

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011
Berkeley Unified School District
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley CA 94704

Roll Call 6:00pm

Members Present:

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, President
John T. Selawsky, Vice President /Clerk
Karen Hemphill, Director
Leah Wilson, Director
Josh Daniels, 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 Leyva-Cutler called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

The Board heard Human Resource issues and received updates.

Readmission:

0910-52-080796

No Action taken at this time.

OD1011-15-011895

Board recommends counseling for student.

Wilson/Hemphill and approved stipulated readmission on a vote of 4-0
1 abstention.

Stipulated Expulsion:

1011-10-100995

Selawsky/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 4-0
Director Wilson recused

Suspended Expulsion:

1011-12-022499

Recommended placement at BTech to recover credits.
Daniels/Selawsky and approved unanimously 5-0

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Daniels requested to move 5.1C up to the top for discussion

Wilson pulled 1.1C for modification

Wilson requested 3.1-I be move to the second item for discussion

Leyva-Cutler pulled 3.1C for discussion

Hemphill/Daniels and approved with modifications on a vote of 5-0

Daryl Moore, Berkeley City Council- member spoke about Derby field and the role it would play in fulfilling the needs of our community and students. Derby Field is currently slotted to be built in 2015. Council member Moore requested that the construction date be moved up. It is a critical project and we need it today. Moore requested that Derby Field be a top tier project with Measure I funding. "We need places for our young people to play. It has been 13 years in the planning." He read a proclamation that was read at the City Council meeting honoring Tim Moellering.

Public Testimony

One student spoke regarding state budget cuts to public colleges. She spoke in support of the day of action on March 2nd.

Many came out in support of the building of Derby field. The room was full of Berkeley High baseball players past and present. Bill Savage, spoke about using the measure money to fund the building of the field. The cost of the field is not so great that it would impact other projects. Alternative B is the closest. A speaker questioned the appointment of a citizen's committee to oversee the bond measure. Parents spoke about what baseball means to their kids. The other athletic programs at BHS have space. The baseball team has to go to San Pablo park. Barry Fike spoke in support of alternate plan B. Jason Young spoke about coming from BHS baseball and moving onto play in the Major League Baseball. Building the field will bring in more college scouts and recruiters. Some college coaches will not go to San Pablo park. He also suggested there were liability issues with the team practicing in a public park.

Yvette Falarca, a teacher from King Middle School, spoke in support of the "I Have a Dream" movement. She requested the Board and community take a stand against the Governor's cuts to California higher education. She urged the Board to support the March 2nd day of action.

A member of the Peace and Justice Commission spoke in support of the resolution designating February 2011 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Construction Committee Report

The Committee reviewed the plans for the installation of solar panels and alternative methods of delivery systems. They took a look at the transportation center to see if it was functioning as designed. They suggested that Board members look at the building programs that have taken place at their assigned school site. The District's solar plan was evaluated by the Committee. They identified nine school sites for solar panel installation. The Committee supports the master plan and encourages the roof replacements to happen sooner. Energy cost savings will lessen expenses and put more money in the general fund. They looked at what other school districts in the state were doing to move their construction projects along. They suggested it would be well worth the Districts efforts to look at other construction management methodologies used by other districts.

UNION REPORT

Cathy Campbell, BFT President, spoke in support of moving the construction of Derby Field to a top tier project. She commented on how athletics can help support students academic focus and progress. The field would also support the students at BTech. Cathy also announced March 2nd as a Day of Action. She encouraged all to attend the organized and high energy family friendly event. There will be student speakers and performances. School sites will have marches to the rally site at the District offices.

Paula Phillips, BCCE president, updated the Board on the shoe drive. BCCE purchased and collected 93 pairs of shoes. They have handed out about half of the shoes, but currently working with the Parent Outreach Office to identify students who can benefit from the shoes. Special thanks to: Dulci Jubilo, Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Party Plus, School Board member Hemphill and President Leyva-Cutler, Superintendent Huyett and everyone who made the shoe drive a success.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Selawsky/Hemphill Motion to move the agenda as amended 5-0

5.1-CF Prioritize Projects for Measure I

Item moved to the top of discussion by Director Daniels.

Superintendent Huyett thanked the people who came out in support of the building of Derby field. "The Board has been approached to move up many of the projects that have been spread across the 10 year plan. We understand your rationale in moving Derby Field to the top tier of projects. It is true that the community has a shortage of athletic fields. This is also in honor of a great human being and we do recognize that."

Lew Jones presented the report. “When the bonds will be issued will drive the schedule. Work in the community theatre and King auditorium systems have been moved. We have coupled solar installation with work on the roofs. Some of our other priorities were pushed back. We tried to stay consistent with the blue book ideals.”

Director Selawsky suggested that the Board not take up alternative A, because we do not want to affect K-8 classrooms, but look at alternative B. He inquired about the solar projects at Emerson and Rosa Parks. One point six million dollars out of Measure I monies are allocated for solar panel projects. Lew Jones responded, during the 2011-2015 time periods, we have to replace roofs and the solar projects would be coupled with the roof replacements. We do not have the funding to do the entire solar project list. There is no way to put the retrofitting of the Maintenance building into the first tier of projects. Director Daniels voiced his support of Alternative B.

Motion: to approve 5.1CF choosing Alternative B.

Hemphill/Daniels and approved unanimously 5-0

1.1C

Director Wilson suggested a modification to the Resolution. She suggested to change the reference of “Berkeley’s teenage women and young girls” be changed to “youth,” to make it gender neutral.

Motion: to approve the resolution with modifications

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

3.1C

Director Leyva-Cutler: “All school districts get base money to support their new teachers. Berkeley has been the district with the most new teachers in our Alameda consortium. All districts get the same amount of money regardless of the amount of new teachers. I would like for the District to negotiate a new agreement next time to make it more equitable based on the amount of teachers participating in the BTSA program.”

Neil Smith and the Superintendent were in agreement with Director Leyva-Cutler. We have approached County Superintendent Sheila Jordon regarding the matter. We went into the partnership with the belief that all members would be treated equally.

Leyva-Cutler/Selawsky and approved on a vote of 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

2.1-A

Approval of District’s Initial Proposal for a Successor Agreement with BCCE

Selawsky/Leyva-Cutler and approved staff recommendation unanimously 5-0

2.2-A

Approval of Initial Proposal for a Successor Agreement from BCCE
Selawsky/Leyva-Cutler and approved staff recommendation
unanimously 5-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

3.1-I

Report on Students' Academic Performance

Received for information

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Cheung.

- In 2010, the Latino population increased and the Multi-Ethnic population decreased due to a change in the racial reporting regulations from the CDE.
- King Middle School is serving more students than the County average, but its size is comparable to the state.
- Berkeley High School's student population is three times the size of the County average and twice the size of the State average.
- In English/Language Arts, proficiencies improved from 2009 to 2010. The largest proficiency gains were in grade 8 (12%), grade 3 (11%), and grade 7 (8%)
- In Math, proficiencies remained high at the elementary level with the largest improvement in grade 3 (12%).
- Middle school math proficiency improved in all three grades with the largest improvement in grade 8 (16%).
- In both ELA and Math, BUSD proficiencies were comparable to the County and greater than the State.

2010 CST Performance 2-8 Summary

- In English/Language Arts, proficiencies improved from 2009 to 2010. The largest proficiency gains were in grade 8 (12%), grade 3 (11%), and grade 7 (8%)
- In Math, proficiencies remained high at the elementary level with the largest improvement in grade 3 (12%).
- Middle school math proficiency improved in all three grades with the largest improvement in grade 8 (16%).

Further analysis of African American and Latino subgroups reveal interesting trends.

- Math proficiency rates increased for both Non-disadvantaged African American students (13%) and disadvantaged African American students (8%).
- Proficiency rates for Socio-economically disadvantaged Latino students increased in both ELA (8%) and math (11%).

- In both ELA and Math, BUSD proficiencies were comparable to the County and greater than the State.

Academic Performance Index

- On the Academic Performance Index (API), the District made a 17 point gain overall to a score of 784.
- Whites scored 127 points above the district.
- Latinos scored 54 points below the District.
- African-Americans scored 141 points below the District.
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Summary

- Proficiencies on the CST ELA improved grades 2-8.
- Proficiencies on the CST Math remained high in elementary and improved in middle school.
- Longitudinal trends show increasing proficiencies for socio-economically disadvantaged Latinos grades 2-8 and increased proficiencies for African Americans grades 2-8.
- Cohort analysis shows that high numbers of students scoring below proficient at the elementary level are moving to proficiency by 5th grade.
- Cohort analysis shows that students are maintaining proficiency over time at the elementary and middle levels.
- The API shows that we are making some progress in closing the Achievement Gap.

Director Hemphill: “This is good news. Maybe not at the rate we would like, but it is steady progress. I would like to see more information on the students that moved from below basis to basic or above. It would give us a better picture of our equity work. Some schools are doing a really good job at specific things. They are doing something right.

Director Wilson: “I looked at this and saw two very different pictures of how the district is doing. It is important to hear that the District owns how poorly our black students are doing. I looked at data to see how Berkeley is doing with black student in comparison with the state. Berkeley is under performing the state. There is no reason this District should be performing under the state average with all the resources that we have. The data is disheartening. Can we look at the Districts that are doing well with black students? I would like to compare our schools to one another. We have made gains. It is calculated that black

students could reach an 800 API in seven years if we continue at the current rate.”

Director Selawsky: “It has to be instructional practices and shared best practices at our schools. The District writing assessments have higher standards than the state standards. The two assessments are not designed to reach the same goal and therefore there is disparity in the results.”

Director Daniels: “What other measures are out there besides the standardized tests?” Dr. Cheung responded, the CSTs are well aligned to the state standards. It is a reliable measure. There are complications at the high school level.” Neil Smith responded, “We administered the MARS examination and there was a direct correlation with our CST results. We do the Bears spelling tests and District writing assessments and Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments.” Supt. Huyett recommended that we need more data about our English learners. “We exit them when they become proficient. It is difficult to track them. The CELDT is a better way of looking at the data for English learners.”

President Leyva-Cutler: “I would like to see how many of the students are moving up through the CELDT levels. It is not that many students that are below basic or below proficient. We have the resources to reach them. I would like to see the data by school and by grade.”

Director Hemphill: “The African American community in Berkeley has definitely changed. We have recognized that we have a huge gap and that we have made progress. Efforts are being made. We have also had a significant change in economic status of our community. Making improvements during this change is important. I would like to see data about cohorts to see if we are keeping our African American students and who we are moving from below basic to basic.”

Supt. Huyett: “I would like to see the number and growth of African American student in our elementary schools. We need to see what is happening at the high school. We haven’t seen this type of increase in elementary schools ever. We need to be cautious. Our staff and teachers are working really hard at this. We may not have the results that we desire. We have only been at it for 3 years. Many districts have been at this a lot longer. The progress is good. There is more work to be done.”

3.2-I

K-8 Schools’ Data Analyses

Received for information

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Chueng

3.3-I

Williams Report
Received for information

3.4-I

Report on Numbers of Students Qualifying for Free and Reduced Price Meals

Received for information

Director Wilson was surprised to see the difference between the schools. "John Muir has the highest rate and the lowest test scores." Neil Smith responded, "You have to look by zone. What it says is that we have a variance amongst our zones. The overall percentage has risen in the past few years."

Motion: to extend the meeting beyond 11:00
Selawsky/Daniels and approved on a vote of 5-0

4.1-I

Information on the Governor's 2011-2012 Budget

Received for information

Presented by Javetta Cleveland

- Focus was to close \$25 Billion budget gap and spare education at the same time while acknowledging that school funding has been disproportionately reduced since 2008.
- Overall plan includes \$12.5 Billion in cuts primarily to Higher Education and Health and Human Services, and realignment plan how and whom delivers \$10 Billion in services.
- Basically the Governor has two plans:
 - If the taxes are extended, the cuts are as budgeted in January
 - Education would be flat funded for 2011-12
 - If the taxes are not extended, an estimated additional \$8.8 billion in cuts would be needed, including large cuts to education (minimum \$2 billion)
- Mandates are funded to the tune of \$89 million. BUSD has received \$22,000 in reimbursement this year. BUSD should receive \$275,000 this year.

Next Steps

- Balanced budget must be adopted by district prior to June 30, 2011
 - The District will calculate a budget reduction target with the assumption that tax extensions will pass (Scenario A)
 - Target will address reduction of deficit spending in fiscal year 2011-12 and 2012-12

- Target will address the impact of reduction in enrollment due to new charter school – Will be included in Second Interim multi-year projections
- Target will be offset by increase in revenue due to increase in ADA not fully incorporated into the budget- Will be included in Second Interim for FY 2010-11 and multi-year projections
- The District will calculate a budget reduction target with the assumption that the tax extensions do not pass (Scenario B)
 - An additional \$330 per ADA (\$2.8 million) will be added to the target calculated in Scenario A
- Once the State Budget is adopted, the District must make adjustment to its budget within 45 days

Director Daniels suggest that the Cabinet look at a reduction in spending of \$2.6 million for scenario A and \$5.4 million in scenario B to take into account the District’s structural deficit.

Director Wilson asked when we could declare a fiscal emergency to access Measure A funds. Javetta Cleveland responded that we would have to go below a 3% reserve. Director Daniels wants to support a contingent tax. “Berkeley voters will support extending the statewide taxes. So it will be other parts of the state that could cause it to fail. Shouldn’t Berkeley voters be able to extend their own taxes to support their own services? So I would like to propose a contingent tax just for Berkeley voters that would go into effect only if the extensions of the statewide taxes fail.”

Director Selawsky: “I understand the intent. It is rushed and a response to panic. The trust of the voters is my primary concern right now.”

Director Wilson: “I understand the sentiment and the need to back fill the deficit if the extension does not pass. Difficult budget times present opportunities to make changes that we need to make. There are places that we can cut and that we can be more efficient. Focusing on the ballot may allow us to miss an important opportunity.”

Director Hemphill: “I share the apprehension of Director Selawsky. We don’t know exactly where we are right now. Nor do I think we have that much efficiency to cut 5 million. The city is going to be in a worse position than the District. If the city put forth a tax measure to support their programs that are being cut especially in health and human services that directly affect the families and students of the District, we could support them.”

Supt. Huyett: “I talked it over with staff. We would not know exactly what we were preparing for. Timing is a difficult thing with this. Supporting the city in a sales tax would be easier than a parcel tax.

The Board requested for staff to prepare information for the next Board meeting with the assistance of our financial advisors.

4.2-I

Monthly School Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance Summaries
Received for information

5.1-I

Facilities Plan Update
Received for information

5.2-I

Acceptance of the Report by the School Construction Oversight
Committee
Received for information

Board’s Report

Student Director Djili: We’ll have a proposal coming forward regarding teacher evaluation

Director Daniels: Please look at my website for updates.

Director Hemphill: PCAD is having an event this Friday at the South Berkeley Senior Center.

Director Wilson: “Thank you Principals Levenson and Lustig for allowing me in their schools and classrooms. Thank you to the parents who came to my office hours.” Director Wilson appointed Nuha Masri to the Peace and Justice Commission.

President Leyva-Cutler: Would like to see more parents coming out to the ELAC meetings.

Superintendent’s Report

I am working with SELF at UC Davis to follow up with the training we did with principals in conducting walk throughs and evaluating staff. The policy committee will be coming forward with a list of past policy work. We would like to consider: naming, translation, small schools, complaint procedures and BHS student assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of January 12, 2011

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

Approve Minutes of January 26, 2011 as amended

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

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

President Leyva-Cutler adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education