

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting
March 8, 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 7:50 p.m.

President Doran acknowledged the celebrations and activities taking place to celebrate International Women's Day in the District.

Closed Session Actions:

The Board considered two student expulsions and voted unanimously on voice vote to accept the recommendations. The two students: Case Nos. 0506-20-082193 and 0506-21-012191 are expelled for two semesters and will be allowed to return to the District in the second semester of the 2006-07 school year pending review of their time in an alternative educational setting.

The Board discussed Collective Bargaining

The Board reviewed recommendations for disciplinary action against an instructional assistant and a custodian. They voted unanimously on voice vote to accept the recommendations.

The Board voted unanimously on voice to issue March 15 notices to a group of teachers who are now on temporary credentials in the District

Approve Agenda of March 8, 2006

Vice President Rivera requested Items 1.1-A and 3.1-A be moved to the Consent Calendar

Director Riddle would like to discuss Item 4.5-C and requested it be moved from the Consent Calendar to an Action item

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously as amended

Teaching and Learning Presentation

Presentation by Cheryl Chinn, Principal of Malcolm X with teachers Jennifer Adcock, Cynthia Allman, and Marilyn Hiratzka on using GLAD strategies to improve school wide goals of teaching and learning, improvement of school climate and educating the whole child

Public Testimony

Hank Silver spoke in support of the proposed ROP Fire Science Program at BHS Berkeley Fire Chief, Deborah Pryor, was on hand to thank the District for supporting this important program

Reports

Dan Lindheim, representing the P&O Committee, discussed Item 4.4.-A, Declaration of Fiscal Emergency

Ann Graybeal of BCCE, had comments about Item 2.2-I on NCLB Compliance

Item 3.1-I – Time on Task

Director of Curriculum, Neil Smith, was on hand to answer questions about this item. He discussed the recommended course of action outlined in the paper: The District should extend the K-12 school day; implementation of professional development programs; single-track, year round schooling; school sites continue to explore ways to use time more effectively. He gave some of the background on the Educational Workgroup's mission. The Superintendent charged the District with exploring initiatives that move the District forward and improve student achievement. The group has produced four papers on class size reduction, professional development, arts in education and time on task.

Board members expressed both concerns about and support for the suggested course of action. Vice President Rivera is concerned that after school programs are focused on babysitting rather than tackling homework. Director Issel stated she would not welcome year round school saying the data is wrong that year round schools can decrease the achievement gap. She feels that supporting professional development would provide immediate gratification. Conversely,

President Doran fully supports year round schools and believes we can get positive changes from major changes.

Item 3.3-I – Small Schools Lottery

BHS Vice Principal, Matt Huxley, was on hand for this item. There was a length discussion among Board members about the efficiency of the lottery process. Some believe the process is confusing. Superintendent Lawrence asked Vice Principal Huxley to send copies of the forms used to Board members and Director Issel requested review of the Board policy on small schools.

President Doran gave his report since BHS’s librarian, Ellie Goldstein, was in the audience with renowned cartoonist, Morrie Turner, author of the cartoon series, Wee Pals. Morrie is a 1942 BHS grad and a member of BHS’s Hall of Fame.

Item 4.2-A – Actuary Report

Deputy Superintendent Eric Smith and Timothy Perr were available for review of this report. The District’s self-insured workers’ comp program requires us to have an actuarial study.

Rivera/Riddle and approved rate for FY 06-07 unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.3-A – BAM Landscape

Lew Jones, Director of Facilities and Jeff Miller, Landscape Architect, discussed the content of this item with the Board. Concerns were raised about having safeguards in place to prevent vandalism and ensure safety. Student Director Miller and Director Selawsky had comments about the facility being available for community use.

Selawsky/Riddle and approved schematic design unanimously on voice vote

REPORTS

Superintendent Michele Lawrence acknowledged the Week of the School Administrator Resolution on this Board agenda celebrated during the week of March 6-10 emphasizing that she is honored to work with such dedicated administrators. She also reported on the recent meeting around the proposed parcel tax and advised the Board that she would be collecting information so they can make a determination if they wish to proceed with the proposed measure.

Student Director Teal Miller reported that BHS had its incoming freshman night and it was a success. She also reported on the high standards being set by a number of BHS athletic teams. She shared that student leadership at the high school has been collecting “Pennies for Patients” to support leukemia.

Director Nancy Riddle acknowledged March is Arts month which is being observed throughout the District. She attended an independent theatre production put on by BHS and a fund raising symphony for music programs in our elementary schools. She and Director Issel are proud graduates of the Masters in Governance Program that equips board members and superintendents with the necessary knowledge and skills to support an effective

governance structure. Finally, she expressed condolences to the family of student Keith Stevens, who was murdered on February 19.

Director John Selawsky has recently visited Rosa Parks, LeConte, Independent studies and the Alternative high school noting he is impressed with the strides being made at Rosa Parks. He reminded the community about DEAR Day scheduled for March 19. This is a day when the community reads to elementary and middle school students. He also acknowledged March is Arts month and invited the community to attend BHS's exhibit at the Berkeley Arts Center from now through April 1.

Director Shirley Issel announced the Resource Fair being held on March 18 at LeConte. The fair will have a variety of resources available such as child care, summer programs and health issues. Director Issel recently attended the SARB panel and is impressed with the good results being achieved from the use of intervention. She also attended the Support Team meeting for 9th graders and shared that they too are seeing positive results from interventions related to attendance.

Director Issel attended the Mayor's Task Force on Health and sees it as a wonderful resource for partnering and networking. Finally, she and Director Selawsky attended the first meeting of the BSEP Parent Outreach Committee.

Vice President Joaquin Rivera had nothing to report.

President Terry S. Doran had nothing to report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 4.-5- pulled for discussion; Items 1.1-A and 3.1-A moved to Consent **Selawsky/Rivera** and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Item 4.5-C –

Director Nancy Riddle had comments that would clarify this item for the public. This item is presented to establish tax rate increase for various parcel taxes. The District chose the lower rate in an effort to be responsible with taxpayer monies.

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item 4.1-A – Surplus Property – 6th Street

Director Issel asked that the staff recommendation be re-worded to ensure that the Committee will consider both the Hilltop and 6th Street properties.

Superintendent Lawrence advised that her comments would be conveyed to the Committee.

Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.4-A – Declaration of Fiscal Emergency

Director Riddle provided background information on this item. This came about with the 1994 BSEP Measure when the District was in a difficult state of affairs financially. The General Fund, naked of Measure B funds cannot

provide staffing outlined in the measure. This is not because the District is in fiscal distress.

Issel/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote

Riddle/Selawsky to extend meeting until completion of the agenda and approved unanimously on voice vote

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Item 1.1-CF – BP – High School Exit Exam

Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to move to First Reading

Item 1.2-CF – BP – Standardized Testing

Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to move to First Reading

Item 1.3-CF – BP – High School Graduation Requirements

Vice President Rivera expressed concern that this policy still lists Ethnic Studies and Social Living Courses when they no longer exist saying the policy has not kept pace with reality. He asked that it be reviewed. Superintendent Lawrence will follow up.

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to move to First Reading

Item 1.4-CF – BP – Student Success Teams

There was discussion about creating another policy to address student attendance at each site. Superintendent Lawrence suggested that this would not be a viable solution and that this function should be in the Student Success Team policy which could be modified to reflect Director Issel's concerns. She will speak with Lisa Warhuus and Steve Port and get their input.

Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to move to First Reading

Item 3.1-CF – Textbook Adoption

Selawsky/Rivera and approved unanimously on voice vote to adopt the geometry textbook.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 1.1-I – Administrative Regulation – Williams/Types of Complaints

At the request of Director Issel, items will be added to our Performance Indicators so we can monitor, per Williams guidelines, complaints received.

Item 2.1-I – NCLB Compliance

Tina Brier, Director of Classified Personnel, was available for questions. Superintendent Lawrence said that our options are limited. If employees are not in compliance, we are bound by law to lay them off. Director Selawsky informed the community that employees will be losing jobs because of the NCLB Act, not because of the District. President Doran noted that this is an example of school districts losing local control

Item 3.1-I – Enrollment Projections – 06-07

Francisco Martinez was on hand to clarify report and answer any questions.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM:

Minutes of February 15, 2006

Rivera/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Extended public testimony

None

No public announcements

President Doran adjourned the meeting at 11:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Terry S. Doran, President
Board of Education

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education