

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning & Oversight Committee
FROM: Suzanne McCulloch, Visual & Performing Arts Program Supervisor, and Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services
DATE: March 24, 2015
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Expenditure of Funds from the *Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* for the Visual and Performing Arts Programs in 2015-16

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006 allocates 6.25% of the available revenues annually to:

Providing quality instructional programs in music and the visual arts for elementary and middle school students. Revenues may be used for, but are not restricted to, providing qualified teachers and staff, professional development in the arts, musical instruments and instructional materials, services and equipment necessary to conduct these programs. (Section 3.B.ii.b)

Program Objectives

Mission Statement: *The BUSD Music Department provides a musical foundation in an equitable, culturally responsive and respectful classroom environment that facilitates cooperation and perseverance.*

Studies have shown positive links between engagement with music and academic achievement. Music helps develop students who are curious, motivated, engaged and confident in their ability to succeed in society. Students learn the value of discipline, determination and grit, all twenty-first century skills needed to achieve goals in the face of obstacles.

One of the greatest values of a comprehensive music program is that it allows all students to fully develop those qualities that will help them understand and enjoy life. It provides a means for creativity and self-expression. Through music they learn that their thoughts and feelings can be communicated nonverbally by composing and improvising music using higher-order thinking processes, such as those involved in skill mastery, analysis and synthesis.

Program Summary

BSEP funds provide the instrumental and choral music program for grades 4-8 and supports arts instruction and professional development in arts integration in the elementary and middle schools. In March 2015, BUSD was recognized for the third year in a row by the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities in the United

States for Music Education 2015. Berkeley is one of 388 recognized districts across the United States and one of only five to receive the award in California.

Music Program Summary

All Fourth and Fifth Grade students receive music instruction twice per week. Four types of instruction are delivered—strings (orchestra), woodwinds and brass (band), world music (percussion, ukuleles, guitars).

The Middle School music program continues to expand, as many more students emerge from elementary school confident and interested in continuing their musical education in middle school. Forty-three percent (43%) of middle school students participate in music, an increase from 35% in 2012-13.

Classes are held five days a week, usually during zero period. Choices include 6th Grade Band, 7th-8th grade Band, two levels of Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Band, Guitar, and the Academy of Choral Arts and Modern Music (ACAAM, Longfellow). Jazz Band is an after school elective four days a week at the middle schools. Modern Music meets one day a week at King. Mariachi meets two days a week at Longfellow. For 2015-16 there will continue to be two Orchestras and three Bands during zero period at King to accommodate the large number of students who have signed up for music. Jazz Band will continue at all three middle schools. Teachers have developed a culturally relevant supplemental music book especially for BUSD students.

Visual and Performing Arts Program Summary

The VAPA BSEP resource provides curriculum and professional development support to the district's dance, drama and visual art teachers K-8 by providing workshops as well as facilitating meetings with their Berkeley High School peers on district PD days. In addition, there is financial support for conferences and professional development, and middle school drama material allocation of \$2,000 per middle school.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MUSIC, VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS for FY 2015-16

Staffing

Release Time Music Teachers	\$235,000
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In accordance with the teacher contract, fourth and fifth grade teachers receive five periods of release time per week. The General Fund pays for the FTE for science, dance and art teachers who provide part of this release time. The General Fund is currently providing half of the cost of the 4.64 FTE required for music teachers for the two periods per week of fourth and fifth grade teacher release time, and BSEP is paying the other half of the FTE in the release time calculation through a transfer to the General Fund.

Music Program Staffing	\$891,100
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Additional Fourth-Fifth Grade Music Teachers 4.44 FTE

Three music teachers are scheduled for the prep period of every two classroom teachers in order to offer a variety of options, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and world music. Several additional music teachers may be assigned for 4th and 5th grades as needed to provide an optimal learning environment and to allow for grade level groupings where there are combination classes. The total number of classes for the 2015-16 school year may need to be altered when school opens based on variances in enrollment. Music class size average 14:1 so that all students receive the instruction and coaching they need to be successful musicians. The BSEP fund bears the entire cost of these additional music teachers.

Middle School (6-8th grade) Music Teachers 2.84 FTE

There are currently 863 middle school students who participate in the music program, requiring multiple before and after school sections in jazz, band, orchestra, chorus and guitar.

Visual and Performing Arts Program Supervisor 1.00 FTE

This position supervises and evaluates 18 music teachers, plans all arts professional development, facilitates all arts partnerships, serves as liaison to Bay Area arts organizations and supports district arts teachers and programs. The Supervisor supports the four arts curricula and assessments as well as Standards and Common Core alignment. This person is the budget manager for all aspects of the VAPA portion in the BSEP measure, as well as for independent contracts and outside grants.

Music Librarian 1.00 FTE

The Music Librarian keeps an ongoing database (library information software) of all instruments and sheet music. The librarian works with the music teachers to ensure that they have the materials and supplies they need for their students. This person arranges for repairs, tracks purchase orders, places and receives orders, tracks teacher absences and repairs instruments when possible. In the fall and the spring, the librarian delivers and then picks up over 2,500 instruments from the school sites.

Hourly Staffing	\$15,000
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Middle School Music Tutors and Instructional Specialists - \$4,000

Three Instructional Specialists provide individual and small group instruction to orchestra and band students by coaching chamber music groups and reinforcing classroom learning in small group settings.

Teacher Substitutes for Special Events - \$6,000

Substitutes for music teachers are necessary when those teachers attend Berkeley Symphony concerts, Cazadero Jumpstart Retreats, Arts on the Run, California Music Education Association student festivals and music conferences.

Teacher Hourly for Performing Arts Rehearsals - \$5,000

In order to properly staff and supervise 800 students rehearsing and performing in the annual Performing Arts Showcase, teachers are paid hourly for their weekend work time, approximately nine hours per teacher.

Performing Arts Teachers for the Middle School	\$20,500
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VAPA funds will continue to support after school performing arts courses in Dance and Jazz at the three middle schools. In 2014-15, Jazz Band was provided at Willard and Longfellow, and music coaching was offered at King. Approximately 105 students are served in those three classes. Longfellow and Willard add .04 FTE from their PTA funds to support jazz class a fourth day of the week.

Professional Development & Arts Anchor Schools	\$80,000
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Professional Development Workshops - \$10,000

For the 22 BUSD arts teachers (K-8 visual arts and dance teachers and the K-12 music teachers), the recommendation is to continue to provide professional development on district-wide staff development days. In 2014-15 all music teachers participated in the year-long Mills Teachers Scholars inquiry PD and plan to continue that data collection, inquiry and evaluation in 2015-16. In this second year, Mills staff will be training teacher leaders to gradually take over the leadership of the professional learning community. Visual arts teachers participated in workshops, developed common assessments strategized use of the new National Arts Core Standards. Dance teachers shared curriculum and arts integration strategies. Similar staff development workshops are scheduled for 2015-16.

Arts Anchor School Programs - \$70,000

The Arts Anchor school program provides professional development in arts to K-8 classroom teachers, utilizing modeling and coaching to encourage classroom teachers to integrate the arts into their curriculum. Teachers at Arts Anchor schools design the professional development focus as a team and work with an arts provider or a certificated arts teacher to plan integrated arts lessons. Classroom modeling and coaching are essential to deepen learning and understanding for all students, as well as greater teaching proficiency of the teachers.

In 2015-16, ten elementary schools plan to participate in the Arts Anchor program. The one school not participating has a part time visual art teacher on staff. Principals and teachers report an increased level of confidence among classroom teachers in undertaking arts integration on their own. Classroom teachers eagerly choose curriculum and an art focus for the year; teachers who are new to the staff or who have not participated previously engage in the work. The Arts Anchor Team chooses a new theme each year. Dance and class plays have become “something we do at this

school” and student displays throughout the school express the “student as artist” vision. A new focus will be on arts integration with the Common Core.

Instruments and VAPA Instructional Materials	\$115,400
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Instruments- \$72,000

The music program provides musical instruments to all fourth to eighth grade music students. Berkeley is one of the few California school districts that loans instruments so that students of all financial levels have equal access to the program. In addition, students are supplied with music method books and workbooks, recorders, reeds, strings, all instrument accessories and sheet music, and classrooms are outfitted with music stands, music carts and music storage units. Instruments are repaired as needed and new ones purchased to replace those that are beyond repair.

A significant (17%) increase in school enrollment over the past five years has increased demand for instruments in the fourth and fifth grades. At the same time, a higher percentage of students are choosing to take music in middle school. Between 2011-12 and 2014-15, there was a 25% increase in the number of middle school students enrolled in music classes, and there were 145 more 4th and 5th graders. This translates to 360 additional instruments. This year the music program was able to purchase some of the basic instruments such as trumpets, flutes and clarinets which had been previously depleted. While current projections are for slower growth affecting the elementary grades for another three years, the middle school program continues to grow. \$33,000 is budgeted for instrument purchases, and \$29,000 for repairs, tuning and moving.

Materials - \$43,400

The music library collection will continue to be expanded in 2015-16 to help students grow and develop as musicians. As the number of students enrolled in music classes continues to increase at the middle schools, so does the need for additional instruments, repairs and instructional materials. As the students become more proficient, more sophisticated instruments must be provided. \$37,000 is budgeted for music materials and supplies, and \$6,000 for drama production materials. The balance of the budget, \$400, is for memberships with the National and California Music Educators Associations, The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program and the Orff Music Association.

Mileage for Music Teachers; Festival Participation	\$8,000
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Mileage reimbursement is needed for the elementary and middle school music teachers, who travel between three or four schools a day and five to seven schools during the course of the week.

Middle school teachers understand the tremendous educational opportunity provided by participation in local chorus, band and orchestra festivals. Students play for adjudicators who give the chorus, band or orchestra a score with comments. In

addition, guest conductors work with the ensembles in clinics. The registration fees are covered and teachers raise funds for the buses to transport students.

Performances and Exhibitions	\$2,400
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BUSD participates in *March IS Art Education Month* each year with a variety of special events. The VAPA Department presents the Performing Arts Showcase, an afternoon of music performed by grades 5-12 at the Berkeley Community Theater. In March of 2015 over 850 students participated in Chorus, Orchestra, Band and Jazz ensembles by grade level. This was a 32% increase (250 students since 2012) An enthusiastic audience of over 1,500 cheered the student musicians.

In February 2015, three busloads of Berkeley High School performing arts students traveled to the three middle schools, to present a 50 minute sampler of the dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music opportunities at Berkeley High School to the eighth grade students, who would soon be registering for their ninth grade classes at BHS. Experiencing the many options available for participation in the arts at BHS supports students in their transition from middle school to high school. VAPA monies support the custodians for Performing Arts Showcase and the Arts Bus costs. In February and March 2015, the Berkeley Art Center hosted the bi-annual K-8 Visual Art exhibit. There was no charge to the district and the show was widely attended by students and parents.

Collaborative Partnerships	\$10,400
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This VAPA budget includes \$10,000 to support the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra program at the eleven K-5 schools and \$400 to support Cal Performances in the classroom workshops. BUSD is fortunate to have the support of strong local arts organizations with ongoing partnerships to provide opportunities for our students. In 2015-16 BUSD elementary schools will continue to take part in the educational program conducted by the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra (BSO), which involves the Symphony visiting the schools in the fall to present a *Meet the Symphony* concert, BSO musicians visiting K-5 classrooms, and *I Am a Performer* concerts at many schools in February.

Teachers will be able to attend workshops and have guest artists visit their classes in conjunction with “School Time Performances” at Cal Performances. \$400 funds custodial time for the Saturday workshops. Teacher hourly and substitute compensation for these activities are included in the Staffing total.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The current challenge is to maintain a strong program while ensuring that BSEP funds are sustained through the life of the current BSEP Measure. In the last five years, there has been a significant increase in the number of fourth and fifth grade students, resulting in both increased music class sizes, additional FTE for classroom teachers, and decreased per student funding for books, instruments and supplies.

Enrollment in middle school music classes has also increased dramatically over the years, as many more students now have the advantage of public music education in the elementary schools and are ready and eager to take advantage of the middle school offerings.

BSEP revenues increase with COLA, not with ADA, and thus have not kept pace with enrollment growth and increased staffing costs in the district. In addition to the partial resumption of general fund support for release time music teachers, this budget is being managed through reductions in expenditures, including support for programs other than music, such as arts integration in the elementary schools, and drama materials and additional electives at the middle school level.

In summary, the recommendation for the expenditure of the BSEP funds in FY 2015-16 is:

Revenue

BSEP Revenue Allocation for FY 2015-16	1,526,400
Music Teacher Transfer to General Fund	<u>(235,000)</u>
Total Revenue	1,291,400

Projected Expenditures

Music Teachers and Program Staffing	891,100
Hourly Staffing	15,000
Middle School Performing Arts	20,500
Professional Development and Arts Anchor	80,000
Instruments, Instructional Materials, Contracts	115,400
Teacher Travel/Mileage Reimbursements	8,000
Performing Arts Showcase, Arts Bus	2,400
Collaborative Partnerships	10,400
Reserve for Personal Variance	40,000
Indirect Cost of 6.54%	<u>92,724</u>
Total Expenses	1,275,524

Net Change to Fund Balance 15,876

Fund Balance

Estimated Beginning Fund Balance	128,600
Net Increase/(Decrease)	<u>15,876</u>
Ending Fund Balance (June 30, 2016)	144,476