

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Berkeley Unified School District
2020 Bonar Street
Berkeley CA 94702

President Josh Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. He said Special Closed session began at 6:00 p.m.

Swearing in of Board Directors

Berkeley City Clerk Mark Numainville administered the oath of office to newly-elected Board Member Ty Alper and re-elected Board Members, Josh Daniels and Karen Hemphill.

Election of Officers for the 2015 Calendar Year

Josh Daniels moved to make the following officer nominations:

Board President, Judy Appel
Vice President, Beatriz Leyva-Cutler
Clerk of the Board, Karen Hemphill

Daniels/Barber (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes
Judy Appel, Vice President yes
Josh Daniels, President, yes
Karen Hemphill, Director, yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director, yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes
Carols Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Following this, President Appel welcomed everyone and thanked Josh Daniels for doing a stellar job as Board President in 2014.

Yearly Organization Requirements for 2015

President Appel asked for a motion to approve the following two items:

1. Proposed 2015 regular meeting dates.
2. Proposed 2015 Committees/Workgroups with one amendment, that being the addition of Director Karen Hemphill as Liaison to the Alameda County Board.

Daniels/Leyva-Cutler (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes
Judy Appel, President yes
Josh Daniels, Director yes
Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes
Carols Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Roll Call

Ty Alper, Director - present
Judy Appel, President - present
Josh Daniels, Director- present
Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk - present
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President - present
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS - present
Carols Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA - present

Approve December 10, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved with minor changes.

Hemphill/Leyva-Cutler (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes
Judy Appel, President yes
Josh Daniels, Director yes
Karen Hemphill, Director yes
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes
Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Student Director Jesse Barber read BUSD's Mission Statement

Public Comment (first opportunity)

Forty-two people addressed the Board on the District's Sexual Harassment Policy and numerous commented on capacity issues.

Principal Janet Levenson, Union of Berkeley Administrators (UBA)

Speaking on behalf of K-5 and middle school principals, Levenson, Principal of Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School (King) said BUSD was at an exhilarating point in its history where schools were thriving and very much in demand. She commented that the District's capacity challenges were exciting in a way because when she started at the District in 1988, 25% of Berkeley's student population attended independent schools and BUSD had to focus on school closures rather than expansion.

Next Levenson implored the Board to think long-term in making decisions about next year's, kindergarten, capacity challenge. She said students would grow up fast and would quickly become a middle school capacity challenge. She said at King it was already a formidable task to maintain a positive school climate and to keep 960 students on task. She added that King had added 50 students over the last few years, and in addition had added an extra section of 6th grade in 2013 and 2014. She said as Board members considered enrollment and opening new schools it was important for them to keep an eye to later years and where students would go. She urged Board Members to visit the middle schools.

Moving on to decision-making regarding elementary school sites and the placement of portables there, she said it was important to preserve the TWI school as such and to avoid mixing English only students and TWI students.

Levenson reminded the Board that UBA has talked a lot about proportional funding for the larger schools. She said it would be ideal if the Board could develop a formula for large-school resource allocation vs. small-school allocation as had been done in the past. She said it was hard to meet the needs of all the students if a large school has the same resource allocation as a small school. Levenson said that if, for example, portables were to be added to a school site it would be important to consider the impact on the school and to think about what additional resources might be needed to serve the increased student population.

Principal Levenson concluded her comments by urging Board members to think creatively if they decided to open a new elementary school. Thinking back, she noted that BUSD used to have a successful, "think-outside-the-box" elementary school at the current BAS site. She said it would be exciting to consider what a new school might look like and what theme it might have.

President Judy Appel Comments

Thanked outgoing Berkeley School Excellence Project (BSEP) Oversight Committee co-chairs Chris Martin and Elisabeth Hensley for their five years' of service to the community as stewards of Berkeley's parcel-tax dollars (Measure A).

BSEP P&O Committee – Incoming Co-Chairs

Danielle Perez, newly-elected BSEP Co-chair for 2014-2015 along with Co-Chair Bruce Simon

On behalf of the BSEP Committee, Perez read a statement honoring Chris Martin and Elisabeth Hensley's diligent service as co-chairs. The statement noted that we were fortunate to live in a community which, since 1986, supported schools with a local tax fund called the BSEP Measure. The statement explained how the BSEP Measure enabled BUSD to offer benefits

like smaller class sizes, libraries in every school, a stellar music program 4-8 grade, technology funds, program evaluation parent outreach funds, public information and translation services, professional development for staff, and site discretionary funds. Perez read that these funds made the difference between good schools and great school. The statement noted that BSEP/Measure A of 2006 expired in 2016 and BUSD was gearing up to plan for the next one.

Measure I Construction Bond Oversight Committee

Stephanie Allen, Committee Co-Chair urged the District to swiftly fill the vacant position of Facilities Director. She acknowledged the work of out-going Facilities Director Lew Jones and said she was sorry to see him go at this time.

District English Language Advisory Committee

Prashart Jawalikar, Committee Member said English Language Advisory Committees (ELACS) needed to be more effective and outreach needed to be strengthened. He said the committees would like to leverage the skills of family coordinators to facilitate this outreach. He stressed that parents were opposed to their kids being noticeably pulled out of the class for English language instruction. He said this was overwhelming for kids who did not welcome being singled out in front of their peers.

Resolution Commending Lew Jones for his Years of Service

President Judy Appel invited Lew Jones to approach the podium. Then she invited his former colleague Monica Thyberg to make comments. Thyberg recapped Lew Jones contributions to the District and its facilities over a thirty-two-year period and she praised his excellent work. Then President Appel read a Resolution honoring Lew Jones and presented him with an award. Lew Jones expressed his gratitude.

Board Members informed the public about office hours between now and 1/14/15

Director Josh Daniels

No office hours scheduled.

Director Ty Alper

No office hours Scheduled.

Director Karen Hemphill

Café Leila, Saturday, December 13, from 10-11:30p.m

Vice President Beatriz Levy-Cutler

Casa Latina, Thursday, December 11, 4-6 p.m

President Judy Appel

No office hours scheduled.

Remarks by Director Ty Alper

Alper thanked Berkeley voters for electing him to the Board and his fellow Board members for welcoming him.

Comments by Superintendent Evans

Dr. Evans confirmed that BUSD would close tomorrow due to anticipated severe weather. He thanked all students for coming out and speaking tonight. Then he specifically recognized parents, staff, the teachers union, and the policy committee for spotlighting sexual harassment concerns at BHS and in doing so, making it a priority for BUSD's policy committee. He explained that BUSD was currently updating its sexual harassment policy. The Superintendent underscored that all BUSD students should be valued, respected, and nurtured. He noted that in the last couple of years there had been several incidents where students felt disrespected and even violated. He said this was unacceptable at BUSD and something would be done to rectify the situation. He said BUSD needed to provide proper training on sexual harassment prevention via teacher in-service workshops. He said BUSD needed to provide appropriate literature and workshops for students, from early childhood through graduation.

Moving to another topic, he said BHS students staged a peaceful demonstration this afternoon in response to the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in Staten Island. He said when people asked him to explain why BHS students were demonstrating he responded by saying they were doing so because Berkeley had a rich history of championing human rights, and because BUSD taught about justice and injustice and students were responding accordingly. He commented that BHS students' peaceful demonstration, in solidarity with Brown and Garner, was an excellent example of *action learning*.

In closing, he welcomed Ty Alper to the Board, congratulated Judy Appel on her Presidency, and thanked Josh Daniels for his outstanding job as the past Board President,

Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar

(Items 1-9, 11, 12, and 13 with item 10 moved to Action).?

Hemphill/Alper (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director, yes

Judy Appel, President, yes

Josh Daniels, Director, yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes

Carols Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Further Analysis of Options to Solve Enrollment and Capacity Issues at Elementary Schools

Assistant Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Facilities Director Lew Jones

Dr. Evans introduced the presentation by reminding the audience that this discussion began in October when staff brought data on school capacity and demographics to the Board. Next in November staff brought eleven options to the Board and only one item was removed. The Superintendent said that tonight staff would bring ten more options to the Board for review. Dr. Evans noted that staff would review those ten options and he would be bringing recommendations to the Board to help narrow down the options to two or three so staff could delve into those possibilities.

Next, Assistant Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Lew Jones led the Board through their presentation and discussion followed.

Post Presentation-Comments by Superintendent Evans

Dr. Evans said there were no easy solutions to BUSD's capacity challenges. He said staff had invested a lot of time generating ideas that would tackle the problems. Dr. Evans said his long-term recommendation involved repurposing the current Berkeley Adult School site as a new elementary school. He said this move would adequately house students, maintain flex spaces, and keep school sizes down. He said this move would also relieve over crowding in the north zone. Dr. Evans stressed that BUSD was still committed to an adult school program, but it would not look the same.

For Fall 2015, Dr. Evans said he was recommending a temporary partial Transitional Kindergarten consolidation at King Preschool/Child Development Center because in part this would lower transportation costs. Dr. Evans said he was also recommending the use of a few flex classes for a temporary period. For Fall 2016, Dr. Evans said he was recommending two to three modulars/portables at Le Conte and two to three modulars/portables at Thousand Oaks. Discussion and analysis followed.

The Board gave direction to staff to provide more specific recommendations as to how many Transitional Kindergarten classrooms to consolidate at King

Preschool/Child Development Center and which flex spaces to use and in what priority. The Board gave direction to staff to bring these recommendations, as well as the recommendations regarding the modulars/portables at Thousand Oaks and LeConte, back as an action item at the first January meeting. The Board gave direction to staff to focus on two long-term options at this time: (i) converting the Berkeley Adult School facility into an elementary school and (ii) building an elementary school facility on the Oregon St. site.

Motion to Extend the Meeting to 12:30 a.m

Daniels/Leyva-Cutler (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes

Judy Appel, President yes

Josh Daniels, Director yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes

Carols Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Approval of the Master plan/Schematic Design of the Jefferson Grounds Improvement Project

Lew Jones, Facilities Manager

Jones said staff was recommending a budget increase of \$45,000 with \$5,000 of that amount earmarked for the architect's fees. He said that since part of the project included an alternate plan which included ADA path improvements, synthetic turf, and a spin tree play structure, the Grounds Improvements Site Committee wanted the Board to approve \$85,000 because the completed project would cost that amount. Discussion ensued, followed by a motion to adopt staff's \$45,000 recommendation plus an additional \$20,000, amounting to a total of \$65,000.

Alper/Appel

Motion off the table

Shortly thereafter Board Members took that motion off the table. Next followed a new motion to increase the project budget by the cost of the ADA improvements, including any increase in the landscape architect

Alper/Leyva-Cutler (approved 4-3)

Ty Alper, Director yes

Judy Appel, President yes

Josh Daniels, Director no

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk no

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA no

Yearly Review of Facilities Plans

Lew Jones, Facilities Director

Jones gave an update of the Facilities Construction Plan.

Motion to Approve the Plan

Daniels/Alper (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes

Judy Appel, President yes

Josh Daniels, Director yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Certification of First Interim Budget Report for the Period Ending October 31, 2014 Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent and Pauline Follansbee, Director Fiscal Services. Cleveland introduced the presentation and Follansbee led the Board through their presentation.

Motion to Certify the Budget

Daniels/Appel (approved 7-0)

Ty Alper, Director yes

Judy Appel, President yes

Josh Daniels, Director yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS yes

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA yes

Extended Public Comment (Second Opportunity)

Three people addressed the Board

Extended Board Comment

Student Director Jesse Barber

Barber said that today's walk out and peaceful protest by BHS students was a "really, really, cool" experience which proved to be the highlight of his year.

Director Josh Daniels

Daniels said he wanted to acknowledge the protests taking place locally and around country. He said he had prepared a more extended statement and he would deliver it at a later date.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Leyva-Cutler/Alper (approved 7-0)

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

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Minutes, Special Meeting

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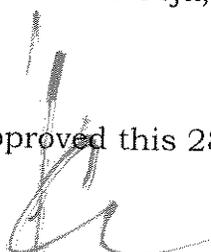
Motion to Refer the Following Additional Individuals to the City Council for Appointment to Sugar Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts:

Beth Sonnenberg, Kyle Cornforth, Mia Villanueva, Keira Armstrong, Josh Room, Cheryl Chinn, and Kim Sanders.

Daniels/Appel (approved 7-0)

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

Approved this 28th day of January 2015.



Karen Hemphill, Clerk
Board of Education

