

BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 24, 2012

Malcolm X School, Room 206

1731 Prince St., Berkeley

P&O Committee Members Present:

Keira Armstrong, <i>Washington (Alt)</i>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks</i>	Nicole Bowen, <i>Arts Magnet</i>
Mariane Ferme, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Larry Gordon, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Patrick Hamill, <i>Thousand Oaks</i>	Elisabeth Hensley, <i>King (co-Chair)</i>	Ruby Holder, <i>B-Tech</i>
Diana Kuderna, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>	John Lavine, <i>King</i>	Catherine Lazio, <i>Willard</i>
Chris Martin, <i>LeConte (co-Chair)</i>	Brittni Milam, <i>Washington</i>	Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>
Dialy Paulino, <i>Cragmont</i>	Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Shauna Rabinowitz, <i>Jefferson</i>
Margot Reed, <i>Longfellow</i>	Abigail Surasky, <i>Longfellow (Alt)</i>	Sara Tool, <i>John Muir</i>
Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i>		

P&O Committee Members Absent:

Marjorie Alvord, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>	Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Oxford (Alt)</i>	Brett Cook, <i>Malcolm X</i>
Esther Hirsh, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Christine Mattson, <i>Willard</i>	Ardel Thomas, <i>Pre-K</i>
Evon Williams, <i>Longfellow</i>	Representative, <i>Independent Study</i>	

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

Julie Holcomb, *BHS Parent, former P&O co-Chair* William Huyett, *Superintendent*

BSEP Staff:

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

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Co-chair Chris Martin called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and invited representatives to introduce themselves.

2. Establish the Quorum/Approve Agenda

The quorum was established with 16 voting representatives present.

3. Chair's Comments

Chris Martin, Chair

The Chair invited public comment, and there was none. Martin began the discussion of the *BSEP Annual Report for FY 2010-11 and First Interim Report FY 2011-12*. After preliminary discussion, this item was tabled to later in the evening so that Superintendent William Huyett could give his presentation.

4. Looking Forward - Process and Timeline for Hiring a New Superintendent

William Huyett, Superintendent

Huyett began by saying that working with the P&O had been one of the highlights of his four-year tenure at BUSD. He thanked the Committee for their advice to him, which was highly valued, both in its content and its presentation. He called the P&O Committee a fantastic

institution, a great model for other districts, and urged representatives to stay on the P&O as long as they could.

Huyett said that the search for his replacement was on, beginning with a Request for Proposal (RFP) that had gone out to a dozen firms that do superintendent searches in California and beyond. He reviewed the following timeline:

- January 31st – RFPs due back from search firms
- February 2nd – Paper screening of search firm applications by Board members
- February 4th – Search firm interviews by Board members – 1:00 in Council Chambers, Old City Hall, open to the public
- February 8th – Announcement of selected search firm by Board, at Board meeting.

Huyett said that the search firm would present a timetable to the Board for the search and hiring process. Huyett said he would urge the Board and firm to move quickly because 150 of California's 1,000 superintendents are expected to retire in 2012, making the search highly competitive.

Huyett explained that the search firm would conduct the search based on a rubric honed from a distillation of data gathered from the community, including input from the P&O Committee. He also noted that he had been recruited by former BUSD Superintendent Michelle Lawrence, and that he was already informing his circle of sitting superintendents about BUSD's position. Huyett added that in the interest of securing a robust candidate pool, much of the hiring process would be confidential until close to end. He said that hiring the new Superintendent would be the Board's responsibility and that once that body had selected a potential candidate, the public would be invited to get involved again. He explained that community and BUSD representatives would visit the candidate's district before a final decision was made. He closed by saying that he hoped that his replacement would be selected by the end of May.

The State Budget and Implications for BUSD

Huyett said he had been taken aback by the Governor's budget, because instead of the flat funding he had been led to expect, the Governor had not only cut school funding but had made a portion of his budget dependent on the passage of a tax initiative that would likely appear on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Huyett said that if this tax initiative failed, cuts to the District could lose around \$7 million; if the tax initiative passes BUSD would lose around \$3.5 million. He explained that the Governor's proposed state budget included:

- a zero cost of living (COLA) increase in state funding
- the elimination of all state transportation funding, and
- a \$600,000-\$800,000 reduction in Mental Health funding.

In addition, \$1.7 that BUSD currently receives in federal jobs money, currently spent on staff, will be gone next year.

The Superintendent added that other issues impacting BUSD's FY 2012-13 budget include:

- the loss of funding for the transitional kindergarten program, and
- a decrease in Average Daily Enrollment (ADA) funds, due primarily to the REALM charter syphoning off students from BUSD.

Huyett added that Governor Brown would likely cut the District's ADA funding by \$370/pupil, should his tax initiative fail, resulting in a \$3.3 million loss to the District. The Superintendent said BUSD was preparing for this hypothetical scenario. On a positive note, he noted that the District has a robust reserve. He stated that this year's budget and expenditures were balanced and that maintaining balanced budgets was the goal going forward.

5. Annual Report FY 2010-11 & First Interim Report FY 2011-12

Nancy Hoeffler, BSEP Manager

Hoeffler fielded questions and provided comment on both *the Annual Report FY 2010-11 & First Interim Report FY 2011-12*. Discussion resulted included:

- the First Interim Report might be easier to understand if it were in a brief format similar to that of the Measure BB report, including an explanation of variances.
- The Annual Report might be easier to understand if the original (or 2nd Interim) budget were shown next to the Board-approved budget.

In response to the question of why many teachers were on school-year-only contracts, it was explained that in general, newly-hired teachers are on probationary status for two years, and then gain tenure once they pass probation. Temporary teachers are hired to fill in for teachers on leave, and are not on the tenure path. However, in today's tenuous budget climate, there are more temporary teachers than usual, who are not "owed" a job the next year. It was pointed out that if the economy were stronger, the Union would not agree to let this happen.

Because of the difficult economy, and in anticipation of future budget cuts, Hoeffler said BSEP, Human Resources, and Business Services were meeting soon to discuss the reality that many BUSD positions are currently funded by soft money that could dry up.

Motion to Accept the BSEP Annual Report for FY 2010-11:

(Reed/Glimme). The motion to accept the BSEP Annual Report for FY 2010-2011 was approved by acclamation.

6. Motion to Approve the Minutes of 1/10/12

(Lavine/Reed): Approved unanimously with one Abstention (Mariane Ferme)

7. Review: BSEP Class Size Reduction Funds (CSR)

Nancy Hoeffler, BSEP Manager

Since BSEP allocates 66% of its available revenues to class size reductions Hoeffler asked P&O members to turn their attention to the Teacher Template (fund 0841) and to the BSEP School Discretionary Programs Budget (Resource 08522). Hoeffler said that with \$3M in anticipated cuts in the 12/13 budget she expected a greater push for funds from the CSR budget. To insure the Committee was well informed about discretionary programs during these tough economic times, Hoeffler said she hoped to have speakers representing the "discretionary" side of the CSR funding (Literacy, Math, Middle School Counseling) present their work to the P&O at a future meeting.

In response to a question on the benefits of small Middle School, math classes, Hoeffler said that although middle-school students' grades had gone up, and 50% of all eighth graders were proficient in algebra, it was hard to pin point the reason for the higher scores. Hoeffler said that reasons for the improvements included a combination of the following: The Everyday Math Program in elementary school, a New Math adoption which included Professional Development, Class Size Reduction, and RtI. Hoeffler said she would invite personnel to the P&O to give an overview of how math programs were being implemented at different schools. It was mentioned that California was developing a new set of math standards, and that curriculum would change in line with a dramatically new approach to math instruction.

8. Report on the Superintendent's Budget and Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Larry Gordon, P&O Representative to the SBAC

Gordon reported on the December 8th SBAC meeting. He said that in December the Superintendent had been optimistic about California's education budget, but that was before the

January release of Governor Brown's budget. Gordon said that the meeting included discussion on the number of out-of-District students at Berkeley High School. Comment from the floor indicated that although BUSD employees are a strong presence at the SBAC, the parent voice, representing school children, was often missing, especially during public comment. It was suggested that the Superintendent needed to exert more effort to make greater parent representation on the SBAC a reality, and that P&O members should make an effort to attend. The next SBAC meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2012

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

Minutes submitted by: Liz O'Connell-Gates