

BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 20, 2012

Malcolm X School Library
1731 Prince St., Berkeley

P&O Committee Members Present:

Keira Armstrong, <i>Washington (Alt)</i>	Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Oxford (Alt)</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>	Esther Hirsh, <i>Berkeley High</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>
Brittini 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>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks</i>	Brett Cook, <i>Malcolm X</i>
Elisabeth Hensley, <i>King (co-Chair)</i>	Ruby Holder, <i>B-Tech</i>	Ardel Thomas, <i>Pre-K</i>
Evon Williams, <i>Longfellow</i>	Representative, <i>Willard</i>	Representative, <i>Independent Study</i>

Visitors, School Board Directors, Union Reps, and Guests:

Javetta Cleveland, <i>Deputy Superintendent, CBO</i>	Julie Holcomb, <i>BHS Parent</i>
Cathy Campbell, <i>Berkeley Federation of Teachers</i>	Paula Phillips, <i>Berkeley Council of Classified Employees</i>

BSEP Staff:

Monica Thyberg, <i>Acting BSEP Manager</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord.</i>	Liz Karam, <i>Senior Budget Analyst</i>
Mark Coplan, <i>Public Information Officer</i>	Liz O'Connell-Gates, <i>Staff Support</i>	

1. Call to Order & Introductions
At 7:20 p.m. Co-Chair Chris Martin called the meeting to order, and invited members of the P&O to introduce themselves.
2. The quorum was established with 18 voting members present.
3. Chairs' Comments
Chris Martin, co-chair
Martin thanked everyone for attending last week's lively meeting. He said that discussions had enhanced the Committee's understanding of the Superintendent's Class Size Reduction (CSR) expenditure recommendations for 2012-13.
4. Financial Updates
Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services
Cleveland said that the outside auditor had met with the District's internal audit committee and had reported that BUSD had good controls over its finances. The audit of the BSEP program will go to the Board at the next Board meeting. She said that the audit will be e-mailed to the P&O Committee.

Cleveland then described the District's scrupulous procedures for making expenditures, both for payroll and for goods and services, noting that all checks require two signatures. She also noted that BUSD paychecks are run through the Alameda County Office of Education.

Review of 2012-13 Budget Scenarios

Cleveland distributed a handout showing: 1) how she and her staff arrived at the Budget Cut Target amount for 2012-13, 2) how this target will impact BUSD over the next two years, and 3) how they determined what budget items to recommend for cuts. She shared three scenarios for meeting the District's Budget Cut Target. She said that once the District determines cuts have to be made, she and her staff come up with a Budget Cut Target that goes to the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC). She said that Committee reviews staff recommendations and decide if that want to accept or revise the Budget Cut Target recommendations.

Cleveland said that after the Governor's May Budget revision ("May Revise"), she would present its fiscal impact to the SBAC. She did not rule out a reversal of proposed cuts. She explained that going forward the SBAC will come up with its own budget cut recommendations. The Superintendent will take staff's and the SBAC's recommendations into account, and then draft his own recommendation which will go to the Board for their decision.

Cleveland noted that the governor's initiative proposed for the November ballot would have a powerful impact on the district's budget. Should the initiative fail, much deeper cuts would have to be made in 2013-14, erasing the district's reserves.

BSEP Manager's Comments - Review of Administrative Recommendation for BSEP Class Size Budget-2012-13

Monica Thyberg

Thyberg manager remarked that since the last meeting she had ruminated on how to best address the discussion that came up about CSR. She said the discussion on CSR had revealed different levels of clarity on the issue and she was therefore recommending that P&O members meet in subcommittee to discuss the issues and to arrive at some consensus prior to the Superintendent's April 10th presentation to the P&O.

Thyberg summarized the Superintendent's recommendations which are designed to use BSEP funds to help reduce the projected deficit in the General Fund (GF) for 2012-13.

She said his first proposal, a savings to BSEP and the GF, involved refining the enrollment formula at middle schools and at Berkeley High School to account for students taking fewer than six classes and to factor in classes being paid for by sources other than the GF and BSEP.

She said that the Superintendent's second proposal involved using BSEP Program Support funds to finance a portion of ULSS teachers' costs. Thyberg said that although the Superintendent welcomed the Committee's suggestions, he wanted P&O members to know that he had carefully deliberated before making CSR recommendations that he felt were legal and in BUSD's best interest.

The History of 6/5 school-site allocation formula

Thyberg explained that the Measure was passed based on the 6/5 formula, meaning that BHS students took six periods and teachers taught five periods. She said that in reality, at the beginning of the Measure (1986) and throughout the 90's, many students were actually taking seven or eight periods, which had resulted in huge classes at BHS. Thyberg said the first attempt to address this was a mid-nineties formula which allowed 50% of the students to take a 7th class. She said that the upshot was that the BSEP Measure of 1994 allowed for the funding of Expanded Course Offerings (ECO) (for students taking a 7th class), just as long as monies were available. In 2001 there were insufficient funds, and no ECO classes were funded from BSEP. The current BSEP Measure of 2006 contains the 6/5 formula written into the Measure, to ensure that students taking 6 periods are covered by an adequate number of teachers. Then ECO was extra to allow for students to take an extra course in science and in other classes.

Regional Occupational Program (ROP)

Thyberg explained that ROP refers to yearly contracted courses that were offered at BHS but were paid for by the county. She said that in the past, students taking ROP classes had been included when the BSEP staffing formula was run, essentially "double-staffing" those classes. The CSR recommendation would remedy that.

Funding ULSS from BSEP Program Support

Thyberg said that although initially she had had reservations about the appropriateness of BSEP's funds going to finance ULSS, she had changed her mind. She explained that the ULSS program, a general education program and not a Special Education program, had started as a pilot program at Willard and had been enthusiastically received by teachers.

She explained that ULSS had ended up being applied to special education because at the time the contract was being negotiated, the District was mainstreaming Special Ed students into regular ed classrooms, and special education teachers were following special education students into the classroom. She said there were situations where some schools had special education teachers while others had none.

To facilitate the equitable distribution of ULSS services for all kids, identifying academically at-risk children whose skills need bolstering and giving them support and preventative services which allow them succeed, the program initially fell under the Special Education umbrella. Thyberg said that at one point she thought the program was for a limited number of kids but she now realizes that it is for all kids. Thyberg clarified that there were 22 ULSS teachers District-wide, that BSEP funds 50% of those at the elementary level, and the new proposal was to fund an additional 50% of the ULSS teachers at the middle school (5.5 FTE added to those at the elementary schools) for a total of 11.0 FTE.

Discussion followed, including concerns that although the ULSS program was operating very well at certain sites, ULSS should be evaluated, and made more consistent across the district. Thyberg conceded that the program was operating best at sites that had contributed to the program's coordination with site funds. Thyberg added that next year's projected BSEP COLA of 3.17% would yield additional BSEP funds, and that the P&O could debate

whether those funds might go to literary coaches, or another priority (ULSS coordination?) rather than increasing the BSEP reserve.

5. Motion to extend the meeting to 9:45 pm

Greg Wiberg/Aaron Glimme

The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Restructuring BUSD Parent Outreach services

Thyberg said the district had been conducting meetings to explore a new site-based parent outreach program. She said that the Superintendent would present his recommendation for a new pilot program to the Board on March 25th. She the distributed a PowerPoint handout describing BUSD's rationale for implementing a site-based program and about how Parent Liaisons at school sites promote student success. Discussion followed, with the understanding that Thyberg would take the P&O's comments to the Superintendent.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:45 pm.