

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 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 (excused absence)

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 7:40 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

The Board heard Claim No. IN1346, IN1350 and IN1343

Claim No. IN1346

Selawsky/Issel and a vote of 5-0 to reject the claim

Claim No. IN1350

Selawsky/Issel and a vote of 5-0 to reject the claim

Claim No IN1343

Selawsky/Issel and a vote of 5-0 to accept the claim

The Board discussed Human Resource issues and received updates.

Classified Employee Discipline

Selawsky/Leyva-Cutler and a vote of 5-0 to reschedule the hearing for a classified employee on December 8, 2010.

Hemphill/Leyva-Cutler and a vote of 5-0 to declare a classified employee rehabilitated and fit for duty for five years.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

4.5C pulled by President Hemphill from consent

4.9C pulled by Director Issel from consent

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

RECOGNITION

Citizen Committee Working to Approve Measures H and I:

Eric Weaver (chair), Cathy Campbell (chair), Larry Gordon, Monica Thyberg, Lew Jones, Arturo Taboada, John Dalrymple, Lars Skjerpung, Stephanie Allan, Bill Savidge and Jay Nitschke. Superintendent Huyett acknowledged the group. “This group did a huge amount of work, but the District has done much work to keep up the facilities since 1982. Berkeley took a gamble and now it is a blue chip investment. The community knows this is good use of their money.”

Teaching and Learning

Teacher College Reading and Writing Project, Kristin Collins, Principal, Berkeley Arts Magnet. “The literacy coaches are in the classrooms with the teachers. Teachers are engaged at all times helping students to find a ‘just right book.’ We have lots of books to read. We are building strategies for the kids to use. The kids are so excited about reading. We are going to need books. Thank you for supporting our literacy coaches and professional development opportunities.”

Public Testimony

Joaquin Rivera, Alameda County Board of Education, “I would like to thank Berkeley residents for voting me to this new position and for their support of Measures H & I. Thank you to this Board and previous Boards for managing the bond monies well. I am here to say good-bye to two board members who have served on the board for many years. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to all Berkeley students.” Mr. Rivera presented Director Issel and Riddle with a Public Education Service Award for their years of service to BUSD.

Parents and students from Longfellow Middle School spoke in support of the intramural boys basketball coach that works with the after school program.

A grandparent of a Longfellow Middle School student spoke of the need to support special education students that are hearing impaired.

Committees

The Planning and Oversight committee read a statement requesting participation on the interview panel for the BSEP Manager position.

UNION REPORT

Cathy Campbell, BFT President, “thank you to the community for passing Measures H & I. I want to say what a fabulous presentation from BAM. It was a courageous decision to go down that path. Members are over the moon. The kids are reading. Even the kindergartners are reading. I know it was a huge commitment.”

“Thank you to Nancy for being the defender of citizen oversight and accountability. Nancy played a key role in returning our District to fiscal health. Shirley has been a passionate advocate for the whole child in a time when our country is not going down that path. Shirley has been a defender of the arts and mental health services. Thank you for asking hard questions and your work on the measures and the by-laws. Both of you have set high standards and expectations.”

Board’s Report

Shirley Issel: “Thank you for all the kind comments. When I ran for election in 1998, I had no idea how bad it was. We had so much work to do. I am most proud of: maintenance parcel tax in 2000, improvements in Student Service, ULSS- weaving together resources to help our students, emergency preparedness and delivering healthy food choices to our students. We rewrote our Board policy manual and new School Site Council by-laws at our High School. I am pleased with the adoption of the new Mission, Vision, Value and Goals. For the past four years, we have focused on teaching and learning and student achievement. We have made gains in the past year. The District is in great hands. I am confident in your leadership. This is one of the most gratifying experiences in my career. Thank you for the opportunity.”

John Selawsky: “I want to thank the voters for passing Measures H & I and the people that worked on the campaign. Thank you to Shirley and Nancy for the work they have done on the Board. They have set high standards and expectations. They have made me a better Board member. I appreciate the work we have done together. Thank you for making this a strong Board.”

Nancy Riddle: “It is an honor to serve in public office and to work in this District. It is an honor to give back. I want to use the same civic energy in the area of public finance. I am sure I will be back in some respect. I think I am leaving things better than when I started. My favorite work was on the Student Assignment Plan subcommittee.”

Vice-President Leyva-Cutler: “I want to thank Nancy and Shirley for their leadership and integrity. I appreciate their ability to disagree, but to still come to an agreement. Thank you for the many years you have dedicated to Berkeley.”

President Hemphill: “I learned a lot during the four years from both Nancy and Shirley. I learned what it means to be committed to open and transparent government. We have not always agreed, but we are all coming from a good and positive place. We can achieve great things when we listen to each other. You are leaving a District with a balanced budget and with academic achievement. You have much to be proud of.”

Superintendent’s Report

There is a reception at the next Board meeting on December 8th from 4:00-5:30. We will honor Shirley and Nancy and will welcome our new Board members. “Great Boards happen when they have tenure. We are losing 20 years of tenure between the two of them. Their expertise has been a great benefit to the District.”

With the refunding of childcare, we will be adding one preschool section at Hopkins and five BEARS classes will be reestablished. There is a need to have a new job description for the BSEP manager.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Riddle/Issel and approved unanimously 5-0
4.5C

Hemphill/Riddle and approved unanimously 5-0
4.9C

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

3.1-A Petition from Marcus Garvey Charter School Inc.
Staff’s Recommendation is to not approve the Charter. Superintendent Huyett addressed the Board, “the Charter does not meet 4 of the 5 components. It is a copy cat of the same petition given to San Jose. It is an indoctrination program using embarrassment as a disciplinary measure. The proposal did not target the needs of our community. It did not address second language needs at all. It also did not address how they would provide special education services. Their standards were very low or nonexistent.” Superintendent Huyett addressed the public, “If you are going to do a Charter, make a consciences effort. Bring it forward meeting the State standards. You are wasting tax payer’s money. We may have spent \$5000-\$10,000 reviewing it. Have it together before you apply to BUSD.”

Leyva-Cutler/Issel Motion to accept staff recommendation to deny the petition.

5-0 and approved staff recommendation unanimously 5-0

4.1-A Approval of Recommendation to Restore Some Budget Cuts for 2010-11

Riddle/Selawsky and approved staff recommendation unanimously 5-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

3.1-I School Governance Council Diversity Report
Received for information.

Director Riddle indicated that she would like to see the ELAC membership separated from the SCG report. The goal in monitoring the diversity of membership was particular to SGCs.

Monica Thyberg, BSEP manager, suggested that the performance indicator be moved to December. Some of the committees were not fully formed when the report was created.

3.2-I Report on California Healthy Kids Survey
Report received for information

- CHKS is given every 2 years in conjunction with the CA Department of Education.
- CHKS is administered in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11.
- Only grade 5 participation requires active parent consent.
- Provides information to facilitate early intervention; delaying the onset of risk behaviors reduces the level of involvement and related problems.
- CHKS data is used widely by many public agencies including the City of Berkeley's Public Health Department
- Goals of CHKS are to:
 - Reduce risky behaviors
 - Help school districts to identify areas for intervention
 - Promote learning
 - Promote health programs
- CHKS focuses on:
 - Substance use
 - Violence
 - Safety
 - School Assets

Summary:

- ATOD use increases from grade 5 to 11
- BUSD's rates of marijuana use in the last 30 days are considerably higher than both the State and the Nation.

- BUSD 9th and 11th graders' reported rates of being high on drugs are considerably higher than the State.
- At grades 9 and 11, BUSD students reported rates of being drunk or high on school property were double the rates of both the State and the Nation.
- BUSD students reported higher consumption of alcohol than the State in grades 9 and 11 but lower rates than the Nation in both grades.
- BUSD students reported lower cigarette use rates than the State and the Nation at all grade levels.
- Students in grade 9 reported higher rates of bullying/ harassment than the State.
- More than 50% of students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reported feeling safe at school.
- BUSD students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reported higher levels of total assets at school than the State.

Conclusion:

- Areas of greatest concern:
 - Marijuana and alcohol use in all grades
 - Students under the influence of ATOD on campus at the high school level
 - Bullying/ harassment in grades 7, 9, and 11
 - Reported weapons on campus
- Areas of strength:
 - Students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reported lower rates of cigarette use than the State.
 - Students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11 reported higher levels of total assets than the State.
 - The percentage of students who report feeling safe at school is higher than the State at every level.
 - CHKS participation rates have improved in grades 7, 9, and 11. BUSD will focus on improving participation in grade 5.

Dr. Susan Craig, Director of Student Services, presented an overview of the results. The report compared the results to past surveys and to results across the state and nation. "Our students report a higher rate of Marijuana usage and a lower rate of tobacco usage than the rest of the state and nation. Our students have a higher rate of drug use than in the state."

Director Selawsky: "There were some slight improvements in some areas. The student reports of being high or drunk on school property needs to be addressed. Self identification as a gang member seems high to me and should be a concern."

Director Issel: “I do think we are getting more reliable reporting. I think our kids would be responsive to drug and alcohol education in the same way they have been with tobacco.”

Director Leyva-Cutler: “These are all of concern. How are students looking at this report? How are the parents looking at it? There is a great need in our community to talk about it. As they get older the usage increases. I am equally concerned about the drinking on campus. What is the city doing to help us address the concerns? What are we going to do with this information?”

Dr. Craig: “We adopted a curriculum, *Project Alert*, and we are going to be training Science and PE teachers at the Middle Schools.”

President Hemphill: “The Parent Outreach Office can do some work in this area. Parents need to know what resources are there. Teachers need to be trained on how to identify if students are drunk or high in the classroom and how to refer the student to a place for intervention. The Board would like regular updates on what has been implemented. There is good news relating to safety and violence in our schools. For us to be an urban school district, we have a below average rate. It is something we can build upon.

Superintendent Huyett: “We need to recognize that this is a big problem for our school district and our community. The low use of tobacco is because Berkeley has a high degree of health. The use of marijuana is also a community problem. The rate of our kids high at school is just unacceptable. We do use the health center and other disciplinary actions. I commend Susan for getting the Middle School programs up and running. That is were the values are formed.”

4.1-I 45 Day Revise to the California State Budget
Received for information

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM

Approve Minutes of October 13, 2010

Leyva-Cutler/Riddle and approved unanimously 4-0

Hemphill abstained

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

President Hemphill adjourned the meeting at 10:30 pm in memory of Malik Grayson.

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education

