

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, November 16, 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 (excused absence)
Karen Hemphill, Director
Leah Wilson, Director
Josh Daniels, Director
Maddy Roberts, 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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Wilson/Daniels and approved on a vote of 4-0

Public Testimony

Retired BUSD teachers and community members urged the Board to reestablish a special day class at John Muir Elementary School for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Board Members' Reports

Student Director: Maddy Roberts reported that the majority of student groups were in support of the elimination of the grading policy that lowered grades due to unexcused absences and tardiness. The "Occupy" protests did not affect the school day at BHS.

Director Daniels: Congratulated the BHS football team for winning their section. Please review his website for information about his upcoming community forum in December.

Director Hemphill: None

Director Wilson: Commended the student director for her service to the Board. The LAO came out today. The news is not positive for our budget.

Director Selawsky: Absent

President Leyva-Cutler: The childcare meeting went well. District staff, parents and union representatives were present at the meeting. Director Daniels was also in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Huyett reported that the District is working with the SELPA in regards to a regionalized approach to opening a deaf and hard of hearing special day class. He stated the District is interested in reopening the program, but would have to do it with support of the SELPA to populate the program. The Emergency Readiness Team completed the REMS grant training program. The District got positive feedback regarding their performance during the exercise and level of preparedness. The District will work to maintain this state of readiness. Cragmont Elementary School also participated and did very well. We may be looking at a two million dollar cut mid-year. It will be an ongoing cut if revenues do not pick up for the state. We are facing another year of budgetary problems at the State level. Eighty percent of mental health costs will be refunded by the SELPA this year. We have reduced our costs of residential mental health services.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1-C (pulled by Hemphill)

Hemphill/Wilson and approved unanimously 4-0

3.1-C

Staff clarified that the grant was for the Green Academy

Wilson/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 3-0 (Daniels recused)

ACTION ITEMS

2.1-A

Resolution to Amend Effective Date of Elimination of Parent Outreach Program Specialist Positions

Wilson/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 4-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

1.1-I

Study Session on District Goals

Received for Information

3.1-I

Report on LEARNS After School Program
Received for Information

Further Direction: The Board would like to have the item return to the Board as an Information item in March and for Action in April.

There is not enough Board support for the reduction of the Coordinator position to 90%. The reduction of Coordinator positions to 90% should remain in the proposal. The Board requested staff propose another option for reduction of costs. The Board requested staff do further analysis on the reduction of staff after 5:15 pm and suggested staff look at particular days of the week in regards to attendance levels. The Board also requested a three year projection of the cost reduction models.

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

President Leyva-Cutler adjourned the meeting at 11:08 pm.

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education