

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Berkeley Unified School District
2020 Bonar Street
Berkeley CA 94702

President Josh Daniels Reported From Closed Session:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Evaluation
Separation Agreement – Classified Employee
This item was pulled and not discussed.
2. Collective Bargaining
BFT
This item was discussed.
BCCE
This item was discussed.
3. Superintendent's 2014-15 Evaluation
This item was discussed.

Roll Call

Josh Daniels, President Yes
Judy Appel, Vice President Yes
Karen Hemphill, Director Yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director /Clerk Yes
Julie Sinai, Director Yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes
Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Approve Agenda of October 22, 2014

Motion to amend the agenda by moving Action Item 3 to the consent calendar
(Recommendations to the Personnel Commission for the Classification and
Compensation Study)

Barber/Sinai approved unanimously (7-0)

Josh Daniels, President Yes
Judy Appel, Vice President Yes
Karen Hemphill, Director Yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director /Clerk Yes
Julie Sinai, Director Yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes
Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Motion to approve the amended agenda

Barber/Sinai approved unanimously (7-0)

Josh Daniels, President Yes
Judy Appel, Vice President Yes
Karen Hemphill, Director Yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director /Clerk Yes
Julie Sinai, Director Yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes
Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Next, President Josh Daniels gave an overview of the evening's meeting and invited attendees to stay. He said that in his opinion the highlight would be the presentation on Indicators of Student Progress.

Read Mission and Meeting Overview Statement

Student Director Jesse Barber read the statement.

Public Comment

Fourteen people addressed the Board

Approve the Facilities Financial Plan Update for Measures I and AA (1)
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (3)
Domestic Violence/student transfer request (2)
Restore Berkeley High Tennis Courts (3)
Special Education/Challenges posed by dyslexia (2)
Superintendent's Task Force on Physical Activity (2)

BCCE

Paula Phillips, President, Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

President Philips reminded the School Board and attendees that October was breast cancer awareness month. Then she said BCCE and BUSD had worked hard to forge a three-year contract that members had voted to approve. President Philips said she was disappointed that the Board Members had voted to move Action Item #3 to the consent calendar because that curbed discussion on the matter.

Board Member and Superintendent Comments:

Student Director Carlos Ku-Ceja (BTA)

Ku-Ceja said teachers and students participated in a restorative class a week ago and it had gone well. He said students needed more such meetings. On a different topic, Ku-Ceja noted that a lack of lunch spots near BTA resulted in students having to leave the area to get food and that sometimes resulted in their returning late to class. Ku-Ceja also commented that BUSD should create a space for sports activities at BTA. He said he thought it would be a good idea to have the tennis courts near Tim Moellering Field.

Student Director Jesse Barber (BHS)

Barber said BHS had finished its first quarter. He said that the Jacket Jam was held last Friday and the “awesome” event attracted good audience turnout. Switching topics, he added that the vice principals had stepped up to the plate during Interim Principal Kristen Glenchur’s absence. He said Vice Principal Jorge Malgoza, in particular, had been great. Barber concluded his remarks by saying that there had a disagreement between staff and students vis-à-vis spirit week activities.

Director Beatriz Leyva-Cutler

Leyva-Cutler thanked families for coming out and said she specifically appreciated the parent who spoke about domestic violence challenges. She said she would support BUSD’s taking a proactive approach in helping families tackle such matters. Next she said she supported teacher-training that would allow for earlier identification of dyslexia so timely interventions could occur. She said she was in favor of appropriate supports being put in place for dyslexic students to ensure academic success. She said BUSD should help the student whose dyslexia challenges were addressed during public comment.

Director Julie Sinai

Sinai said she wanted to thank the parent who addressed the issue of domestic violence. She said she wanted follow up with the District on that matter and also on the topic of dyslexia. Next she noted that plans for the Fourth Annual Doctor Martin Luther King Breakfast had begun. She shared that she had enjoyed Berkeley Community College’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Director Karen Hemphill

Hemphill said she wanted BUSD families struggling with domestic violence to get appropriate help, and she would confer with Superintendent Evans on the matter. In response to public comment on dyslexic students and their challenges, Hemphill said she too wanted to be sure supports were put in place to help students succeed. She said she would follow up on public comments made tonight regarding the student facing academic challenges stemming from dyslexia. In final remarks, Director Hemphill said the process of accessing data presented to the Board should be simplified.

Vice President Judy Appel

Appel said the Board would move to an electronic agenda system where information could be easily organized and access to data would be easier. She then said she was interested in getting the public’s thoughts on specific matters they wanted the Board to address. She said she welcomed feedback at judyappel@berkeley.net. She encouraged people to vote in the November 4th election.

President Josh Daniels

President Daniels pointed out that the community at large continued to struggle with gun violence. He noted that three young people had died violently since the last board meeting. “These are predominantly young men of color...basically kids. Although we may not know them individually, we must deal with it as a community,” said Daniels.

Superintendent Evans

Doctor Evans said that since BHS students had no tennis courts, he would shortly bring a recommendation to the Board urging members to develop a feasibility study that would determine whether or not it made sense to reinstate tennis courts on the current BHS staff parking lot. After that he thanked BCCE President Paula Philips, her negotiating team, and the District's negotiating team, for finalizing a three-year contract. Next he congratulated BHS Teacher Glen Wolkenfeld on his being selected BUSD's Teacher of the Year. The Superintendent ended his remarks by saying that BUSD was finalizing its Local Control Accountability Plan for the year and once done he would bring it back to the Board.

Motion to Approve Consent Calendar

Ku-Ceja/Appel approved unanimously (7-0)

Josh Daniels, President Yes

Judy Appel, Vice President Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director /Clerk Yes

Julie Sinai, Director Yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Approval of Successor Agreement between the Berkeley Unified School District and the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees

Donald E. Evans, Ed.D., Superintendent/Secretary

Superintendent Evans said he was asking the Board to approve this item. He explained that BUSD now had one bargaining unit representing Instructional Assistant/Paraprofessionals, Office Technical/Business Service, and Operations and Support Services. He said a 2.5% raise would be retroactive to July 2013 and a 2% raise would be retroactive to July 1, 2014. He said effective January 2015 the District's contribution to the cost of the health plan selected by unit members would be increased by the amount equal to the cost of 5% salary increase.

Motion to move the item.

Hemphill/Appel approved unanimously (7-0)

Josh Daniels, President Yes

Judy Appel, Vice President Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director /Clerk Yes

Julie Sinai, Director Yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Board members expressed their gratitude to BCCE President Paula Phillips and her negotiating team and to the District's negotiating team for their collective efforts. Director Karen Hemphill summed up the Board's appreciation by saying "at the end what was proven is that we all share the common goal of giving our kids the best education possible and we both realize that we need to support our staff in order to do so. In the end, our commonalities outweighed our differences and I appreciate all the hard work it took to forge this contract".

AB 1200: Approval of Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement

President Josh Daniels said this action approved disclosure of the Agreement's financial implications.

Motion to approve the item.

Sinai/Leyva-Cutler unanimously approved (7-0)

Josh Daniels, President Yes

Judy Appel, Vice President Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director / Clerk Yes

Julie Sinai, Director Yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS Yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA Yes

Before moving on to discussion items, President Daniels reminded everyone that action item # 3 had been moved to the consent calendar.

Superintendent's Taskforce/Council/Committee on Physical Activity and Wellness for High School Students

Donald E. Evans, Ed.D., Superintendent/Secretary

Doctor Evans led the discussion by saying he was very excited about this item and he was sure we could agree that health and fitness played a major role in students' academic success. The superintendent said that during a staff presentation last year, community members voiced concerns about a variety of issues: access to physical education classes, the number of students seeking waivers, equity in funding allocation for both BUSD's internal and external athletic clubs, and for athletic programs in general.

Doctor Evans he was proposing that he form a committee charged with the task of studying these issues and then returning to the Board in the spring with recommendations that would move the District's athletics programs forward. The superintendent said he envisioned a 10-member committee comprised of the BHS athletic director, 1 student, 1 teacher, 1 school administrator, 1 district level administrator, 1 Board member, and 4 community members that would include 2 parents and 2 people from the Berkeley Athletic Fund.

Discussion and questions followed.

Indicators of Student Progress

Debbi D'Angelo, Director of Berkeley Research, Evaluation and Assessment

Doctor Evans invited Director D'Angelo to begin a presentation focused on progress made and/or not yet made on disproportionality in these areas: student suspensions, special education designation, student absenteeism, school governance council participation by parents/guardians/students of color, and the ratio of African American and Latino teachers to students of color.

D'Angelo led Board Members through a slide show as part of their presentation. Discussion and questions followed.

Adult School Benchmarks

Burr Guthrie, Principal, Berkeley Adult School (BAS)

Superintendent Evans introduced the presentation by explaining that BAS assesses adult students' academic progress. He invited Principal Guthrie to explain how students are assessed and how BAS gets its funding as a result of the assessment process. The principal let the Board through a slide presentation.

Discussion and questions followed.

Public Comment (2nd Opportunity)

Domestic Violence/student transfer request (2) [Both individuals also spoke earlier in the evening].

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Approved



**Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk
Board of Education**