

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 29, 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

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 7:38 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

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

Administrative Appointment

Sonya Martin, Vice Principal, Willard Middle School
Selawsky/Daniels and approved unanimously 5-0

Lisa Graham, Program Supervisor, Special Education
Selawsky/Daniels and approved unanimously 5-0

The Board gave the Superintendent authority to hire administrators during the summer.

The Board gave direction to staff regarding the sale of the Hillside property.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

5.2-C pulled for correction by Huyett
3.3-C (pulled by Wilson)

Public Testimony

A representative from the Hillside Education Foundation addressed the Board in regards to their bid for the Hillside property. A spokesman for Integrity Educational Center Charter School asked the Board to vote against staff's recommendation to deny the charter school. The founder of Integrity Educational Center stated that he will resubmit the charter application. He thanked staff and the Board for their time and effort in reviewing the application. A teacher from Berkeley High School stated that he supports the Safety Plan put forward by staff. He thought the plan was clearly written. A member of the Ad Hoc Safety Committee addressed the Board, he hopes that the plan will be a starting point and that they will continue to work with the BHS Safety Committee. He stressed the importance of enforcing the policies and procedures within the plan and the need for a crime reporting system in cooperation with the Berkeley Police Department. He also stated that he believes that BHS is a great school. A BHS parent addressed the Board regarding the Safety Plan. He thanked staff and the Ad Hoc Safety Committee for all their work. He is a supporter of student identification badges. He suggested that a member of the Board and an identified staff at BHS take ownership of the recommendations. It is essential that all recommendations be implemented by the first day of school 2011-2012 SY.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve

Hemphill/Selawsky and approved unanimously 5-0

3.3-C (pulled by Wilson)

Director Wilson wanted to talk about where the District was with CTE planning. She wanted to know when staff was coming back to the Board with a CTE plan. Supt. Huyett stated that staff would come back to the Board with a new plan once the new principal has time on the job. Supt. Huyett gave a summary of what they are planning for CTE at BHS, BTEch and Berkeley Adult School. Staff will come back with our ROP partners. The short term goals of the plan have been accomplished. They are now working on the long term plans. The PLA agreement will be part of the CTE planning. Director Wilson wanted to make sure the Board had access to the data that is being collected on students that have had CTE.

Selawsky/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

5.2-C (pulled by Supt. Huyett for correction)

- \$225,000 should be \$245,000 on the cover page aligned with the resolution passed by the Board.
- The plan is for four classrooms not three.
- The money is coming out of measure AA

Selawsky/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

2.1-A

Resolution to Eliminate or Reduce Certain Classified Positions

Selawsky/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

2.2-A

Annual Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators

Wilson/Hemphill and approved unanimously 5-0

3.1-A

Staff Report on Integrity Education Center Charter School
Recommending Denial of the Charter Petition

President Leyva-Cutler appreciated Mr. Madden's statement in appreciation of staff's time and money spent. She stated that future submissions should be aligned with policy. Staff recommended denial of the charter petition. Grounds for denial are in the Board packet. The state has high standards for charter petitions. They must meet all standards outlined by the state.

Wilson/Hemphill and approved unanimously 5-0

5.1-A

Approval to Award the Bid for the Sale of Hillside School

There were two bids received. It is staff's opinion that only one bid met the bid requirements. The German International School's bid met all requirements of the bid. The Hillside Education Foundation's bid is a non responsive bid. Staff's recommendation is for the Board to accept the bid from the German International School. The proposal indicates that the German International School would try to keep some of the existing tenants.

Motion: That only the German International School bid is responsible and responsive.

Daniels/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

Motion: That the Hillside Education Foundation's bid is not responsive.

Daniels/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

Motion: Since there is only one responsive bid, the Board directs staff to enter into an agreement with the German International School for the sale of the Hillside property.

Daniels/Wilson and approved unanimously 5-0

CONFERENCE ITEM

3.1-CF

Recommendations to Eliminate the Presence of Guns at Berkeley Unified School District Schools

Presented by: Supt. Huyett, Dr. Susan Craig, Billy Keys and members of the Ad Hoc Safety Committee. Principal Scuderi was also present for the discussion.

The recommendations are outlined on page 84 of the Board packet. There were eleven recommendations brought forward by the Ad Hoc Safety Committee.

1. Increased police presence at the schools
Board vote: Yes 5-0

2. Increased School Safety Officer staffing at BHS and hire four Campus Monitors to help supervise the BHS gates.
Board vote: Yes 5-0

3. Uniforms for Safety Offers and Campus Monitors
Board vote: Yes 5-0

4. Gun/Violence Prevention Education offered to students
Board vote: Yes 5-0

5. Outline and enforce procedures for visitors to campus
Board vote: Yes 5-0

6. Establish and implement programs to strengthen positive school culture.

Director Wilson requested data on students to whom we would be providing services. She recommended a community based model for Tier II. Supt. Huyett agreed that it should be modified. Tier II: The District will do a data analysis to identify students that are in tier II that need greater intervention and specifically tailor the intervention to their needs to be successful in school and to monitor their progress.

Board vote: Yes 5-0

7. Closed campus between classes and only open at lunch time.
Enforce current closed campus policy.

To truly close campus for 1- 6th period, with the potential in the future to further close the campus or place additional limitations on underclassmen. Director Wilson does not see this being directly related to reducing guns. Director Wilson does not support this recommendation.

Director Hemphill would like the committee to further look at how a closed campus would affect our goals. She would rather see the energy put into ID badges.

The Board gave staff direction to explore a future possibility of closing campus and enforcing current policy.

Director Hemphill suggested that looking into the options of closed campus be referred back to the BHS Safety Committee. She is not sure this is the best place to put a whole lot of resources.

The Board accepts the second half of the recommendation, but not to make current changes to policy. Enforce current policy.

Board vote: 4-1 (Wilson voting against)

8. Perimeter Security: reduce the number of entrances for students to four.

Board vote: Yes 5-0

9. Screening for Weapons: The committee does not recommend screening for weapons (metal detectors).

Board vote: Yes 5-0

10. Identification Badges for Students: Recommend that the District enforce current policy that all students have identification badges. They will not have to be visible, but required for special events or to enter or leaving the campus early or late at non lunchtime hours.

To include ID's for staff, students and visitors should have a visible ID while on campus.

Director Wilson is not in agreement. She needs to see what the repercussions would be for not having your badge. President Leyva-Cutler thinks they should have it on their person, but not on display. Supt. Huyett thinks more thought needs to be put into this. The school and District would need at least a semester to work out how to implement it. Principal Scuderi warned that students will be missing class time to remedy the situation of having a missing badge. President Leyva-Cutler wanted it to go back to student leadership.

Director Hemphill, board recommendation that we want to have visible ID's, but that work and planning has to go into it. Should would like to see it done by spring semester.

Staff and Committee will bring it back in August.

11. Increased collaboration between BUSD and the Berkeley Police Department. To look at data sharing, truancy and community based issues and to cooperatively address the issues.

Board vote: Yes 5-0

Tonight the committee is seeking direction from the Board in regards to the eleven recommendations. The cost is approximately \$180,000 beyond what has already been committed previously for additional staffing.

Director Selawsky thanked the committee for the report. He thought it was a very good first step and offered his approval to move forward for the fall. He would like to see identification badges as soon as possible, but understands the complications for the students that forgot their ID badge at home or have lost it. He also suggested that we make the camera monitoring system more visible and publicized.

Director Hemphill also thought that crime against property and the feeling of being physically safe on campus, have been intermingled into this discussion of eliminating weapons from campus. Supt. Huyett stated that it might be effective for these topics to be addressed at the site with the BHS safety committee. Some may be addressed with the upcoming Bullying Policy. Director Hemphill also encouraged staff to have visible identification badges and would like to see the policy implemented in the fall. She thinks that requiring students to have an ID badge is similar to having them display them. She believes the displaying of badges would be more effective. She agreed that more needed to be done with the visitor policy. She had concerns about the staffing of a visitor's desk. She also thought volunteers should have ID

badges. She inquired about having a “Gun Free School Zone.” She also suggested increased patrolling of the perimeter at lunch and dismissal times, since that is the peak of possible sales to our students. She also inquired about a closed campus when there are students who need to leave at special hours for programs. They would have special indicators on their badges that would allow the campus monitors to know their ability to exit and enter campus. She is hoping that the perimeter includes Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Director Daniels inquired if the \$180,000 is ongoing or a onetime expense. It is an ongoing expense for funding. Could the Tier III School Safety funds be used to cover some of this? It is already being used for school safety training and for security to cover special events. It is not a substantial amount of money. Regarding gun/violence prevention education, would it be one across all the small learning communities or would it be tailored to each SLC? Principal Scuderi stated that it could be addressed within advisory with a clear outline. There would be some flexibility in rolling it out to the SLCs. Director Daniels would like to see the ID badges be displayed by students. He recommends that all students, staff and visitors have badges on display.

Director Wilson wanted to engage in discussion about desired outcomes of the recommendations. “We do know that our students feel that their campus is safe.” Do you we feel that weapon incidents will be decreased with the implementation of the recommendations? Supt. Huyett responded that some issues will be alleviated with the presence of supervision and tightening of our campus and perimeter. The consultant said that the best way to prevent violence on campus is positive relationships between students and adults on campus. Director Wilson wanted to make sure the goals would be particular to addressing guns on campus and that the other issues of safety would be addressed separately. She wanted to make sure we have the data to evaluate if the implementations of recommendations are successful. It is important that we target support of students most at risk for criminal behavior. Is the criminal activity concentrated in a small number/grouping of students? If so, can we wrap services around those students?

President Leyva-Cutler had a concern about the “to and from” school experience that our students have. It is about responsibility and safety and how they should be conducting themselves in their community and neighborhood. She suggested that we may need to go back to the parents again to communicate what we are planning and doing. We need to keep getting the message out. She thought students should be ready to display their ID badges. She hears often that students are being bullied and teachers are not able to identify and address the bullying behavior. Do we plan to have the safety officer trainings as an annual

event? Dr. Craig responded that all incoming safety officers will get the training. They do have professional development and will receive annual training. The District is coming up with a more specific work plan for the SRO at BHS. Principal Scuderi is working with BPD to come up with a more clear work plan for the SRO. President Leyva-Cutler inquired as to how we are sharing this information with our middle schools. Supt. Huyett stated that they will go through the recommendations with secondary counsel.

Director Hemphill inquired if lockers were an issue that should be addressed. She also inquired about the training of teachers on how to respond to an emergency or violent situation. The laws have changed regarding lockers. Lockers have now become personal property under the law. You can search if you have reasonable suspicion.

The action plan will come back to the Board in August, to include funding sources and an evaluation processes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2.1-I

Proposal to Eliminate or Reduce Specified Classified Positions

Board members expressed concern about the lay off of the Clerical III staff at BHS in the college and career counselor.

Received for Information

Motion to extend past 11:00 by President Leyva-Cutler

Board's Report

Director Daniels: It has been seven months since he was elected. He wanted to thank staff for all their hard work. He is excited to have a full school year to continue the work. It has been a pleasure.

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Huyett made comments regarding the state budget. The Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee will have to reconvene to examine option B. We will not know until January when the revenue projections come back.

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

President Leyva-Cutler adjourned the meeting at 11:07 pm.

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education