

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 25, 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 7:36 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

The Board heard Human Resource issues and received updates on collective bargaining.

Expulsion:

Student Case No. 1011-24 -011194

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

Administrative Appointments

Burr Guthrie, Adult and Career Education Principal

Sheila Quintana, BTech Principal

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

3.3-I moved to follow public testimony

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

3.5C Pulled by Wilson

RECOGNITION

Kim Laurance and Hilary Mitchell, Washington Elementary teachers, for their leadership in addressing issues of equity

Public Testimony

Several students came to speak in support of a teacher at Berkeley High School. Parents came to ask the Board to approve item 3.1-I on the agenda regarding the TWI program. They also asked the Board to consider the impact a single TWI school would have on the bilingual program at Thousand Oaks. A TWI teacher spoke in support of agenda item 3.1-I. Creating a TWI working group will keep moving the program forward. A parent from BHS expressed concerns about safety at BHS. He did not believe that enough action had been taken at BHS and that anyone has owned the process. The after school coordinator from Washington Elementary School came to speak about reductions being made to the LEARNS program. The organization BAM spoke in support of a teacher at BHS.

Lifelines Presentation by Pastor Michael McBride with Stewart Wakeling and Koshland group.

National Network for Safe Communities

- National strategies to reduce violence, eliminate drug markets, reduce incarceration, and promote racial reconciliation.
- Launched by the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, in June 2009
- Goals: 1) Reduce serious street violence. 2) Reduce recidivism among young men at highest risk of violence. 3) Build the capacity of communities to connect these young men to improved employment opportunities. 4) Promote community-level reconciliation (police/community, community/youth, etc).
- Collaboration: BUSD, COB, BPD and Community Partners
- Immediate requests: \$10,000

The Board would like to see this come back as an action item by the end of June.

P&O Committee

Chris Martin, Co-Chair of the P & O Committee read a statement regarding BSEP Class Size Reduction and Program Evaluation funding.

Supt. Huyett stated he is willing to go to the P & O and discuss the budget.

Director Wilson asked questions to Chris Martin. What are their concerns and what are they worried about? Accommodating the 5.5 ULLS is limiting the ECO at BHS. The concerns are specific about ULSS.

Director Daniels, as liaison to the P & O, stated his intention to work harder at understanding board expenditures regarding BSEP and P & O budgets and communicating this info to the P & O in a clear and helpful manner.

Becca Todd, Director of Library Services, thanked the Board for their support of the District's library programs.

UNION REPORT

Cathy Campbell, BFT President, spoke in support of the TWI program. She also requested a study be conducted on the bilingual program at Thousand Oaks. BFT stands in solidarity with BCCE in its stance against Resolution 11-50 addressing the layoff of classified staff.

Paula Phillips, BCCE President, came to address student and staff safety. She also had concerns about the staffing ratio of 20:1 in the after school programs (LEARNS). Ms. Phillips asked the Board to vote "no" on Resolution 11-50.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve

Selawsky/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

3.5C Pulled by Wilson

The literacy coaches are a key part of our strategies in support English and language arts. She wanted to review the funding of small FTE's.

Neil Smith responded that the District funds 4.5 FTE and the sites fund 5.5 FTE. It is true that it is not equitable at the school sites. There was discussion by the Board in regards to setting priorities for funding.

Supt. Huyett suggested that Director Daniels work as the liaison between the Board and P & O.

Daniels/Selawsky and approved unanimously 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

2.1-A

Resolution to Eliminate or Reduce Certain Classified Positions

Supt. Huyett addressed the concerns brought up during public comment. Emily Nathan, Supervisor of Berkeley LEARNs, stated, "We

need to make reductions because we are deficit spending.” The goal is to make reductions now so we don’t have to close programs. The programs run on grants and parent fees. Some of the ASIS funding has been reduced. There has been an increase in staffing costs and inconsistent parent fees. Ninety percent of the program’s costs are staffing. All the families that are being serviced at John Muir will be serviced by BEARS. The additional reductions will still allow for a 20:1 student ratio. We want to continue to service students without reducing the program. With the ASIS grant, we are not able to turn students away for any reason to include special needs. Even with the current budget proposal, we will be deficit spending about \$70,000. We will be going after other sources of funding. Director Hemphill suggested the schools that are running successful programs, be looked at to evaluate their business model and share best practices. Director Hemphill wants LEARNS to be the first choice for our families. She understood why the cuts have been brought forward, but was concerned that it should have been brought forward earlier to look at other options in growing the program. All sites except for Jefferson and John Muir (next year) have a LEARNS programs. Director Daniels inquired if this information had been communicated to principals. The communication took place between the coordinators and principals.

Motion by Selawsky to approve with the understanding that the program will be further evaluated and a staff proposal move forward.
No Second

Motion by Wilson: To allow the program to continue as is with the deficit spending to be covered 50% by the general fund and 50% by LEARNS reserve parent fee funds.
No Second

Motion: Approve staff recommendation to eliminate the Budget Analyst, Student Assignment Project Manager, Instructional Technicians at John Muir and Extended Day Coordinator at John Muir positions.
Wilson/Hemphill and approved unanimously 5-0

Motion: to extend meeting past 11:00
Selawsky/Hemphill

Motion: Reject staff recommendation for remaining positions. Continue staffing LEARNS at 2010-11 school year levels, using 100% LEARNS reserves to cover deficits. A committee will be created and will bring forward recommendations to eliminate the need to dip into LEARNS reserves.

Hemphill/Leyva-Cutler (No: Daniels, Selawsky) (yes: Hemphill, Wilson and Leyva-Cutler) Motion passes on a vote of 3-2

3.1-A

Proposal for a Two-Way Immersion Working Group to Plan the Consolidation of TWI at One Site

President Leyva-Cutler: Suggested the working group also have the charge to look at the whole ELL programs. She is concern about having only one TWI school site. Director Daniels, this is one portion of the population that we are trying to serve. This is one third of a larger population. He does not see developing a single site school as a distraction from continuing to service ELL students not in the TWI program. Director Hemphill requested the working group look at best practices of ELL programs. If there is one model that is very strong and has a lot of community support, why are we operating multiple models? Supt. Huyett agreed that the whole ELL program needs to be looked at by the working group. We currently have three different types of programs and they are scattered. The work group will have to comment on how a single site TWI school would fit into the student assignment plan. We can make efforts to diversify the program. We'll have to get back to the working group quickly about where the school would be located. Director Daniels agreed with the need to work on a comprehensive approach to ELL instruction in the District. Director Wilson inquired as to who would staff the committee. The committee would possibly consist of staff, teachers, parents and a TSA. An administrator would have to oversee the committee and facilitate the work. Director Hemphill strongly recommended that ELAC be involved in the committee every step of the way.

Motion: Approve an ELL work group to look at ELL language development and to make recommendations to create at a single site TWI school according to the following:

- Single site opening for the 2013-14 school year
- Recommendations to the Board by June 2012
- Board to provide policy guidance regarding school location and student assignment plan before recommendations are brought forward.

Daniels/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 5-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

3.1-I

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation for Seal of Bi-literacy
Fifty-five seniors have applied to receive the seal on their diploma. The item will come back for action at the June 1st board meeting.

Received for Information

3.2-I

Board Policy for Translation

The communication plan will also address translation. We need to see the communications plan before we bring this back to the Board.

Request to look at a language access policy.

Received for Information

3.3-I

Progress Report on Work to Eliminate Weapons at Berkeley High School Presented by Dr. Susan Craig.

The safety committee met today to discuss strategies. Recommendations will come to the Board at the end of June. Identification Badges are under possible consideration for next year. The preliminary report from the evaluator is good. The Berkeley Police Department conducted training with staff at BHS and BTech. The gate between the Theatre and the H building is permanently closed. Entrance in the G and H building breezeway is being kept locked. The entrance at Kittredge is being locked at 8:45 am. There is staff posted at all gates. The process of gate closure is still under review. The consultant did let us know that our staffing levels are above average.

The plan will be coming to the Board on June 29th. Director Hemphill requested that the message be sent out to the community that a plan is coming forward.

Received for Information

4.1-I

Superintendent's Proposed Budget Reductions

The final budget presentation will come to the Board on June 22nd and for approval on June 29th.

Received for Information

5.1-I

Extension of the Date for Bid Opening at Hillside School

Received for Information

5.2-I

Facilities Plan Update

Received for Information

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A parent of a BHS student spoke in support of a teacher at BHS.

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

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education