

**BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 1, 2012**

Malcolm X School Library  
1731 Prince St., Berkeley

**P&O Committee Members Present:**

Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Oxford (Alt)</i>	Larry Gordon, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Elisabeth Hensley, <i>King (co-Chair)</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>	Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>
Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Shauna Rabinowitz, <i>Jefferson</i>	Abigail Surasky, <i>Longfellow (Alt)</i>
Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i>		

**P&O Committee Members Absent:**

Marjorie Alvord, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>	Keira Armstrong, <i>Washington (Alt)</i>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks</i>
Nicole Bowen, <i>Arts Magnet</i>	Brett Cook, <i>Malcolm X</i>	Mariane Ferme, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Patrick Hamill, <i>Thousand Oaks</i>	Ruby Holder, <i>B-Tech</i>
Catherine Huchting, <i>Malcolm X (Alt)</i>	Brittini Milam, <i>Washington</i>	Dialy Paulino, <i>Cragmont</i>
Margot Reed, <i>Longfellow</i>	Ardel Thomas, <i>Pre-K</i>	Sara Tool, <i>John Muir</i>
Evon Williams, <i>Longfellow</i>	Representative, <i>Willard</i>	Representative, <i>Independent Study</i>

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

William Huyett, <i>Superintendent</i>	Suzanne McCulloch, <i>VAPA Coordinator</i>	Becca Todd, <i>Library Coordinator</i>
Paula Phillips, <i>BCCE</i>		

**BSEP Staff:**

Monica Thyberg, <i>Acting BSEP Manager</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord.</i>	Liz Karam, <i>Senior Budget Analyst</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. Members introduced themselves.

**2. Establish the Quorum / Approve the Agenda**

Although initially there was not a quorum, the quorum was established later with 12 voting members present.

**3. Chairs' Comments**

*Chris Martin, co-Chair*

Martin said he had attended the April 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and had read aloud to the Board the P&O's statement regarding the ideal qualities and experience they sought in BUSD's new Superintendent. He noted that co-Chair Elizabeth Hensley would read the same statement to the Board at the next Board meeting, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### 4. BSEP Manager's Comments

*Monica Thyberg, BSEP Manager (Acting)*

The BSEP Manager distributed an information sheet on Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI<sup>2</sup>), which was prepared by Director of Evaluation/Assessment Debbi D'Angelo to give the P&O an overview of ULSS/RtI<sup>2</sup>.

Thyberg ceded the rest of her comment time to Superintendent Huyett, who had good news.

#### Superintendent's Comments

*William Huyett, Superintendent*

Huyett reminded the Committee that boosting student attendance had been one of BUSD's goals this year and that the District had reached that goal with an average 1 ½-2% increase in attendance districtwide. He said that the increased state Average Daily Attendance (ADA) revenue would compensate for revenue lost due to the decline in enrollment of 200 students this year. He noted that the increased revenue would reduce the amount the District would have to cut in 2012-13 to \$1.6 million, and would prevent BUSD from having to dip into reserves to cover expenses. The Superintendent said that the ADA revenue increase would place the District in a stronger financial position for the coming year.

The Superintendent said that Berkeley High School had faced a significant reduction in staffing next year because of its decline in enrollment. Feedback from the P&O Committee had steered him away from changing the method of allocating BSEP Class Size funds to BHS. Instead, Huyett said he would recommend that the General Fund pay for several positions at BHS next year: Activities Director, Athletic Director, International Baccalaureate Coordinator (.5 FTE), a Technology support position, and two Math teachers. Huyett said that although BHS would still lose 5-6 teachers due to lower enrollment, this approach would maintain student-teacher ratios at 28:1. The Superintendent said the simple and positive message he wanted to communicate to voters and BSEP supporters was that we allocate staff to the high school at 28:1 and we multiply it by 6/5 to give teachers a prep period.

Huyett said that this change made staffing at the high school more straightforward and simpler. BSEP CSR would only fund classroom teachers. He urged the Committee to continue insist in the future on a real accounting for the use of BSEP CSR funds at BHS.

The Superintendent noted that the Adult School had recently received a stellar WASC accreditation review and that there would be no cuts to the Berkeley Adult School at the moment. He said all funds for adult education came from State resources by way of the General Fund. He said that the Berkeley Adult School should really be a regional program, and that he was interested in seeing more of the non-core adult programs become self-sustaining via grants or higher fees.

Finally, Huyett let the Committee know about a state proposal that would provide higher per pupil funding for educating students who speak a second language and those who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Huyett said such a "weighted" method of allocating state categorical funds would hurt BUSD, since our numbers of EL students and very low income students are relatively low. The Superintendent said the plan, favored by the Governor, was something to watch, since the impact on BUSD's budget would be negative.

**5. Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP funds for Music and Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA) in 2012-13**

*Suzanne McCulloch, Visual & Performing Arts Coordinator*

McCulloch distributed the recommendation for the BSEP-funded Music and VAPA program and budget in 2012-13. She reviewed the recommendation, reminding the group that BSEP pays for Music in grades 4-8; the General Fund pays for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Music. McCulloch noted that Dance is now offered at each middle school, and qualifies for P.E. credit.

After her presentation McCulloch was asked to provide statistics on the number of students who participated in BSEP-funded music/performing arts classes, and the number participated in additional music and arts opportunities offered by the District. It was noted that such data could be helpful in garnering support for the next BSEP Measure. McCulloch said she could easily provide this data to the P&O at a future meeting.

**6. Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP funds for Libraries in 2012-13**

*Becca Todd, District Library Coordinator*

Todd began her presentation by noting that aside from some small grants and donations from BPEF, PTAs, and Wells Fargo, the BUSD school library program is funded entirely by BSEP funds. She distributed the recommendation for the Library program and budget in 2012-13, and reviewed the highlights. She noted that, after a very disappointing year with a new library circulation software program, the recommendation included funds to select and install a much more robust circulation system that can handle BUSD's complexity, including the circulation of textbooks.

Discussion and Q&A followed.

Todd invited any interested P&O members to the next meeting of the Friends of the BUSD Libraries, which would be held in June.

**7. Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP funds for Technology in 2012-13**

*Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology*

Nitschke began by saying that this was an interesting time in technology because of the rapid change in the computer industry. As an example, he said that his staff had begun replacing desktop computers in classrooms, installing CPUs that can run five workstations. He said that he had told his staff that that this would likely be the last time they'd be installing desktop computers in classrooms because they would be moving towards the next generation of technology in 5-7 years when these needed replacing.

Nitschke said that a teacher on the BUSD Technology Committee had expressed concern about the introduction of iPads into the classrooms, fearing that students might skip the important step of learning to type. He noted a new digital divide where most kids were now familiar with computers and touchscreens, but not all could type, putting them at a disadvantage.

Nitschke distributed the recommendation for the BSEP-funded Technology program and budget in 2012-13, and reviewed the highlights. He noted that the General Fund provides a

very small allocation for Technology, the recent bond (Measure I of 2010) provides \$25/pupil for Technology, and BSEP provides \$13/pupil for Technology.

Discussion and Q&A followed.

**8. Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP funds for Professional Development in 2012-13.**

The Professional Development recommendation for FY 13 was available for review by the Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED (Paxson/Kuderna): To approve the recommendation for the use of BSEP funds for Professional Development in 2012-13.**

The motion was approved unanimously.

**9. Statement from the P&O Committee regarding the use of BSEP Class Size Reduction Funds (CSR) in 2012-13.**

*Chris Martin, Co-Chair*

Martin distributed the revised statement. Discussion and questions, one correction and editorial changes followed.

**MOTION CARRIED (Surasky/Lavine): To approve the P&O Statement to the Board regarding the use of BSEP Class Size Reduction funds in 2012-13, as amended.**

The motion was approved unanimously.

Thyberg said that the Superintendent would want to include the P&O statement in the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board packet, along with the CSR Recommendation to the Board.

It was agreed that either Greg Wiberg or Leah Baechler-Brabo would read the summary portion of the statement (the last two paragraphs) during public testimony at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:20 pm.