

Berkeley Unified School District
Board of Education Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2005
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

Unofficial Minutes

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: Reassignment of Categorically Funded Teachers
- Public Employment Appointment
- Liability Claims
- Property Acquisition

Call to Order of Public Session

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:41 p.m. All members were present at the time.

Report Closed Session Action

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

- Collective Bargaining
- Public Employment: The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of four (4) principals: **Janet Levenson, Cheryl Wilson, Gregory John, and Robert Ithurburn.**

Note: The Student Director does not vote on closed session items

Approve Agenda

Motion: Directors Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously that the regular meeting Agenda of May 25, 2005 is approved as amended:

Item 4.4-C is pulled for discussion

Teaching and Learning Presentation

Leading for Equity Program for Washington Middle School

Principal Rita Kimball and Kate Graves, Student/Family Coordinator talked to the Board about helping students “unlearn racism and prejudice. This presentation highlights their commitment to work towards solutions at a local level. Operating under the Collaborative Action Research for Equity (CARE) Program its focus is to promote the academic achievement of all of Washington’s students with a special emphasis on traditionally underperforming groups of Latino and African American students and to eliminate the racial predictability of academic success at Washington School and reduce the impact of institutional racism. Seminars, focus groups and coaching are strategies used to engage and challenge students.

Public Testimony

Several people gave testimony on the following issues:

- Willard Modernization
- Transportation Cuts
- East Campus and Derby Street

Union Reports

None

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Lawrence announced that a conceptual agreement between BUSD and BFT has been reached. She noted that this has been a difficult time for parents and the community and complimented the BFT negotiating team for its professionalism and integrity throughout a difficult process.

She also announced a tentative agreement with two classified Unions, with two unions left with which to negotiate. She explained that the agreements cannot be ratified by the Board of Education until they have been approved by the Alameda County Office of Education. In order to fulfill the terms of the agreement, certain staff cuts or a reduction in expenditures will have to be made.

Board Members’ Reports

Student Director Lily Dorman-Colby said she was happy about the agreement. No further comments.

Director Shirley Issel discussed the four proposals that have been submitted to CSBA for their annual Education Conference in December. Two of the proposals have been merged: Dr. Adelman from UCLA to present model on barriers to learning and Shirley’s involvement with the Berkeley Initiative for Youth. These will be presented in a two-hour clinic followed by a presentation on Proposition 63.

Vice President Terry Doran complemented the representatives of employee unions for doing such a fantastic job. He announced that the Mayor’s Award

Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 26 at the Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley. This ceremony awards 200 students from Berkeley Schools. Director Joaquin Rivera expressed his pleasure at the final wrap up of negotiations and reiterated the importance of the Mayor's Award ceremony. Director John Selawsky extended his congratulations for the BFT/District contract. He welcomed the new principals and noted that they are excellent choices. Director Selawsky commented on the plethora of graduations coming up with CAS starting off on May 30.

President Nancy Riddle spoke to the rumors regarding transportation cuts and layoffs of bus drivers. She explained that all eligible students will be able to ride the bus. The District may create savings by making small changes: consolidating bus stops, making changes in bell times, etc. No bus drivers will lose their job; however, layoff notices must be issued even if there is only a slight modification in hours. Reductions will be made in the following areas:

- Elimination of vacant vehicle and equipment
- Vacant bus driver position
- Small portions of time from 5 of the 23 drivers

President Riddle expressed appreciation to parents and to the community for their supports of the schools and the teachers. She also extended congratulations to the Berkeley Adult School for their six-year WASC accreditation.

President Riddle commented on three recent events she attended: the BTSA graduation (2nd year teachers), the CAS brunch that boasted parent/alumni community support and the Class of 2005 Award Ceremony at BHS.

President Riddle also mentioned the teachers' rally being held today in Sacramento and hopes it was vigorous and persuasive.

Consent Calendar

Motion: Directors Rivera/Doran and approved unanimously on vote that the Consent Calendar be approved as a block except for Item 4.4-C.

Item pulled from the Consent Calendar

Business Services

4.4-C Award the demolition bid for East Campus

Director Selawsky pulled this item for discussion because he has concerns about the removal of the redwood tree in the northeast corner of the site. His research has shown that for less than \$1000 the tree can be pinned, cabled and saved. He is unwilling to approve the project if the tree is cut down. Facilities Manager Lew Jones advised that removal of the tree is part of the demolition. Vice President Doran questioned whether we will lose part of the playing field if we keep the tree and asked if there were alternatives for placing another redwood tree elsewhere on the site.

Lew Jones proposed that removal of the tree be taken out of the demolition project. An independent study would be performed to determine options for the tree.

Moved: Selawsky/Rivera. Moved unanimously to award the bid as amended.

Action Items

Educational Services

3.1-A Recommendation for Professional Development Staffing in 2005-06

Neil Smith, Director of Instructional and Curriculum Services presented this report to the Board and is pleased to report that Measure B funds will take staff development one step further. Specific areas include support for new teachers; a position for K-8 staff development; coordination which includes special ed students; integration of efforts presently going on in the district – GLAD, DiME, literacy intervention for teachers; increase of coaching time for writing skills and part time positions at the high school level that go beyond subject area such as special ed inclusion, incorporating English Learners into the mainstream, teaching strategies and diversity issue. Neil has met with BHS Principal Jim Slemph to see that these areas fall in line with WASC accreditation plan. There will be more emphasis on the whole child project, the integration of lunch more fully into the school day i.e. nutrition, gardens and bridging that with students' experience in health and psychology. Additionally, there will be a push for additional training for principals. They are looking to MPR to learn more about data analysis, instructional leadership and are working with Noyce to address math issues.

Motion: Rivera/Selawsky and approved on vote. President Riddle abstained.

3.2-A Berkeley High School Site Plan

Vice Principal Matt Huxley presented the site plan to the Board. He started off by citing the three major findings from WASC: recognition of staff for hard work and student centered approach, recognized basic systems in place to serve students and reinforcement for course of action identified in WASC and professional development plan. The plan highlighted successes and pointed out areas needing focus.

Vice Principal Huxley informed the Board that BHS had applied to the Stanford Leadership Institute that takes place the Week of August 7. Superintendent Lawrence will be among those participating.

Director Issel offered an amendment to the plan. She appreciates the comprehensive nature of the document and suggests that a status column be added so it can be reviewed and determined if the task has been implemented, prioritized or postponed. Also noted that on page 68 of the report, task 5, improve Student Study Team process should be 05-06 instead of 06-07. Director Issel requested amendment on page 88 under "hip hop dance master class." Would like to strike African American citing it is not good to make racial specificities.

Superintendent Lawrence advised that Neil Smith will be speaking to the Board about changes in presenting site plans. She also complimented Matt Huxley for his hard work with WASC and staff development.

President Nancy Riddle proposed edits on page 54, no. 3: conflict of interest clause should not be spread across both committees. Roll back language to read: “the School Site Council and the BSEP Site Committee do not have conflict of interest in making budget decisions regarding their respective categorical school funds. No one sitting on either committee stands to benefit financially for any decision of their respective committees.”

Motion: Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously as amended

4.1-A East Campus

Facilities Manager Lew Jones and Lisa Pagnazzo led the discussion on the East Campus project.

Rivera/Doran and approved unanimously.

Information Items

4.1-I Governor’s May Revise

Deputy Superintendent Glenston Thompson gave a presentation on the Governor’s May Revise and its impact on BUSD.

4.2-I Facilities Plan Update

Board received the report for information

Action

Approval of Board meeting Minutes of May 11, 2005

Motion: Selawsky/Issel approved with corrections

Extended Public Testimony

There was no extended public testimony

Announcements

Calendar for meetings of the Board of Education:

June 8

June 22

June 29

August 24

September 7

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 May 25, 2005, adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Nancy Riddle, President
Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District