

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 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 7:50 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

The Board heard Human Resource issues and received updates.

Expulsion:

Student Case No. 1011-34 -042195

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

Student Case No. 1011-29 -033196

Board agreed to a stipulated suspension for the semester

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

The Board discussed facilities for REALM charter school.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

1.1C Pulled by Daniels

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

Public Testimony

Peggy Scott, BHS parent, stated that she would like BHS to follow their own rules. "I don't think BHS is much different then it has been the past five years." She suggested that the Board look at the whole school culture when you consider violence at BHS. "Kids have a license to misbehave and steal. If a kid is out of district that has been sent to juvenile hall, Berkeley doesn't have to take them back."

A community member from the neighborhood surrounding Berkeley Adult School came to speak about her concerns for the safety of the people in the neighborhood. She referenced statistics regarding repeat criminal offenders.

Irma Parker, Parent Liaison at Berkeley High School, stated, "We must look to positive alternative programs so that young people do not lose their lives. We know how to connect to these young people and understand their needs. The funding is cut when dealing with black children."

Paula Israel, District Employee/Interpreter for the Deaf, stated that her pay was cut by 5% without any prior notice or explanation. She has not been able to gain understanding of the pay cut. She wants to know what is going on and would like the 5% back.

A BHS parent stated that she had done research concerning which crimes are to be referred to the police department and which can stay in house. When the school handles the situation, you have no rights to information. When they are sent through the juvenile law system, you have a right to information. She requested the Board consider the District's interpretations of EdCode 48915AC.

A large group of young men from BHS and the community came to address the Board regarding reduced open hours of the 1730 Oregon Street gym where their basketball team practices. They expressed the need for teens to have a safe place to go after school and the need to have facilities open and available for them. Superintendent Huyett responded that the gym was under management of the City of Berkeley. He committed to contacting the City and asking them to review operational hours.

Dave Peattie, Berkeley High Safety Committee, stated the Committee is very committed to working on the project. Hopes the Board uses them as a resource.

Nancy Johnson, BUSD Homeless Student Support Case Manager, came to ask the Board to consider the struggles of the homeless youth attending our schools. Currently 29% of kids in juvenile hall were homeless at the time they committed the crime. "They are not violent children, they did violent things." She requested that the District not remove students from BHS if they have addresses outside of Berkeley and have committed a criminal offense.

A BHS parent of a junior from the Green Academy came to discuss her son's math scores. His math scores on the state standards tests have been declining since he entered BHS.

A BHS parent came to speak about the dangers of having an open campus at BHS. He suggested identification badges and restricted entrances.

UNION REPORT

Paula Phillips, BCCE President, spoke about Paula Israel's loss of 5% differential. She requested a salary survey for the position of Interpreters for the Deaf. She asked that Ms. Israel's 5% be restored by close of business on Friday. Ms. Phillips suggested that ergonomic evaluations are being ignored and the equipment that is recommended during the evaluation never appears. The eligibility list for a Secretary position was created in error. Two employees were denied the position because of the error. She requested the Board rescind the employment offer and restore the list.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve

Selawsky/Hemphill and approved unanimously 5-0

1.1C

The resolution was edited, "helped to found" instead of "founded."

Daniels/Leyva-Culter and approved as amended unanimously 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

Human Resources

2.1-A

Proposal to Negotiate with BFT

Open Public Hearing - 8:33 p.m.

Close Public Hearing 8:34 p.m.

Director Wilson asked that Staff and fellow board members consider instructional time in Berkeley compared to surrounding districts when

considering furloughs. The Board requested a comparative analysis of instruction time with surrounding districts. Director Hemphill requested that staff look at options of furloughing non instructional staff and options to furlough in a way that does not disrupt the operation of schools.

It is the pleasure of the Board for staff to conduct a comparative analysis of instructional minutes with surrounding districts.

Request to negotiate

Selawsky/Daniels and approved unanimously 5-0

Educational Services:

3.1-A

Staff Report on Response to Weapons on Campus

Dr. Susan Craig gave the Board an update.

- Safety Committee was formed and has met
- Security Assessment
 - There has been an internal assessment conducted at Berkeley High. They have looked at how they deploy their resources. There will also be a consultant conducting an external analysis.*
- Additional Staffing
 - The additional safety officer at BTech will remain in place for the rest of the year. Additional staffing at BHS will remain in place until the external analysis advises us on staffing. BPD is also going to have additional resource officer presence on campus.*
- Staff Training Currently Scheduled
 - Two Safety officers will be attending training with SEEDS. All safety officers will attend a four day training in June.*
- Student Education and Input
 - Student Statements:*
 - Do not close the campus
 - Prefer ID lanyards
 - Weapons are for protection, not for harm
 - Against random searches
 - Caucasian students felt their parents more afraid than themselves
 - Conflict resolution training
 - Safe pathways to and from school
 - They would like to be informed about lockdowns
- Transitional Support for Specific Students Entering BHS from Juvenile hall, foster care or homelessness
 - We will be looking at case management type support for students that are at risk for not succeeding in our schools. Dr. Craig has put a call out to collect best practices.*

- Board Policies
Complaint policy
Harassment and Bullying
- Communications
A text message reporting system has been established.
The District is working on a plan to improve communication during a crisis.

Director Hemphill would like a day curfew established at Martin Luther King Park during school hours, except for lunch time. She suggested clarifying the roles and responsibilities of school safety officers. She would also like to see uniforms for the School Safety Officers. She would like to add to the “at risk” students category, 8th graders that are being moved onto high school with multiple “F’s”.

Director Wilson expressed concern about short shifting the issue and could this item be scheduled for the next Board meeting. President Leyva-Cutler stated that the Board would also be updated again at the next Board meeting.

Director Wilson: “What are we trying to address with the training? What have we identified as our areas of weakness? We are trying to fashion solutions to a problem we do not understand. Who are the kids that are most at risk for committing crimes, weapons, robbery and assault? Who are the kids bringing weapons to school? How are they identified as high risk?” She suggested that identification badges will only have an impact if crimes are being committed on campus by non students.

Director Hemphill suggested that we need to look who is at risk, not who got caught. She disagreed with Director Wilson’s comment regarding the impact of badges. Students are afraid of other students coming onto campus. Superintendent Huyett responded, “We are going to bring data forward (suspension data).”

Student Director, asked about the roles of the safety officers. Many students believe there needs to be an overhaul.

Director Daniels: “The immediate response has been thoughtful and strong. There is a sense when speaking with community members that these items do not reflect the fear in our parents. I think the campus is getting safer and can get safer. We need to respond to the fear of the parents.” He suggested that the entrances be limited to three, in which each person entering campus will be seen. “It needs to be a visible

change to the life of the students. There needs to be a shift. It needs to be something that we intend to implement by the end of this year.”

Supt. Huyett: “We are interested in hearing what the external analysis states. We are looking at the exits and entrances and how we can redeploy the staff. Principal Scuderi stated that some exits have been closed and we are monitoring others at a heightened level.

The Board is being asked to approve expenditures to support the safety program at BHS. The money is coming from our reserves.

Daniels/Selawsky and approved unanimously 5-0

Business Services

4.1-A

Approval of Bond Issuance

Javetta Cleveland thanked our community for approving Measure I. We are moving forward to issue 35 million dollars in bonds for our first issuance in 2011. She will bring forward another item at the next meeting to decide what to do with the additional 5 million.

Director Daniels announced that we got an increase in our credit rating, which means we are getting a lower interest rate. It is a testament to the district’s work. This will save us up to 10 points on our interest.

Daniels/Selawsky and approved unanimously 5-0

Facilities

5.1-A

Approval of Measure I Construction Oversight Committee Members:

Nicolie Bolster-Ott, Stephanie Allen, Susi Marzoula, Allen Nudel, David Goldin and Eric Weaver

President Leyva-Cutler encouraged community members to come sit in on the meetings.

Selawsky/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

Human Resources

2.1-I

Appointment of Personnel Commissioner

Received for information

Educational Services

3.1-I

Berkeley High School Small Learning Communities Report
Received for information

Motion: to extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Approve minutes of March 9, 2011

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

Approve minutes of March 23, 2011

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

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Leyva-Cutler adjourned the meeting at 11:20 pm.

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education