

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, October 27, 2010
Berkeley Unified School District
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley CA 94704

Roll Call 6:00pm

Members Present:

Karen Hemphill, President
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President
John T. Selawsky, Director /Clerk
Shirley Issel, Director
Nancy Riddle, Director
Lias Djili, Student Director

Administration: Superintendent William Huyett, Secretary
Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent
Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Educational
Services
Delia Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent of Human
Resources

President Hemphill called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

Consideration of Student Expulsions
Student Case No. 1001-05-090703

Selawsky/Riddle and approved 5-0 unanimously to a stipulated
suspension

The Board heard Claim No. IN0003

Riddle/Selawsky and approved 5 -0 unanimously to accept claim

The Board discussed Human Resource issues and received updates.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

President Hemphill pulled item 4.5-C

4.1-A moved to consent

2.1-A pulled and moved to later date

Riddle/Selawsky and approved on a vote of 5-0

RECOGNITION

Janet Huseby, Volunteer Coordinator and Irma Parker and Leticia Amezcua, Home-School Liaisons at Berkeley High School

Mr. Huyett expressed gratitude for work being done with parents. The 2020 Vision Plan calls for more parent outreach. We are very excited about the staffing and the work they are doing. Their work is critical.

Ms. Parker has been working for BUSD for 11 years. She started as a volunteer in 1998. Ms. Parker stated, “when I got the call to be recognized, I felt as if I am just doing my job. We do all we can to serve our community.” Ms. Amezcua stated how happy she is to be at Berkeley High to be a voice for parents.

Teaching and Learning

Music in the Middle Schools, Suzanne McCulloch , Program Supervisor, Visual and Performing Arts presented along with Amy Rosenbaum, Nancy Boyles and Michael Hammonds.

The enrollment in middle school music programs is steadily increasing. There are currently 662 middle school students enrolled (34% of 6th to 8th graders) in music programs. Middle school music programs are either 0 period or offered after school. Berkeley High School has 124 students enrolled in either orchestra or band. The District Music Department is encouraged that the high rate of middle school enrollment will increase future enrollment at the high school.

Director Issel inquired as to what contributed to the increased enrollment. Ms. McCulloch attributed it to the success of music programs at the 4th and 5th grade level. The students are having positive experiences. Families are encouraging their students to continue. Mr. Huyett encouraged the District to keep the music program growing.

Public Testimony

Charles O’Neil, a tutor at BHS, spoke. “When you tutor English and you are working on essays, so many personal matters come forward (family issues). He became aware of the drug situation in the schools. It is a prevalent problem in the schools. He became a member of Coalition of a Drug Free California. He is focused on Bay Area youth and the usage of marijuana. His students write drug prevention essays and these essays will be put into a book to be distributed to the community.”

UNION REPORT

Paula Phillips of BCCE, complained about the bullying and mobbing of BCCE members. BCCE requested that business be done in a less intimidating manner. BUSD is a Merit District. The Merit Rules govern our personnel processes. All classified vacancies are to be filled following the rules. BCCE has concerns about the District not following the Merit rules and Human Resources violating Merit rules in classified placements.

Board's Report

Lias Djili: Spirit week at BHS has been very exciting. Many seniors are engaged in making their college choice decisions and taking SAT prep courses.

Shirley Issel: Wanted to alert the Board to rumors that the City is considering the possibility of closing its Mental Health Department. It is considering the option of returning this responsibility back to the County. Director Issel questioned what would be the potential impact to the District and to our students?

John Selawsky: Wanted to remind people to please vote on November 2nd. Director Selawsky wanted to draw attention to the initiatives on the ballot. Our local school bonds, Measures H & I, are on the ballot. The bond covers almost all of our maintenance. If they do not pass, the money will have to come out of the General fund and will impact our classrooms. Measure I covers a lot of projects. It is important that it passes.

Nancy Riddle: Prop 19. School Boards are against it. CSBA has had a difficult year. They are doing an overall assessment of their goals. There is a election for the Superintendent of Education for the State of California.

Vice-President Leyva-Cutler: Attended the PTCA meeting. Many students and parents have concerns about drug and alcohol usage in our community and schools. Parents want to know what our District is doing to address this problem. What happens when schools find students in possession of alcohol? Are they sent home with a suspension or do we keep them in supervised suspension? Vice-President Leyva-Cutler congratulated Dharni Rasiah, teacher at Berkeley High School, for the national award she is receiving for her work on the Jacket.

President Hemphill: Encouraged Berkeley voters to vote on Measures H & I. "We just had some unfortunate violence break out in our community. The two men attacked are fathers of children in our District.

One of the fathers has passed and the other critically injured. Our District is taking some steps to provide counseling to students and staff.”

Superintendent’s Report

The community violence directly affected five schools in the District. We also had a bus drive by the scene. We were able to reroute other buses. The incident was very disturbing for our students. We all need to work together to help the community to stop the cycle of violence between North Oakland and South Berkeley.

The Secondary Redesign Team has been working on visiting schools to review potential career technical options to include visits to BHS, BTEch and Napa. Future visits are scheduled to San Jose and Sacramento. It is exciting work. The Redesign Team will prepare a plan this winter to present to the Board. We do not currently have a complete, comprehensive career technical education program. Our program at BTEch does not offer career technical training. We have some work to do in this area. We have to think about all of our kids and provide career technical opportunities. The staff at BTEch is the true strength of the school. Mr. Huyett encouraged the Board to visit the school. The students really commented on the staff and how much support they provide. The students at BTEch attend a full day of school. We need to provide BTEch students a tie to post secondary education.

“We are excited about the work we are doing with 2020. We have completed five sessions with WestEd. We are going to use results oriented planning.” Mr. Huyett encouraged people to vote for school board candidates and for Measures H & I.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

To include 4.1-A

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously 5-0

4.5-C pulled by President Hemphill

Jefferson has a Bears program and a non-profit after- school program (Voyagers). They are looking for a fiscal agent to oversee operations for the Voyagers program. Jefferson does not operate a LEARNS program. Jefferson was not included in the original LEARNS grant.

Superintendent Huyett informed the Board that Maggie Riddle and LEARNS will oversee the program. Approving the new fiscal agent allows us to continue the program.

Selawsky/Issel and approved unanimously 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

2.1-A Appointment of Personnel Commissioner

Pulled and moved to a later date (November 3, 2010)

3.1-A District Goals for 2010-13

Issel/Hemphill and approved unanimously with changes 5-0

4.1-A Resolution No. 11-19 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
TRANS 2010

Moved to consent

INFORMATION ITEMS

8:15 PM Open public hearing on Item 3.1-I

Application from Marcus Garvey Charter School

Public hearing opened at 8:24

President Hemphill stated a staff recommendation would be made on November 10th. No action will be taken this evening.

Nedar Bey, charter petitioner, spoke. "Berkeley Charter Academy will follow the design of the American Indian model. Students that attend our schools will have double the math and language arts of other schools. We have a great track record."

Close public hearing at 8:29

3.1-I Application from Marcus Garvey Charter School Inc.
Received for information

4.1-I Information on the Governor's Budget
Received for information

Report presented by Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent.

- Revenue Limit reduction included in May Revision was eliminated
- Negative cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of .38% neutralized
- \$1.7 billion in cash deferred from State of California to Districts
- District will receive portion of mandated cost reimbursement that has been deferred for years
- Budget eliminates State's obligation to pay for the Behavioral Intervention Mandate and the Science Graduation mandates
- Special Education will benefit from the reverse of negative .38% COLA
- Budget provides funding to pay County for past claims for providing mandated mental health- but nothing for 2010-11 claims
- District will receive a portion of its mandate reimbursement which has been deferred for years
 - State allocated \$210 million to pay prior -year claims on a

per ADA basis to all K-12 Districts. Districts that have not filed claims will also receive this per ADA allocation.

- Estimated per ADA allocation is \$28 which amounts to \$245,000 for BUSD. Oldest Claims to be paid first with balance continuing to be deferred. Total amount claimed and not received (except GR claims) is \$828,815.
 - State allocated \$81 million for current mandates for District's who have filed. It is not yet known how much this will be and when we will receive it.
 - There are provisions in Budget that attempt to void reimbursement for two mandates – Behavioral Intervention Plans and Science Graduation Requirements. BUSD would not receive \$3.6 million for GR Claims submitted for period of 2002-03 to 2008-09.
- Child Development Funds – funding restored for licensed care providers
 - The May revision proposal to eliminate Cal Works including related child care programs was overturned
 - As a result the number of state-funded child care slots remains unchanged from 2009-10 levels
 - The budget eliminates Cal Works stage III funding. Therefore, families will only receive funding up to 24 months.
 - SB 1381 changes the date for students starting kindergarten-A child must reach age five on or before:
 - December 2 for the 2011-12 School Year
 - November 1 for the 2012-13 School Year
 - October 1 for the 2013-14 School Year
 - September 1 for the 2014-15 School Year and each school year thereafter
 - Requires school districts to offer transitional kindergarten program which is phased in over three years beginning in 2012-13
 - Defines transitional kindergarten as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program
 - Uses curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate

5.1-I Facilities Plan Update

Received for information

Monthly report presented by Lew Jones, Director of Facilities.

- A number of new projects were approved by the Board on September 22, 2010 and appeared for the first time on this month's report.
- If Measure I is approved on November 2, 2010, it will allow the District to apply for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB).

- If the District is successful in our application for (QSCB), it will reduce the burden to tax payers.

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

President Hemphill adjourned the meeting at 10:46 pm

Clerk
Board of Education

