

## BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 7, 2014

BUSD Offices –Technology Room 126  
2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

### P&O Committee Members Present:

Sergio Duran, *Arts Magnet*  
Danielle Perez, *John Muir*  
Chris Martin, *LeConte (co-Chair)*  
Patrick Hamill, *Thousand Oaks*

Elisabeth Hensley, *King (co-Chair)*  
Bruce Simon, *King*  
Aaron Glimme, *Berkeley High*  
Louise Harm, *Independent Study*

### P&O Steering Committee Members Absent:

Dan Smuts, *Rosa Parks*  
Ellen Weis, *Longfellow*

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

Jay Nitschke, *Director of Technology*  
Josh Daniels, *School Board Director*  
Julie Sinai, *School Board Director*  
John Fike  
Christine Staples

### BSEP Staff:

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director*  
Valerie Tay, *BSEP Program Specialist*

#### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

At 7:18 p.m. Co-chair Chris Martin called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees and asking them to introduce themselves.

#### **2. Establish the Quorum**

**The quorum was approved with 9 voting members.** [4 voting members are required for a quorum of the Steering Committee.]

#### **3. Public Comment**

Josh Daniels brought up the enrollment challenges facing the District, at Malcolm X and Cragmont as well as Washington and BAM. He noted that back in the 1980's, the District was closing school sites, but current demographic studies now show that enrollment will be back above 10,000 students in about three years. He said that the Board will be looking at options over the next four meetings to relieve pressure at the school sites, but the first step is to look at data at the October 8 meeting. He invited all interested parties to attend or watch the proceedings. Because of the pressure on facilities, they will be looking at K-3 class size even though this may preempt the two-year discussion that would occur in the roll-up to the new BSEP measure.

He also wanted to note an example of good stewardship of taxpayer funds, that being the Berkeley High renovation, the flagship project under the Measure I bond, completed \$6 million under budget.

There was also a discussion of the pressure of T-K on the district and whether it would be challenged or become the new normal.

#### **4. Goals, Agenda and Calendar for FY 2014-15**

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director*

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director, provided the following handout:

- *BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee Calendar 2014-2015*

Beery reviewed the P&O calendar, pointing out how it would intersect with school capacity discussions, BUSD strategic planning and BSEP Measure Planning. She explained that the upcoming SGC training workshops have been expanded to be inclusive of PAC, and that workshop topics were adjusted based upon feedback from last year's attendees.

Items to be covered at the next transitional meeting of the P&O include the Assistant Superintendent's Class Size Report. The Superintendent's BSEP Measure Planning Working Group is currently setting parameters and the timeline, and after discussions regarding the hiring of an outside consultant, it has been decided that much of the initial process will be done within the capacity of the BSEP office. Involving stakeholders will start to happen after January, beginning with the P&O.

Usual P&O business begins at the November 18 meeting with an orientation for new members and election of a new chair/co-chairs. With the job of shepherding dwindling resources, this being year 8 of the 10-year measure, Beery has built into the calendar discussions about those resources related to enrollment (such as CSR and VAPA). There also needs to be a look at what the impact is of the State rewarding districts for class sizes of 24:1 instead of 20:1.

In February, there is a suggestion to have a joint meeting with other district-wide groups to develop a bigger picture; this meeting might be a way to grasp how the various funds and groups in the district can work together. Also in the works are the Superintendent's strategic plan and a District Technology plan. The PTA Council has also pulled together information on what the various PTAs are spending. The question was posed as to whether the February meeting was to be "informational" or "discussional" and that based upon its purpose, representatives of the various groups might be invited rather than a large forum which might make discussions unwieldy.

Beery reviewed the BSEP Measure Planning Timeline, stating that the BSEP Measure Working Group will be refining it further, and she will bring it to the next P&O Meeting. There are a number of issues that the Board needs to keep in mind, including the CSR piece, and the challenge to the split roll tax and the ruling that the tax needs to be "uniform," although it's not known what exactly that means yet. In response to a question about whether the ruling would be overturned, she responded that it was not likely. Three avenues that have been looked at include repeal of Prop 13, a new ruling on the split roll tax, or changing the vote required from 2/3 to a simple majority, however, various legislators have declined to take on any of these. Traditionally, Berkeley residents generally pass with a significant margin.

A question as to the best process for constructing/renewing the next measure is whether to begin by compiling a wish list - the thought is to ground the process by finding out what the various options would cost, especially given the split roll tax concern.

The Board will approve the language of the Measure, although it will likely be written by committee. The BSEP department must be careful that it can discuss parameters but not campaign, especially once the Measure is adopted by the Board in June 2016.

## **5. P&O Subcommittees and Related Committees**

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director*

There was a discussion on how to handle the various P&O subcommittees and whether to build in time on alternate Tuesdays or to extend the time on meeting days. Martin suggested that the people who are going to be on the Subcommittees have the opportunity to weigh in. In preparation, the BSEP staff will find available dates. Martin also suggested that there not be subcommittees for everything and that the most important be prioritized, i.e. CSR, Technology, VAPA, Library, and BSEP Measure Awareness.

## **6. Chairperson(s) for the P&O Committee for FY 2014-15**

Martin informed the committee that he would be stepping down as co-chair and was then asked what he thought were important qualities for a chairperson to have. He expressed the thought that the P&O Chair and those involved in the new measure would be different, although those roles had meshed before. He stated that it was important to maintain active communication with BSEP staff and Board, to make meeting time productive. He said there was some prep time in looking at the agenda and how one would want to manage the time.

Hensley suggested that the chair understand this committee's charge with the measure winding down. This coming year, there would be multiple calls for service. Beery expressed appreciation for a chair who is able to keep the meeting running smoothly, who is balanced and not necessarily an advocate with an agenda. The chair would make sure that everyone is able to speak. Martin added that the chair needn't respond to everything. Chris invited others to speak with him if they have questions. Harm complimented Martin on his work and how his unique set of characteristics have made the meetings flow.

## **7. Update on 2013-14 Closing and Budget Revisions**

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director*

Beery stated that more information will be available at the November meeting. She did go over some major points, including the fact that many of the school sites have a fair amount of carryover to work with this year. Next year, however, there is not much fund balance to increase the allocations, and there will probably be less per student. On a positive note, half of the music teacher release time money was paid out of General Fund this past year, approximately \$209,000, and the VAPA budget ended up with a better fund balance than expected. The CSR budget is still tight but positive. There was some discussion about how the increase in LCFF will affect the District next year. Beery also mentioned the tentative agreement with BCCE and its effect on BSEP, since Technology, Library, Parent Outreach staff are all classified. According to Sinai, the STRS contribution will also increase, and the District will take a big hit because of it.

## **8. P&O Committee Policy Regarding Budget and Program Changes**

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director, provided the following handout:

• *BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee, Proposed Guidelines for Budget occurring after Approval of Annual Plan*

Beery presented the guidelines that had been discussed regarding the various BSEP budgets and what to do if there are changes. The guideline would be presented in October with action at the next meeting. It is a guideline, not a bylaw, which gets re-written with the measure. This degree of detail is not necessarily going to be in the Measure.

**9. Approval of Minutes: 6.3.14**

**MOTION CARRIED (Perez/Hamill):** To approve the meeting minutes of the June 3, 2014 P&O Committee. The motion was approved with a showing of 9 hands, with no objections, and 1 abstention. **Approval of Minutes 4.15.14**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:12 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Valerie Tay, BSEP Staff Support*