

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting
April 19, 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 7:35 p.m.

Report on Closed Session Actions:

The Board considered the following recommendations for student expulsions:

Student Case No. 0506-34-070991 – This case was carried over to the next regular board meeting

Student Case No. 0506-35-021189 – The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to expel this student

Student Case No. 0506-36-011691 – The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to expel this student

The Board also considered two employee discipline matters:

They voted unanimously to terminate a classified employee

The recommendation for suspension of a certificated employee was continued until the next regular board meeting

Approve Agenda of April 19, 2006

President Doran requested that Item 3.1-I be moved and discussed after item 3.4-A in the interest of subject continuity

Superintendent Lawrence corrected two items on Item 4.1-C – Contract: No. 8 and No. 10 should indicate Title I Funds, not General Fund dollars

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously as amended

Teaching and Learning Presentation

Acting Principal Anita Baker and teacher David Rosenthal from Berkeley Arts Magnet discussed Arts in an Integrated Curriculum.

Public Testimony

There was an abundance of public testimony for support of 3.4-A – Proposal for a World Geography Course for 9th grade Academic Choice Students.

Union Report

Cathy Campbell, representing BFT, addressed the Board on the recent wage increases for district administrators and the funding of the District's Reserve Fund.

Reports

Superintendent Michele Lawrence congratulated Neil Smith on his position as Associate Superintendent of Educational Service. She then presented Judy Waters, President of Vista College. Ms. Waters informed the community that effective June 1, 2006, Vista College's new name will be Berkeley City College. Student Director Teal Miller reported on a recent informal dance held at BHS noting that it went well. She also announced that the town hall meetings are finished and that they were successful. The Junior Prom is slated for April 29. Student election applications are due on Friday and there is a meeting for interested candidates the same day in Conference Room B at the high school. Director Nancy Riddle welcomed students back from spring break. She also sent best wishes to administrators, teachers, and parents in the Oakland Unified who are in the midst of teacher negotiations.

Director John Selawsky also extended a welcome to Neil Smith. He announced that a major fundraiser for Berkeley Public Education Foundation (BPEF) will be held on Friday, May 5. He commented on remarks made by Cathy Campbell (BFT) about the District's Reserve Fund and the Board Policy on the agenda regarding charter schools.

Director Shirley Issel congratulated Neil Smith on his new position.

Vice President Joaquin Rivera replied to BFT's comments about compensation increases for administrators reiterating that the same increase was given to all employees; bargaining units chose different options.

President Terry Doran reported that Derby Street was on last night's City Council meeting. He congratulated the Council for its vote and welcomed the partnership between the District and the City. He advised the community that the City Council is working on a project to develop an anti-sweatshop ordinance and believes the District should join in on this international movement. He also

attended an important community forum on violence hosted by the City and BUSD.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION CALENDAR

Item 1.1-A BP – Visual/Performing Arts

Superintendent Lawrence requested that a word on page 56, second to last paragraph, second sentence, be changed from “shall” to “may.” This minor change would give the District the option of making this a Superintendent’s Committee as opposed to a committee under the Brown Act.

Selawsky/Issel and unanimously approved as amended

Item 3.1-A – AP Art History

Minor change to no. 8 and no. 11 in the course description: no. 8 is a spelling error and no. 11 the box should be checked “no.”

Riddle/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote as corrected

Item 3.2-A – AP Music Theory

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 3.3-A – Proposal for a World Geography Course

President Doran wanted the record to reflect that this course was not recommended by the Shared Governance Committee. There was lengthy commentary on this item. President Doran opposes approval based on his belief that the current freshman seminar course should be fixed, not thrown out and replaced with the item in question. Vice President Rivera commented that he thanks Principal Slep for having the courage to bring this course forward and believes it adds rigor and meets the need of the students in the AC program.

Rivera/Issel and approved on voice vote with President Doran voting No.

Item 3.4-A – Proposal for Advanced Creative Arts

President Doran wanted it noted that this course was recommended by Principal Jim Slep and the Shared Governance Committee.

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 3.1-I Data Presentation on CAS, CPA and the Comprehensive High School

This presentation was presented by Vice Principal, Matt Huxley and received for information by the Board.

ACTION ITEM

Item 3.5-A – 2006 Summer School Program

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Item 1.1-CF – BP – Charter Schools

This item was previously reviewed by the Board Policy Committee who opted not to revise.

Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously not to accept revision

Item 1.2-CF – BP – Parental Notifications

There was some discussion about adoption of this policy based on language included referencing the percentage of students to which it refers. Director Riddle chose not to support adoption of this policy. There was a motion made to refer this item to the Board Policy Subcommittee so they could review the language.

Rivera/Riddle and unanimously approved as modified.

Item 1.3-CF – BP - Complaints re Instructional Materials

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously for First Reading

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1.1-I – Administrative Regulation – Site Selection

There was discussion on how this Regulation, if updated, would affect some of our existing projects. Superintendent Lawrence said she would gather information and bring back at another meeting.

Item 4.1-I – Facilities Plan Update

Received for information

Item 4.2-I – Facilities Construction Plan Financial Update

Director Riddle would like an update on the drainage issues at Berkeley Alternative High School

Item 4.3-I – Accessibility Report

Received for information

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes of 4-5-06

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously to bring back at next Board meeting

Extended public testimony

None

Public announcements

None

Meeting Adjournment: 11:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terry S. Doran, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education