

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD UPDATES

BUSD *Board Updates* provides highlights of Board Meetings and other Board activities

Note: Board Packets & associated documents are available at our website and all Berkeley public libraries

At the board meeting on January 13, 2010 the Board discussed the following items:

Report on Closed Session:

The Board held Expulsion Hearings for four students: Case No. 0919-10-070797: Expulsion through November 16, 2009, with Suspended Expulsion for the Fall 2010 semester; Case No. 0910-13-020894: Suspended Expulsion for the current and fall semesters, requiring anger management counseling and Stipulated Suspended Expulsion for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year in Case No. 0910-11-011500: and Case No. 0910-12-081093. The Board discussed Public Employee Evaluation of the Superintendent with no action and approved Public Employment/Appointment of Ardarius McDonald as Dean of Students at Berkeley High School. Mr. McDonald is currently the Intervention Coordinator at Berkeley High School. The Board also discussed the disposition of Hillside School and directed staff to prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the selection of a commercial realtor. No action was taken.

Teaching and Learning Presentation:

Zach Pless, Program Supervisor of the BEARS Extended Learning Program gave a presentation on the impact that BEARS summer program has had in providing a structured learning environment for the low income students whom the program serves, while providing a combination of fun programs and field trips so that these students enjoy summer activities similar to classmates who have greater exposure to travel and activities during the summer.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board approved the agenda with Director Riddle recusing herself from Action Item 5.1-A Approval of Yearly Facilities Plan because of the proximity of her residence to one of the schools being discussed, and pulled Consent Item 4.3-C Elimination of Lunch Charge for Reduced Price Meals for discussion. **All Consent Items were approved.**

Action Items

1.1-A Approval of Board Representatives to Brown Act Committees

The Board approved their appointments to Brown Act Committees and Community Advisory Commissions. The Board is currently looking for applicants for all of these groups. The Board will conduct interviews for the City of Berkeley's Youth Commission before the scheduled Board meeting on February 3rd. **

1.2-A Approval of Boards Adopt-a-School Assignments

The Board approved their individual "Adopt-a-School" assignments. The Board does this in order to provide schools with a direct communication link to the Board, and to insure that the Board is well represented at school functions/celebrations.

Board Adopt-a-School Assignments:

Director Nancy Riddle: John Muir; Le Conte; Cragmont; King

President Karen Hemphill: Longfellow; Washington; Malcolm X

Director John T. Selawsky: Berkeley Adult; Willard; Berkeley Arts Magnet

Vice President Beatriz Leyva-Cutler: Berkeley High; B-Tech Academy; Rosa Parks Elementary; Early Childhood Development

Director Shirley Issel: Jefferson; Emerson; Thousand Oaks; Oxford

2.1-A Elimination of Clerical Specialist Position

The Board approved the elimination of a Clerical Specialist Position in the Extended Learning program. **

5.1-A Approval of Yearly Facilities Plan

The Board approved changes to the Facilities Plan they had requested on December 9, 2009, when they directed staff to study nine potential changes to the existing plan and bring these recommendations back to the Board. **

Information Items

3.1-I Proposed Charter School

8:15PM Public Hearing on Item 3.1-I

The Board opened the Public Hearing as required whenever the District receives a Charter School Proposal. The Board has received two proposals for REALM Charter Schools for secondary education (one middle school and one for high school). The regular meeting was closed and the Public Hearing opened at 8:30 p.m. There were a number of comments from both sides of the issue. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:55 p.m. Staff will review the proposals and present a report to the Board. The item will come back to the Board for consideration on February 3, 2010. Both proposals as well as a legal guideline/checklist on the procedures for a Board to follow when a charter

school proposal is received are available for review on the District website:
www.berkeley.k12.ca.us

3.2-I Improvement Plan Addendum for Title III

The Board received the Title III Local Education Agency (LEA) Improvement Plan Addendum for information. The Berkeley Unified School District has failed to meet one

of three Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for English Learners for the past two years. Superintendent Huyett explained the Catch-22 in this objective: 45% of the English Language Learners (students enrolling in the District with a limited proficiency in English Language Arts) are required to demonstrate proficiency in English Language Arts on the California Standards Tests. Only 27% of BUSD ELA students did so. In accordance with Title III mandates, staff has conducted an investigation and audit of BUSD's English Learner Programs and created an Improvement Plan to remedy existing programmatic deficiencies and improve student achievement. **

3.3-I B-Tech Schedule for Spring Semester

The Board accepted the Berkeley Technology Academy schedule for spring semester as information. In order to improve educational opportunities for students who are deficient credits to be on track for graduation, B-Tech has adopted a new class schedule (often called a four-by-four schedule), which will be implemented this spring. **

5.1-I Facilities Plan Update

The Board received an update on the Facilities Construction Plan approved by the Board on March 11, 2009. Data in the report is current as of January 4, 2010. The report includes projects contained in BSEP Fund 7 and updates of all active construction projects. **

Complete information about these items is available for review in the January 13, 2010 Board packet, located in the Board Meeting section of the BUSD website: www.berkeley.k12.ca.us

Schedule of Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

January 20, 2010
February 3, 2010
February 24, 2010
March 10, 2010
March 24, 2010
April 14, 2010

April 28, 2010
May 12, 2010
May 26, 2010
June 9, 2010
June 23, 2010
June 30, 2010 (Tentative)

All Board packets are available electronically for review in all five branches of the Berkeley Public Library, and are available on the BUSD website: www.berkeley.k12.ca.us and hard copies are available for review in the office of the Superintendent.

All Board meetings are broadcast live on Berkeley Community Media Cable Channel 33 re-broadcasted on channel 33 the following Thursday morning at 9 AM and the following Sunday at 2 PM.

=====

Mark A. Coplan
Public Information Officer, BUSD
510-644-6320 Cell: 510-472-3811
Mark_Coplan@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Berkeley Unified School District
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, Ca 94704-1180