

**BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**October 18, 2012**

Malcolm X School Library  
1731 Prince St., Berkeley

**P&O Committee Members Present:**

Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Oxford (Alt)</i>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks (co-Rep)</i>	Moshe Cohen, <i>Pre-K (co-Rep)</i>
Ila Deiss, <i>LeConte (Alt)</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>
Catherine Huchting, <i>Malcolm X</i>	John Lavine, <i>King</i>	Catherine Lazio, <i>Willard</i>
Leslie Lippard, <i>Cragmont</i>	Chris Martin, <i>LeConte (co-Chair)</i>	Brittini Milam, <i>Washington</i>
Dialya Paulino, <i>Cragmont</i>	Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Boyd Power, <i>Emerson</i>
Margot Reed, <i>Longfellow</i>	James Schultz, <i>Rosa Parks (co-Rep)</i>	Abigail Surasky, <i>Longfellow (Alt)</i>
Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i>		

**BSEP Staff/P&O Committee Members Absent:**

Nicole Bowen, <i>Arts Magnet</i>	Brett Cook, <i>Malcolm X</i>	Diana Kuderna, <i>Berkeley High (Alt)</i>
Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>	Shauna Rabinowitz, <i>Jefferson</i>	Sara Tool, <i>John Muir</i>

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

Neil Smith, <i>Co-Superintendent</i>	Josh Daniels, <i>Board of Education</i>
Becca Todd, <i>Library Coordinator</i>	

**BSEP Staff:**

Natasha Beery, <i>BSEP Director (Provisional)</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord. (Acting)</i> .	Liz O'Connell-Gates, <i>Staff Support</i>
Monica Thyberg, <i>BSEP Manager (Acting)</i>		

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

At 7:20 p.m. Co-Chair Chris Martin called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees and by asking P&O members to introduce themselves and to report on School Governance Council elections at their sites.

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

The quorum was established with 17 voting Representatives present. No action items were on the agenda.

**3. Chairs' Comments**

*Chris Martin & Elizabeth Hensley*

Before inviting Co-Superintendent Neil Smith to address the P&O Committee, Co-Chair Chris Martin mentioned that he looked forward to productive P&O meetings during the coming school year.

#### **4. Co-Superintendent's Comments**

*Neil Smith, Co-Superintendent*

Smith began by sketching his twenty-four-year career at Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). He said that in addition to having been King Middle School's Principal for thirteen years, he had served as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, as Assistant Superintendent, and now as Co-Superintendent along with Javetta Cleveland. He explained that the School Board had appointed them as interim Co-Superintendents for the 2012-13 school year as the search for a new superintendent continued. Smith said that although this turn of events had been unexpected, he and Javetta Cleveland were energized by their new responsibilities and were already focusing on a variety of District goals which would shortly be sent to the P&O.

Smith said he and Javetta Cleveland were pleased and excited by the release of data showing across-the-board gains in BUSD students' academic progress and significant progress for every sub-group. Smith said the data pointed to higher math scores at the high school, double-digit progress for ESL students, African American students, and special-education students. Smith said that API gains of 19% at Berkeley High School represented BUSD's crossing a major threshold in terms of improving student success. He noted that he and Cleveland were particularly proud that King Middle School and Rosa Parks Elementary School had come out of "Program Improvement Status," adding that the two schools would be honored at the next School Board meeting.

Smith noted that the data also reflected student daily attendance gains at BHS. He said increased attendance had resulted in 100 more students present at BHS each day, and that this shift had contributed to improved California Standards Test (CST) scores.

##### **a. BSEP Director Transition**

Smith then turned to BSEP, saying that Monica Thyberg, Acting BSEP Manager, would be returning to retirement and that Natasha Beery would step in to serve as BSEP Director on a provisional basis, while the hiring process is completed. Smith expressed his thanks to Thyberg for her twenty-five-year-service to BUSD.

Monica Thyberg said it was a new time for the District, a new time for BSEP, and the right time for her to step down and to pass the baton. Looking to the future, Thyberg said the P&O Committee's challenge was to re-examine, re-define, and to re-describe the BSEP Measure before the District asks voters to renew it (no later than 2016). She finished by saying that it had been her privilege to serve as BSEP Manager and she commended the P&O Committee for its work, dedication and can-do attitude on behalf of BUSD's students.

Smith introduced Natasha Beery, saying that in the recent past Beery had been a finalist for the BSEP Manager position but had withdrawn her candidacy at the last minute when Kaiser Permanente offered her a position. When her contract with Kaiser ended this fall, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) offered her a position but Beery chose to come to BUSD. He said that BUSD was fortunate to have persuaded her to come on board at this time.

Natasha Beery said that her background was in the ethical, legal, and social implication of medical research. She noted that her work at Kaiser had involved serving on an oversight committee similar to the P&O. She said that although the job offer from UCSF had been attractive, her heart was in Berkeley where she felt a great commitment to BUSD and to the community. Beery, a past leader of BHS's PTSA, said she was humbled and delighted to step in as the provisional BSEP Director.

**b. Communication between Co-Superintendents and the P&O Committee**

Smith said that both he and Javetta Cleveland took the work of the Planning and Oversight Committee very seriously and added that they were looking forward to working with P&O this year.

**5. Class Size Report for 2012-13**

*Neil Smith, Co-Superintendent and Aaron Glimme, BHS*

Smith and Glimme distributed the Class Size report for 2012-13 and then lead the Committee through a series of bar charts showing average class size at elementary schools, middle schools, and at the high school. Highlights included

- First Grade elementary class size average was a fraction above the goal with an average of 20.7 students per class;
- Elementary enrollment is trending up, with nearly all grade levels totaling 650-700 pupils;
- High-Five Transitional Kindergartens at John Muir and Washington increased enrollment at those sites;
- Middle Schools class size average in 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade math was 20-1 thanks to additional BSEP support;
- Berkeley High's enrollment is down by 200, but improved attendance kept revenue steady;
- Berkeley High's overall class size average is 27.4 (without Special Ed and P.E.);
- Class sizes for core academic classes at BHS is lower than for electives;
- AP classes at BHS are intentionally larger than average;
- Zero and 7<sup>th</sup> period at BHS are not included in these graphs;
- there is no 9<sup>th</sup>-grade in the Green Academy (small school at BHS);
- B-Tech shows a 15:1 student-teacher ratio and is using a four period day.

Glimme explained that establishing class size at BHS was complex and that student-teacher ratios were sometimes set according to student need. Comments from the floor suggested that some BHS classes hovered at 40-1 and this was disquieting. Discussion followed and it was requested that information on class sizes be displayed in public view at BHS and that the Co-Superintendents discuss the issue of large class sizes with BHS Principal Pasquale Scuderi.

Thyberg noted that these class size averages exceed the BSEP Measure's goals (20:1 for K-3, 26:1 for 4-5, and 28:1 for 6-12). She added that this shows only the classroom teachers, and that there are many more resource teachers providing additional support for students, and bringing down the adult-child ratio even further.

**6. Distribution of BSEP's Annual Plan for 2012-2013**

*Mary Hurlbert, BSEP Coordinator (Acting)*

Hurlbert distributed copies of the BSEP Annual Plan for 2012-13, saying that it will be reviewed in detail at future meetings. She invited P&O members to a Training for School Site Leaders to be held Thursday, October 25, 2012, at Longfellow Middle School, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**7. Report: Electronic Approval of Minutes**

*Mary Hurlbert, BSEP Coordinator (Acting)*

Hurlbert thanked the P&O for approving the minutes of the 4-10-12, 4-24-12, 5-1-12, 5-15-12, and 5-29-12 meetings via SurveyMonkey online.

**8. Distribution of Draft P&O Calendar for 2012-2013**

*Mary Hurlbert, BSEP Coordinator (Acting)*

Hurlbert distributed a proposed P&O calendar for the school year. She noted that future P&O meetings would take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. at Malcolm X School Library.

**9. Subcommittee Reports/Action Items**

Library coordinator Becca Todd announced that the Library Committee always welcomed new members.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:00 pm.