

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Berkeley Unified School District
2020 Bonar Street
Berkeley CA 94702

Roll Call

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

President Josh Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:35.
He said the earlier, closed session began at 6:02 p.m.

Report from Closed Session

President Josh Daniels reported on the following four items:

1. **Collective Bargaining**
Board members discussed negotiations between BCCE and BUSD.
2. **Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Evaluation Separation Agreement – Classified Employee**
This item was pulled from the closed-session agenda.
3. **Parent Complaint against District Employees (Gov. Code 54957) (b)**
After some discussion, Board Members authorized President Daniels to respond.
4. **Superintendent's Evaluation 2014**
This was discussed.

Roll Call

President Daniels: Yes
Vice-President Appel: Yes
Director Hemphill: Yes
Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes
Director Sinai: Yes
Student Director Jesse Barber: Yes
Student Director Carlos Ku-Ceja: Yes

Approve Agenda of October 8, 2014

President Daniels requested that the order of discussion items 1 and 2 be reversed.

Motion to Approve the Amended Agenda of October 8, 2014

Barber/Sinai and approved unanimously 7-0
President Daniels: Yes

Vice-President Appel: Yes
Director Hemphill: Yes
Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes
Director Sinai: Yes
Student Director Jesse Barber: Yes
Student Director Carlos Ku-Ceja: Yes

Berkeley City College's 40th Anniversary Celebration - Friday, October 17th, 4-6 p.m.

Berkeley City College President Deborah Budd

Superintendent Evans introduced President Deborah Budd and invited her to address the Board. President Budd said BCC was celebrating its 40th year. Budd noted that among California's one-hundred-and-twelve community colleges, BCC was number one in student transfer acceptance rates to UC Berkeley and number two in student transfer rates to Northern California UCs. President Budd stressed that BCC was not only a great option for college students' first two years of study, but it was also a learning community where high school students could concurrently enroll in college level classes. She invited all to a celebratory event of food, art, and music at BCC, on Friday, October 17th, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Open Session Public Testimony (1st Opportunity)

Enrollment and Capacity at BUSD

Twenty people addressed the School Board.

Parents and community members representing Cragmont, Longfellow, Malcolm X, Oxford, and Washington voiced concerns about the accuracy of BUSD's demographic data; the District's staffing formula, equity in resource allocation, growing class size, loss of enrichment spaces, fraudulent enrollment, bubble classes, and the need for more special-education staff and literacy coaches.

Parent Claims Brown Act Violation

A Berkeley High School (BHS) parent said he attended a September 2014 meeting at BHS with other parents, teachers, students, and administrators. He said during the meeting a vote took place to allocate monies for advanced classes. The speaker complained that he neither saw the item voted on written on an agenda, nor did he see a meeting agenda publically posted seventy-two hours prior to the meeting as is required by the Brown Act. The speaker said it was his understanding that only the School Board had authority to allocate public funds, and therefore he wanted the allocated money returned and the issue brought before the Board.

Petition for the Board to Support a Youth Wellness Program for High School Students

Executive Director Hope McDonnell, United for Health

The Executive Director said BUSD and B Tech students, principals, teachers, and staff had asked her to address the Board in hopes of garnering support for the establishment of a wellness program focusing on students who are coping with issues related to trauma, violence, mental health, and chemical dependency. She said United for Health had served Berkeley for over twenty years with its acupuncture and wellness services and could counsel eighty students, five-days-a-week, for the school year. The Director concluded her remarks by saying the treatments provided quick results and were affordable.

Union Comments

Cathy Campbell, President, Berkeley Federation of Teachers

BFT President Campbell made three points:

1. No matter what timeline the Board chose to elucidate and resolve Enrollment and Capacity challenges, teachers and parents wanted all options kept open for school year 2016/17. Campbell said the Board needed to make decisions about medium and long-range solutions by March 2015.
2. Given the high level of interest in this topic, this item should be placed earlier in the agenda in future Board Meetings so more teachers could attend.
3. BUSD needed to address the issue of proportional resources for schools. Campbell said that with the passage of Proposition 30, there was growing base revenue and now was the time to look at all eleven sites and to create a staffing formula that gave people predictability, created transparency, and allowed the Board and staff to be proactive rather than reactive.

PTA Council

Amy Pulich, PTA Council, Vice President of Legislative and District Advocacy

Pulich, a former Washington parent, said she had joined the PTA and had undertaken a data study that examined over-enrollment and overcrowding because she was interested in educational equity. She asked the Board for its support in getting district-wide data from PTA presidents and principals, as she had had difficulty getting it in the past.

Board Member Administrative/Operational Items:

President Josh Daniels

Office Hours: 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 18th, Take 5 Café, 3130 Sacramento Street.

Vice President Judy Appel

Office Hours: 1 p.m. on 4th Saturdays, Café Leila, 1724 San Pablo Ave.

Director Karen Hemphill

Office hours: 10 a.m., Saturday, October 11, at Café Leila, 1724 San Pablo Ave.

Director Beatriz Leyva-Cutler

Office hours: 4 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 9, at Casa Latina, 1801 San Pablo.

Director Julie Sinai

Office hours: 4:30 – 6:30, Thursday, October 16, at Roma Espresso located at Hopkins and Monterey.

Enrollment and Capacity – Discussion Item Number 2

Assistant Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Facilities Director Lew Jones

Superintendent Evans introduced the speakers and set the stage for their presentation by explaining that an influx of young families in the South and Central zones had resulted in robust and unexpected growth in school populations. Doctor Evans said during tonight's presentation, staff would lay out BUSD's elementary school enrollment and capacity challenges. The Superintendent said the evening's discussion would focus solely on issues

and challenges whereas a November 5th meeting would highlight preliminary ideas for options and remedies.

Assistant Superintendent Scuderi began the presentation by saying he and Director Lew Jones agreed that educational programming needs would drive the demand for facilities. He said there would be no compromises or short cuts when it came to delivering BUSD's educational program to students.

A detailed presentation, discussion, and questions followed. The Board directed staff to provide answers to the questions, if able, and provide them to the public at an upcoming board meeting.

Update on English Learner (EL) Master Plan

Debbi D'Angelo, Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Maggie Riddle, Director of Schools, Pat Saddler, Director of Special Projects and Programs, Veronica Valerio, Principal, Le Conte, and Diederich Bonemeyer, EL Teacher on Special Assignment

Director Beatriz Leyva-Cutler introduced the evening's speakers. Then Pat Saddler began the presentation by saying that the guiding principle behind the EL master plan was BUSD's mission of ensuring that all students received an education that promoted academic success and inspired students to be contributing citizens as they grew up, matured, and entered the work force.

Saddler explained that the EL plan had five key goals:

1. Identification and initial assessment of all non-English speaking students.
2. EL programs available at all grades.
3. Staffing for services.
4. Professional Development for staff.
5. Opportunities for parent involvement.

The presentation continued and was followed by discussion and questions.

Motion to Extend the Meeting

Vice President Judy Appel moved to extend the meeting to 11:20 p.m.

Appel/Daniels and approved unanimously 7-0

President Daniels: Yes
Vice-President Appel: Yes
Director Hemphill: Yes
Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes
Director Sinai: Yes
Student Director Jesse Barber: Yes
Student Director Carlos Ku-Ceja: Yes

Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar

Appel/Hemphill Approved unanimously 7-0

President Daniels: Yes
Vice-President Appel: Yes
Director Hemphill: Yes
Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes
Director Sinai: Yes
Student Director Jesse Barber: Yes
Student Director Carlos Ku-Ceja: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beatriz Leyva-Cutler", written over a horizontal line.

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk
Board of Education