

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting
April 5, 2006
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 7:43 p.m.

On behalf of the Board of Education and Superintendent Lawrence, President Doran expressed condolences to the family of Adrian Gaines, father to several students in the district, who was killed on March 25. The meeting is to be adjourned in his honor.

Report on Closed Session Actions:

Four student discipline cases were heard:

Student Case No. 0506-28-010790: The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of a suspended expulsion

Student Case No. 0506-33-091192: The Board voted four to one to accept the recommendation for suspended expulsion with Director Riddle voting no

Student Case No. 0506-30-021290: The Board voted four to one to accept the recommendation for suspended expulsion with amendments with Director Selawsky voting no

Student Case No. 0506-32-091189: The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for stipulated suspended expulsion

The Board also discussed employee discipline issues and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for termination of an instructional aide and to accept the recommendation of a five-day suspension without pay for a clerical worker

Liability claims were reviewed and the Board voted unanimously to reject four liability claims. They concurred on settlement of a liability claim and settlement of a workers' comp claim.

Approve Agenda of April 5, 2006

Superintendent Lawrence pulled Item 4.1-A – Maintenance Reorganization Plan **Selawsky/Riddle** and approved unanimously as amended

Teaching and Learning Presentation

The presentation was from Oxford Elementary School. Joining Principal Janet Levenson were parent Andrea Lampros and teacher Rita Davies. The topic was Using Quick Reads for Reading Intervention. Quick Reads are short texts that support learning with high frequency words and phonic patterns needed to be a successful reader at a particular grade level. With topics in two subject areas: social science and studies, texts in the program encourage meaning and comprehension. In this way, curriculum embedded non-fiction texts are interesting for students and promote comprehension. With the help of many volunteers, this program will be launched at Oxford right after Spring Break.

Public Testimony

Alice LaPierre representing the City of Berkeley talked about the Green Expo day set for April 29 in Civic Center Park. This expo, in honor of Cesar Chavez, is a free event that offers a variety of recycling tools to clean up the home, earth, air and water.

Ann Graybeal of BCCE discussed specific items on the agenda: The layoffs associated with NCLB and the classified categorical layoffs.

Barry Fike of BFT also discussed agenda items.

Items 3.1-I – 3.3-I: Educational Workgroup reports on Visual/Performing Arts, Libraries and School Lunch Initiative

Neil Smith, Director of Curriculum Services; Suzanne McCulloch, After School Program Coordinator; Pete Doering, Director of Library Services; and Josie Gerst of the School Lunch Initiative were on hand to discuss these items.

The Board thanked the participants for their hard work in preparing these reports and noted that the lifelong learning components inherent in each report will extend far beyond the classroom. Director Issel commented that the visual

arts programs differ greatly from school to school and she would like to see a baseline program model at each school. Vice President Rivera expressed his frustration at the state's lack of support for these programs.

Reports

Superintendent Michele Lawrence congratulated Malcolm X for its distinguished school award.

Student Director Teal Miller. Teal announced that BHS leadership has been holding town hall meetings for each of the classes.

Director Nancy Riddle reappointed Avi Samuelson to the Youth Commission to finish out his senior year. She thanked Laurie Capetelli for hosting community meetings addressing some of the recent violence at teen parties.

Director John Selawsky had nothing to report.

Director Shirley Issel had nothing to report.

Vice President Joaquin Rivera had nothing to report.

President Doran had nothing to report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item 2.1-A – Human Resources Reorganization

President Doran noted an error on page 43: referenced in agenda item 4.3-A, should read referenced in agenda item 4.1-A.

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote.

Item 2.2-A – Elimination of Classified Categorical Programs

Selawsky/Rivera and approved on voice vote, with Student Director Miller abstaining

Item 2.3-A – Elimination of NCLB Non Compliant Paraprofessionals

Vice President Rivera informed the public that this action is being taken because we must adhere to NCLB requirements and not because the District has chosen to layoff these paraprofessionals.

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 2.4-A – Approval of part-time clerical position for student assignment office

Director Issel noted that no additional funding from the general fund is being used to pay for this position; in fact, there is a savings because of staff retirement.

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Item 1.1-CF – Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill 1983

Director Issel raised the question: why is supporting this bill a good idea? She believes it encourages students not to finish high school in a timely manner. Superintendent Lawrence advised that the bill was designed to support the individual child. After age 18, children in foster care are left to their own devices. This would allow them to continue their education, with support.

President Doran does not believe this legislation will encourage students not to complete high school. The Superintendent's office will contact Assemblywoman Karen Bass to find out the intention of her bill.

Doran/Rivera to table this item until the next Board meeting and approved unanimously on voice vote.

Item 3.1-CF – Board Policy on Visual/Performing Arts

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote for First Reading

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1.1-I – AR 6162.52

Received for information

Item 1.2-I – AR 6162.51

Received for information

Item 1.3-I – AR 6146.1

Received for information

Item 1.4-I – AR 6164.5

Received for information

Item 3.4-I – Site Plan Goals for 2006-09

Superintendent Lawrence explained that these goals will be in all school site plans and that there may be other goals that a particular school site wants to include. These goals represent a much more consistent approach as a district and makes sure each school is held accountable. Director Riddle wanted to know how these goals align with our performance goals. The Superintendent advised that the performance goals were being re evaluated as they do not reflect the quality of intent that we are asking our schools to support. At a Board meeting in May, the Board will see a list of how the schools are meeting their goals. Included in that report would be information on how our ESL students are doing. Director Riddle and Vice President Rivera again addressed the statement that 100% of our students would achieve a year's growth, and would like us to be more directive to the sites about closing the achievement gap. It was suggested that the statement be modified to say "at least a year's growth" and making a more aggressive statement about the Board's expectations around this statement because in order to get to grade level some students must make more than a year's growth. Director Issel also suggested that an absolute dual goal be added to say something like "reduce the number of students below grade level."

Item 3.5-I – API Rankings

Received for information

Item 3.6-I – SNOR Report

Received for information

Item 3.7-I – McKinney Grant

Received for information

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes of 3-8-06

Corrections: Student Director Miller: change last sentence in her report: from collecting “Pennies for Patients” to support leukemia to collecting “Pennies for Patients” to support leukemia research and treatment.

Director Issel: page 128: from data is wrong to “data as reported is overstated that year round schools can substantially decrease the achievement gap. She feels that supporting professional develop would provide more immediate improvements in student achievement.

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Minutes of 3-15-06

Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

Minutes of 3-22-06

Selawsky/Rivera and approved on voice vote, with Director Issel abstaining on approval of minutes

Extended public testimony

None

Public announcements

Meeting Adjournment:

President Doran adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m. in memory of Adrian Gaines.

ATTEST:

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Terry S. Doran, President
Board of Education

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education