostrander reported that Bayer Corporation funded the Bayer Youth Science Lab at Rosa Parks Elementary. She pointed out that this year they gave a \$10,000 grant for mental health programs.

REPORTS

Union Representatives' Report:

Local 39 – Steffanie Allen:

She announced that daily demonstrations by teachers will be commencing shortly. She also voiced support of the teachers and criticized the Superintendent.

Superintendent's Report:

In response to the union, she expressed her desire to resolve contract issues as timely as possible in light of the horrific budget constraints.

Board Members' Report:

Student Director Dorman-Colby

Student Director Dorman-Colby noted that the CPI will take some of the 4% increase in funds given to BUSD and wondered how there could be any money left for anything else? She said it seems like a “lose-lose situation”. She also reported that she was one of five students that got to meet with Barbara Lee.

Director Issel

Director Issel reported that she will not be attending the 2 X 2 Committee Meeting.

Director Terry Doran

No report.

Director Rivera

Director Rivera reassured the community that the Board had been negotiating in good faith and that if BUSD had the money they would give the employees a raise. He expressed that some of the comments from the union were rhetoric and lacked some truth.

Director Selawsky

Director Selawsky complimented the Student Director on her OpEd piece in the Daily Planet. He also expressed that he felt it was a “cheap shot” to say the Superintendent was not union friendly. He said, “There are no smoke and mirrors and this administration had inherited a mess with the budget”. He recommends that teachers, union members, parents, and board members contact their representatives in congress and the senate, and the governor to express their discontent regarding funding.

He also reported that unsafe driving practices, including double parking and blocking driveways, around schools in Berkeley, would be subject to ticketing, and that these infractions fines were now doubled in school zones.

President Riddle

President Riddle reported that the school district received an award for the design work at BHS. She also mentioned that there was a 2 X 2 Committee Meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30am.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Motion: Directors Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote:
That the Consent Calendar be approved as a block except for Item 1.2-C
CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballots be pulled.

General Services

1.1-C Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

Approval of the acceptance of gifts/donations to the District and request staff to extend letter of thanks

Personnel Services

2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report #05-04

Reports details of personnel assignments, employment and terminations

Educational Services

3.1-C Overnight Field Trip Requests

Approval for overnight field trip(s) for students consistent with District policies and instructional programs

3.2-C Resolution 04-30: Approve Berkeley Albany YMCA Contract
Approval of Headstart contract between BUSD and YMCA to provide child care development services

3.3-C New Non-Public School Placements for Special Education Students
Approval of non-public school placement for students

3.4-C Adoption of Textbook
Approval of adoption of textbook "Economics: Principles in Action" 2005 edition

Business Services

4.1-C Approval of Contracts/Purchase Orders for Services Contracts
Approval to authorize the Purchasing Manager and Deputy Superintendent to execute contracts and purchase orders

4.2-C Franklin Adult School Construction Project
Approval of the Franklin Adult School Project as complete

ACTION ITEMS:

General Services

1.1-A Resolution in Support of Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Parade and Festival in San Francisco, CA

Motion: Student Director Dorman Colby/Director Doran and approved unanimously on voice vote: to approve the resolution in support of Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Parade and Festival in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, April 03, 2005

1.2-A Resolution Changing International Women's Day School Holiday to a School Day of Celebration and Education of Women

Motion: Directors Doran/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote: To approve the resolution Changing International Women's Day School Holiday to a School Day of Celebration and Education of Women

Personnel Services

2.1-A Berkeley Unified School District Proposal to the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees, AFT Local 6192, AFL-CIO (BCCE)

Motion: Directors Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote: To approve the District's response to BCEE's collective bargaining agreement proposal

Business Services

4.1-A 2004-2005 Revised First Interim Report

Motion: Student Director Dorman Colby/Director Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote: To accept the Certification of the First Interim Report, confirming that the District may not be able to meet its financial obligations for the current and subsequent two years without significant expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements

CONFERENCE

Educational Services

3.1-CF AHA Small Schools

Motion: Student Director Dorman Colby/Director Doran to approve the Arts and Humanities Academy Small School Proposal with an agreement from the Program to return at a later date with additional information that addressed Director Issel's concerns (listed under Board Comments). Director Issel abstained from voting.

AYES: President Riddle, Student Director Dorman Colby, Directors Doran, Rivera and Selawsky (4)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Director Issel (1)

BHS Principal, Jim Slep, presented the Board with the following key principles of the AHA Small Schools Program:

- High student achievement
- Everyone involved in decision making and listen to diverse points of view
- Build positive relationships
- Valuing diversity through commitment
- Create choices
- Commit to thinking, growing and learning

He stated that the Berkeley community is increasingly seeing BHS as a school that offers students a large variety of programs. He noted that the AHA and Academic Choice are very different, but are within set the guidelines. The AHA program can be viewed in its entirety at http://www.berkeley.k12.ca.us/SB/docs/bd_of_ed_feb_16_packet.pdf.

Board comments:

Director Selawsky was concerned with the lack of communication with the arts communities in our district and city. He stated that it behooves us to seek out and work with these various organizations in our community. He asked where music would be included in the program. The panel responded to him by saying, "the essential element would be to provide structure for meaningful relationships between teachers and students as a way to inspire greater student effort and to

insure improved student achievement”. He was concerned whether or not there were teachers credentialed in PE and the arts (dance as an example).

Director Rivera was concerned about the transition of 8th graders to high school and how to build the skills to succeed in high school. The panel said that the freshmen would be in core classes together and that they would be mentored by the sophomores in the classes they would have together.

He also asked how biology would fit into this program? The panel stated, pedagogically, they wanted to work with science, but there is only time for six courses a day, which doesn't leave time for the arts elective.

Director Issel asked the other board members to consider this presentation as a first reading and not to vote on it until concerns are addressed. She said some of her concerns were:

1. Lack of a reference in the plan to a long history of arts planning, including a grant that funded the development of a strategic plan for the arts. She said that she understood that the document had been finished, but it had not been presented to the Board. She asked for a review of these planning efforts along with a presentation to the Board of the strategic plan. This is needed to insure that the AHA efforts are aligned with the Board's strategic plan.
2. The plan is without articulation. We have a well-developed K-8 arts program and many high school level arts offerings at these sites both during school and in our after school programming. Before we proceed with a school of the arts at the high school, there needs to be an opportunity for our K-8 arts teachers to meet with the high school arts department. This is needed in order for us to insure an articulated curriculum in the arts.
3. Significant community partners, as well as the Superintendent's Committee, BAESC have been left out of the process. BAESC was initially convened by Susie Medak, Managing Director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Before we proceed with this proposal, BAESC should have the opportunity to review and comment on it. This is on order to honor their outgoing work, and benefit from their input and secure their support which is essential to the success of any school of the arts.
4. We are engaged in a district wide planning effort to identify the elements of a quality education. Before we proceed with this proposal, the issue of arts in education needs to be addressed by our strategic planning teams. This is to insure that attention will be given to the programming and resources needed to sustain a comprehensive and fully articulated K-12 arts curriculum for BUSD students.

Student Director Dorman-Colby asked what happens to students that need to take honors courses to get into universities. The panel said they would offer honors courses. She also asked what would happen if the numbers of students that enroll were too small or too large? How would they accommodate them? The panel said that they were confident they would have enough students and could adjust accordingly, that this is an issue in all of BHS small schools. She expressed her concerns about the organizational problems that have not been worked out. She said she would prefer not voting tonight. She also had concerns that students wouldn't be able to take electives that weren't arts based.

Superintendent Lawrence complimented the panel on their work. She reminded the Board that they had decided half of BHS would be small schools by the end of next year. That, she said, does not mean that we shouldn't take time to address the concerns that were brought up. She suggested that the panel and Board review the template for small schools. She reminded everyone that there would be reviews after the first and second years to enact changes, and by the third year there would be a decision whether or not the small school would continue. She also pointed out that this school has done exactly what they were asked: to create a small school.

Director Doran explained to Student Director Dorman-Colby that the point of small schools was to have classes that students were interested in. He also pointed out that this school was a grass roots effort from a group of people that wanted an arts school, not what the school board mandated. He would like to go forward and vote on the proposal. He wanted the panel to know that he was an art teacher at BHS for many years at BHS.

President Riddle stated that she had concerns about the funding for the teacher leader. She also had questions about the standard testing and how preparation for these tests will happen if the students don't have the classes in a timely manner.

3.2-CF Academic Choice

Motion: Director Rivera/President Riddle to approve the Academic Choice Program proposal for grades 9-12 at BHS. Director Doran abstained from voting.

AYES: President Riddle, Student Director Dorman-Colby, Directors Rivera and Issel (4)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Director Doran (1)

The Academic Choice Program has evolved since its inception in 2001, but this evolution has never been formally approved. In the fall of 2004 a committee of Academic Choice teachers, students and parents was formed to review the structure and intent of the program. Designated the Academic Choice Design

Team, committee members included 8 teachers, 6 parents, and 5 students. In addition to the selected team members, members of the BHS administration and Bay CES demonstrated their support for the success of the Academic Choice program by taking part in the weekly meetings. Berkeley High School students told the Board that AC alternatives were initially given because AP courses required testing. They noted that there are now many more minorities in the advanced placement courses due to AC. They also pointed out the capacity to help students depends a lot on getting financial support to hire tutors and that AC is one of the only programs to provide money for tutors. The AC Program can be viewed in its entirety at http://www.berkeley.k12.ca.us/SB/docs/bd_of_ed_feb_16_packet.pdf.

Board Comments:

Director Rivera stated that he supports this program and he will continue to do so. He said that he was impressed with the presentation.

Director Doran expressed his gratitude for the presentation and stated that the goal AC has expressed is the goal that he has always wanted for BHS. He also told the AC panel that he has to weigh in his mind whether or not this program leads to a better BHS or a better BHS for only some students. He said that tracking comes to mind when he thinks of these kinds of programs. Also, he expressed that he was having difficulty with the name of the program. He suggested maybe “College Prep” program. He felt that it was best for him to abstain from voting tonight. He had a concern that this isn’t a small school like the other small schools because it isn’t comprised of teachers and students that are the full range of BHS. To him, it exacerbated the inequalities in the system. He felt that this program protects a certain group of students from having to get an “average” teacher in their high school career. Some of the concerns he listed were:

1. Are academic choice classes available to juniors and seniors that did not participate in the freshman and sophomore academic choice program?
2. Will there be diversity in these classes?
3. How does academic choice change what is already being offered to the students?

Student Director Dorman Colby gave her support to this program and stated that she feels like it helps students of color and socio-economic challenged students feel welcomed. She expressed that she also had doubts that are similar to Director Doran’s, but that she was comfortable supporting this program at this time.

Director Selawsky stated that he was impressed with the proposal and that he thinks the discussion of rigorous academics was something that needed to be discussed. He noted that he trusts they are trying to diversify and that he will check that it is being done.

Director Issel thanked them for their presentation. She stated that she can see that the program allows those that want to, and can, reach for the top to do just that. She wished them every success and expects that they will meet with great success.

President Riddle stated that she liked the globalization theme of the program and that they were incorporating the requirement of the diversity.

INFORMATION

Personnel Services

2.1-I Employee Evaluation Report

Business Services

4.1-I Facilities Plan Update

4.2-I Report on Out of Zone Transportation

4.3-I Governor's State Budget and its Impact on BUSD

Motion: Director Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote: To move the Information Items to the next meeting.

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Tim Moellering, BHS baseball coach, asked the Board to direct their staff to provide at least one plan for East Campus that includes a regulation size baseball field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Schedule of Board of Education Meetings for 2005:

March 2
March 9
April 6
April 20
May 11
May 25
June 8
June 22
June 29
August 24
September 7
September 14
September 21
October 5
October 19

November 2
November 16
December 7- **organizational meeting**
December 14 - **tentative**

ADJOURNMENT

President Riddle declared the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2005 adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Secretary, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District