

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting
February 1, 2006
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

OFFICIAL 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.

Closed Session Actions:

Re student case no. 050619100488: voted to expel for school year
Riddle/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

Discussion of collective bargaining around certificated staff and gave staff authority to proceed with court action on a contract issue

President Doran asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Jerry Grigsby, a longtime volunteer at Berkeley High School and partner of Flora Russ at Community Partnership Academy. Jerry was supportive of BHS students for many years. Flora asks that any donations be made to the Community Partnership Academy.

President Doran also noted the passing of Coretta Scott King, the widow of the late Martin Luther King Jr. and a human rights activist.

Approve Agenda of February 1, 2006

Superintendent Lawrence had correction to Item 2.1-C, page 8: Delete the name of Andrew Brodie under Temporary Teacher category. This will be brought back at next Board meeting.

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

Teaching and Learning Presentation

The Teaching and Learning Presentation was from Berkeley Alternative High School, with Principal Victor Diaz, and teachers Kadhira Raja and Casey Hunt. They discussed the concepts they use to improve writing and math skills. Factors that propel this concept were highlighted: a clear curriculum plan with measurable objectives; an agenda that is displayed for students with simplification of concepts; an interesting teaching style that involves student/teacher interaction and often incentives; and collaboration with other teachers.

Principal Diaz also reported that passing scores for CAHSEE were 61% this year, as compared to 27% last year. The Alternative High School has cemented relationships with Vista College and many 10th graders are concurrently enrolled in college courses.

Public Testimony

Support was given for Berkeley High School's International School Proposal

One speaker commented on the process around the Derby Street Field

Reports

The Audit Committee was represented by Isaiah Roter and Laurie Snowden. Mr. Roter provided some background on the purpose of the Committee and Ms. Snowden discussed its findings.

Item 3.1-A – Berkeley International High School Proposal

Neil Smith, Director of Curriculum Services, Jim Slemper, BHS Principal, Rory Bled, Vice Principal and the BHS Design Team were on hand to present this proposal to the Board.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Board members about the positive and negative aspects of their proposal.

Student Director Miller had concerns about the limitations this program puts on electives.

Director Nancy Riddle expressed her appreciation for the parent/community meetings that have been held. She loves the global aspect of the program and the encouragement for students to take languages. She also praised the overall high expectations and is glad to see that African American studies are included.

However, she had trepidation about receiving a 40-page program over the weekend and not having ample time to digest the report. Further concerns are what she sees as a lack of choice for students. She also noted that the large increase in social science and history requirements can wreck havoc on student schedules.

Director Selawsky had similar concerns as Student Director Miller and Director Riddle. He does like the language and cultural curriculum, the African American studies courses and the strong writing component of this program. He feels he could support this proposal.

Director Issel had concerns about the number of varying answers to the question about student choice. She also gave her support to the proposal.

Vice President Rivera said the proposal has exciting concepts that will strengthen English and Social Science curriculum. Yet, he also had some of the concerns of Director Riddle and Student Director Miller, feeling, too, that the high school is moving away from choice.

President Doran told the Board that the decision should be based on common criteria, and that a school cannot be everything to everyone.

Superintendent Lawrence weighed in with her endorsement and approval of the proposal.

Student Director Miller and Director Riddle re-iterated their concerns before a vote was taken.

Vote to approve the Berkeley International High School Proposal

Issel/Selawsky and approved on voice vote

ROLL CALL:

Student Director Miller – abstain

Director Riddle – yea

Director Selawsky – yea

Director Issel – yea

Vice President Rivera – abstain

President Doran - yea

4.1-A – Audit Report

CBO, Eric Smith and Leonard Danna of VTD were on hand to respond to questions and provide comments about this report. Vice President Rivera thanked them for a clean audit saying that we seem to be moving in the right direction. Director Selawsky thanked the Audit Committee for its diligence as did Director Issel

Director Riddle asked Deputy Superintendent Smith for a supplemental schedule in the same format as the District's interim reports.

REPORTS

Superintendent Lawrence had nothing to report

Student Director Teal Miller announced that there were finals last week, and a Winter Ball held this past Saturday.

Director Nancy Riddle recently attended an ACSBA joint meeting with Contra Costa County where they discussed the achievement gap and the possibility of working together as a region to share ideas and information.

Director John Selawsky had nothing to report.

Director Shirley Issel attended the initial meeting of the Early Care and Education for All Planning Committee, an initiative convened to develop a common vision and goals for children from birth through age 5.

Vice President Joaquin Rivera had nothing to report

President Terry S. Doran announced the Superintendent's presentation of the state of the District, February 9, 6 p.m. at Malcolm X.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION CALENDAR

Request by Vice President Rivera to move Items 1.1-A through 1-13-A together as one unit

Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 2.1-I Employment of Certificated Employees with Credential Waiver

Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

INFORMATION ITEMS

Items 1.1-I through 1.3-I received for information

Item 2.1-I – Employee Evaluation Report

Director Issel voiced her concern about the low percentage rate of completed evaluations. Superintendent Lawrence said she would follow up with her Cabinet and see what can be done to get the District on track. Director Issel would like to know if more than 54% were completed but not reflected in this item.

Item 4.1-I Oral Report on Governor's Budget

Deputy Superintendent Eric Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2006-07 State of California Governor's Budget.

Issel/Rivera – motion to extend meeting until 11:30 p.m. and approved unanimously on voice vote

Additional Action Items:

Approve Minutes of 1-11-06

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Approve Minutes of 1-18-06
Riddle/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

Extended public testimony
None

No public announcements

President Doran adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Terry S. Doran, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education