

**BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**June 7, 2011**

Malcolm X School Library  
1731 Prince St., Berkeley

**P&O Committee Members Present:**

Marjorie Alvord, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Oxford (Alt)</i>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks (co-Rep)</i>
Elisabeth Hensley, <i>Jefferson</i>	Esther Hirsh, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>	Dan Lindheim, <i>BHS (co-Chair)</i>
Chris Martin, <i>LeConte (co-Chair)</i>	Ann Morgan, <i>King</i>	Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>
Allen Nudel, <i>Thousand Oaks (co-Rep)</i>	Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Peggy Scott, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Zahirul Sheikh, <i>Arts Magnet (Alt)</i>	Abigail Surasky, <i>Washington</i>	Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i>

**P&O Committee Members Absent:**

Brett Cook, <i>Malcolm X</i>	Mariane Ferme, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>	Michai Freeman, <i>Pre-K</i>
Beth Gerstein, <i>Arts Magnet</i>	Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Larry Gordon, <i>King</i>
Monica Gyulai, <i>Longfellow</i>	Jana Jandra, <i>Cragmont</i>	Catherine Lazio, <i>Willard</i>
Karen Pertschuk, <i>Willard</i>	Margot Reed, <i>Longfellow (Alt)</i>	Sara Tool, <i>John Muir</i>
Francesca Verdier, <i>BHS (Alt)</i>	Evon Williams, <i>Longfellow</i>	Representative, <i>B-Tech</i>
Representative, <i>Ind. Study</i>		

**Visitors, School Board Directors, District Advisory Committee Liaisons, Staff and Guests:**

Josh Daniels, <i>Board of Education</i>	Pamela Harrison-Small, <i>Supervisor of Culturally Responsive Teaching &amp; Systems</i>	William Huyett, <i>Superintendent</i>
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**BSEP Staff:**

Nancy Hoeffler, <i>BSEP Manager</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord.</i>	Mark Coplan, <i>Public Information Officer</i>
Liz O'Connell-Gates, <i>Staff Support</i>		

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Co-Chair Chris Martin. Then Superintendent Huyett formally recognized retiring Co-Chair Dan Lindheim for his nine years' of service to the School District as a P&O Member, as a P&O Chair, and as the 2010/11 P&O Representative to the Superintendent's Finance Committee. BSEP Manager Nancy Hoeffler, Co-Chair Chris Martin, and Technology Director Jay Nitschke echoed the Superintendent's praise for the outgoing "Dean of Leadership."

Lindheim thanked all the P&O members for their time and encouraged the Committee to move forward with fresh perspective on the issues that needed to be tackled.

Next Co-Chair Chris Martin thanked P&O members for their service this year and said that he hoped they would return in the fall. Next Hoeffler clarified that although this would be the last meeting for the summer, the Committee would actually have its final meeting in September, and that the newly elected P&O Committee would convene in October, 2011.

Moving on, BSEP Manager Hoeffler said it had been stated during the last Board meeting that the P&O needed to receive information on District issues sooner to allow for more effective oversight. Hoeffler stated that P&O members would be asked to complete a Survey Monkey questionnaire so she could determine what worked well for them while serving on the Committee and what might be improved.

Mary Hurlbert clarified that School Governance Council elections take place in September, and the elected members would meet in October to select their P&O reps. She asked that anyone who knew they were leaving their school or anyone interested in joining the P&O should notify their principal(s) because the goal was to have P&O representative elected by mid-October.

**2. Comments on BHS Students' Weak California Standardized Test (CST) Scores during 2003-2009.**

*P&O Member Esther Hirsh*

Hirsh expressed her dismay upon viewing online documents, prepared by BUSD's Department of Curriculum and Assessment, showing a precipitous decline in the BHS students' academic scores, especially math, between 2003 and 2009. It was mentioned that an upswing in CST scores had been seen in 2010.

Co-Chair Chris Martin tabled this discussion until public comment as the topic was not on the agenda.

**3. Site Plans for 2011-12**

*Mary Hurlbert, Admin. Coordinator, BSEP*

Mary Hurlbert distributed handouts and explained that P&O members had before them a cover letter and a Summary of BSEP's School Site Discretionary Funds for FY 2012, which the Board would receive tomorrow night. She pointed out that the cover letter called the Board's attention to the fact that "[school site] budgets are now providing substantial support for such essential school programs such as Literacy coaching, ULSS/RtI coordination, mental health counseling, and more." Hurlbert said the letter also pointed out that BSEP, and PTA funds, originally intended for enrichment, were now being used to fund academic and mental health programs.

BSEP's Administrative Coordinator explained that the Consolidated School Plan was a compliance document for the State of California which tracked different 'pots' of monies going to BUSD: State, Federal, PTA, BSEP dollars, etc.

Mention was then made of the growing intensity around PTA budgets where concerns of inequity were growing because of some schools ability to raise substantial sums of money while others struggle.

Next, Josh Daniels, Board Liaison to the P&O, took time to convey a message of thanks to the Committee from Board President Beatrice Leyva-Cutler and her fellow Board members. Then Daniels reported that on May 25, 2011 Co-Chair Chris Martin had gone before the Board and had read a statement expressing the P&O Committee's concerns about a sizeable amount of BSEP's funds being diverted to fund the Universal Learning Support System program (ULSS.) Daniels explained that during discussion that followed, the Board had requested that future statements from the P&O come with more information, evaluation, and analysis of the program(s) being addressed. Daniels said that he had not communicated that information to the P&O and that he should have done so in his role as Liaison. Daniels said that early in the next school year, after discussions with the Board, BSEP manager Hoefler, and the P&O Chair(s), he would craft a working-document detailing the information the Board would like to have in the future.

Chris Martin recalled that during his statement to the Board, Board Member Leah Wilson had asked whether the P&O was particularly solely worried about large amounts of BSEP's funds being used to support ULSS, or whether the P&O had general concerns about usage of BSEP funds. The Co-Chair said that at the time, because the statement he had pertained solely to ULSS, he had responded that the Committee was mainly worried about BSEP's funding ULSS to such a

degree. Martin then urged the P&O to prepare statements about the Committee's general concerns about encroachment into funds intended for enrichment programs.

#### **4. P&O Member Orientation Series I: Engagement through Culturally Responsive Teaching**

*Pamela Harrison-Small, Supervisor of Culturally Responsive Teaching & Systems*

Harrison-Small began her presentation by distributing written materials that gave an overview of her office's goals and also defined the meaning of 'Educational Equity.' She said the Educational Equity definition was crafted in 2008 by the District Equity Team.

The Supervisor of Culturally Responsive Teaching and Systems said the Equity Team, which she co-chairs with Superintendent Huyett, was creating an equity rubric that would be used in all schools starting in October 2011. Harrison-Small said the rubric would be used to measure equity work at all schools across the district. She explained that during the first year schools would self audit their equity work and in subsequent years the District would send in a team to audit equity work to ensure a unified vision at BUSD.

When asked to define 'Educational Equity' in her own words, Harrison-Small explained it as "Every student at every school having access to a great educational experience and an experience that will prepare them for their future."

She said her job was to look at school-site data, to look at and analyze the achievement gap data at particular school sites, and to help sites come up with a plan to close that achievement gap. Harrison-Small said the achievement gap at BUSD was based on ethnicity. She said her office was therefore focusing on how culture and language contributed to children's academic experience and how culture and language could be harnessed to garner academic success.

Pointing to a list of District-wide services, Harrison-Small said her office had focused on Professional Development this year and that this new approach would continue in an effort to disseminate a cohesive message to certificated and classified staff. The Supervisor said that whether she was visiting school sites or offering a District-wide presentation, she now asked that both classified and certificated staff attend her seminar. She shared that forty people would attend training once school got out and that there was already a waitlist of fifteen. Harrison-Small said she was excited that people were requesting these trainings.

Continuing, Harrison-Small said her office was proposing to evaluate programs at different sites and that this year she had worked at Berkeley Arts Magnet, Cragmont, John Muir, Thousand Oaks, and Malcolm X. She said she had less work at Berkeley High School (BHS) because the National Equity Project and Shiraki Holly already were working there. She said the National Equity Project was working at John Muir and Le Conte and that part of her job included collaborating with a variety of organizations/individuals working on equity.

Harrison-Small said she was sometimes invited into school sites to give technical assistance on resolving site-specific problems, but the bulk of her work centered on working with the Equity Team to develop its plan. She said the varied work sometimes involved working with parents, and other times working with principals on equity challenges. Harrison-Small said that the Office of Community and Family Partnership had decided to involve her in their efforts because they knew she had established a strong relationship with the African American community and the Latino community while offering workshops to BUSD parents. Harrison-Small explained that those workshops had focused on showing parents how to help kids attain academic success, how to understand the school culture, how to navigate the system, and how to forge partnerships.

By way of example, Harrison-Small said that this year, in order to break down family and staff divisions across ethnic lines at Berkeley Arts Magnet, her office had facilitated events titled ‘A Meeting on the Bridge.’ She said these powerful meetings, which would continue, shattered misconceptions about what people wanted for their kids, and brought people together.

Harrison-Small said that in addition to tackling the above-mentioned work, she was also serving on a variety of 2020 Vision committees focusing on the hiring and retention of people of color, attendance, truancy, student engagement in the classroom, and reversing the student drop-out rate.

Harrison-Small ended her presentation by declaring that she had every confidence that the achievement gap could be eliminated in Berkeley.

### **5. BSEP Manager’s Comments**

Nancy Hoeffler, *BSEP Manager*

Hoeffler said she, Lea Baechler-Brabo, Jay Nitschke, and the Superintendent would be working on the District’s Communication’s Plan over the summer and anyone interested in joining them should contact her.

Next, Technology Manager Jay Nitschke said some of the District’s short-term communication’s goals included:

1. Introducing ‘Language Line’ to better address translation needs.
2. Switching to a new phone company that facilitated phone blast translations from English to other languages and also enabled texted attendance alerts to go to parents’ cell phones.
3. Refreshing the web site to allow for easier content updating and easier uploading of public information videos.

Nitschke said longer term projects included documenting and getting word out about topics of interest to parents and students, such as: Admissions, Welcoming Curriculum, and the Lottery.

### **6. Further Comments on BHS Students’ Weak 2003-2009 CST Scores.**

*Esther Hirsh, P&O Committee Member*

Following up on her earlier comments, Hirsh encouraged everyone to get the facts by going to the District’s web site, clicking on Board Meetings, and then clicking on the Board packet for June 3rd.

It was noted that the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting actually featured Part II of an assessment of the High School’s CST scores and Part I was available online in the April 13, 2011 Board packet. Lea Baechler-Brabo said that today a Vimeo link to of the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting went out with the District’s E-News list. Baechler-Brabo added that although she too had been shocked to read about the low CST scores, but she had felt more optimistic after she had listened to the Board/Community discussion aimed at shoring up math skills and raising scores. She urged P&O members to take time to listen to recordings of the Board Meeting discussion via the Vimeo link.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Liz O’Connell-Gates