

**Notes from 2X2 Committee Meeting
September 16, 2005**

Attending: President Nancy Riddle (BUSD), VP Terry Doran (BUSD), Councilwoman Linda Maio (COB), Councilwoman Donna Spring (COB, by phone), Arrietta Chakos (COB), Julie Sinai (COB), Sandy Englund (COB), Chief Doug Hamblin (BPD), Neil Smith (BUSD), Lew Jones (BUSD)

Comments from Public:

Councilwoman Donna Spring (via phone) spoke about the warm water pool. She will send a letter to the BUSD asking that they add one million dollars to the fund to build it. Believes that BUSD has obligation under the American Disabilities Act to do it. Believes it is not appropriate to put money into Derby Street project before funding the pool. City Council has voted to put a million dollars into the existing fund of three million dollars.

Mel Martynn spoke about the rate of graduation of African American males which is historically far lower than for white males. He would like to see this issue be included in the agenda item on the 2005-06 School Year.

No other public comments.

Approval of notes from May 26, 2005:

Moved by Maio second by Doran. Approved without changes.

Overview of Berkeley's focus for 2005-06 school year:

Neil Smith distributed a document from Superintendent Lawrence with BUSD's priorities for this year and made a report on the District's major areas of focus. The detailed plans for student health, nutrition and academic success. He spoke about teacher training and early intervention programs.

Julie Sinai announced the receipt of a mental health grant prepared by a joint effort by the BUSD, COB and the Berkeley Allegiance, the BUSD will receive the mental health grant, and will work with the Alliance and the COB (press release attached).

Assistant Manager Arietta Chakos spoke about the death of Meleia Willis-Starbuck and the need for the City and BUSD to have a mutual interest in working towards a better understanding of the violence our community is seeing.

She also spoke about the progress on developing new MOU's around rentals/use of each others facilities.

Lew Jones, Director of Facilities and Construction, brought the group up to date on several facility projects including the West Campus. The District is looking at a first phase, without kitchen or maintenance department, focusing only on the educational facility & admin. There was additional discussion on Derby Street and the school Board's desire to look at various options including an open and a closed Derby project. There was also discussion about the warm water pool facility as well as the transportation facility on Gilman. Concern was expressed about the delays which created additional financial hardship for the District. Both Councilmember Linda Maio and the Mayor's office recognize the concerns.

Linda Maio also voiced concerns about drop off zones around schools and suggested better point planning to help reduce traffic issues.

Board President Nancy Riddle reported a successful school opening. Measure B of 2004 has brought over 50 great new teachers into the District. We look forward to sharing successes with the community, we are glad to have Eric Smith back as our Deputy Superintendent, a new Audit Committee made up of two board members and members of the community, better transparency in our financials, and long term plans continue to help District move forward in a positive state. We are still fragile financially, FCMAT has completed their three year observation, the Board has asked Superintendent Lawrence to continue to use the measurements to continue to improve even more, and we have new managers and resources in the District as well that will help us to improve. A question was asked of President Riddle regarding November ballot initiatives and she responded that we have many concerns about the Governor's ballot initiatives and have advocates working in Sacramento to make our concerns heard, through Board & Superintendents professional organizations; Superintendent Lawrence is in SAC today speaking out with other Superintendents; every effort should be made to protect public education.

Loss of Resource Officers:

With the loss of the fed grant, we are replacing the School Resource Officers with BUSD Safety Officer's. BPD said that we are seeing a great drop in safety issues these past couple of years, and see the need lessening. A lot of credit to Slemper for great success in bringing an end to many student violence issues at the high school. Willard is a test project to maximize resources now that the middle schools do not have SRO's. Beat officers around all three middle schools are developing a closer relationship with them until we can find funding for the SRO's again.

Riddle: we did vote to provide more Safety Officers for this year, but we really only have finances available to do it this year. Middle school principals are concerned about the long term.

Joint City Council, School Board Meeting:

Doran: I think that our joint efforts have been very beneficial, and though some of our meetings have been symbolic, many have been helpful. I believe that an annual or bi-annual joint meetings of total bodies would be great for showing our public face in working together.

Maio: some of those types of meetings have been uncomfortable, but they can be very useful.

Doran: I would like to see us meet in early 2006, February or March.

Maio: Can we leave the idea open until the Mayor can weigh in on it?

Spring: I would like the warm water pool on the agenda for that meeting.

Riddle: We also have to bring it back to our Board, and there could be varying opinions on this. The city strongly supports our schools, so I think it could be a positive.

No other items, next meeting scheduled for Dec. 9.