

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Location: 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94702 |

Phone: (510) 644-8764

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Acting Chair, Student Director Jesse Barber called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. President Appel announced that the Board of Education convened to Closed Session at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call 7:50 p.m.

Board of Education:

Judy Appel, President - Present

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President - Present

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk – Present

Josh Daniels, Director - Present

Ty Alper, Director - Present

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS - Present

Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director, BTA – Present

Administration:

Donald E. Evans, Ed.D, Superintendent

Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent

Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Delia Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Lyz Chairez, Recorder

Report Closed Session

Student Discipline Matters:

Expunging of Suspension 1415-SP01-110296 –

Motion to reject the Staff recommendation to expunge suspension 1415-SP01-110296:

Appel/Hemphill and approved 3-2

Judy Appel, President - Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President - Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk – Yes

Josh Daniels, Director - No

Ty Alper, Director -No

Collective Bargaining

BFT, UBA, BCCE and Local 21 Negotiations - No Action

Public Employment Appointment

Program Supervisor for VAPA

Motion to approve the appointment of Peter Gidlund as the new Program Supervisor for VAPA:

Appel/Alper and unanimously approved 5-0

Liability Claims

Per No. 1400876

Workers' Compensation Claim No. 10BSD0051

Motion to accept staff recommendations in this matter:

Appel/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 5-0

Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2005040263

- The Board postponed decision to June 24

OPEN SESSION

The open session meeting was called to order at 7:48pm.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Director Daniels asked to move Discussion Item 1, LCAP Hearing, before Action Items.

Motion to approve agenda with Discussion items before Action Items:

Daniels/Appel and unanimously approved 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 10 people addressed the Board:

Two BTA students asked the Board to save the gardening program

Two representatives of the Black Parent Affinity Group spoke on behalf of parent participants, who expressed how important this group has become in our community.

A parent and the Director of Growing Leaders, a new entrepreneurship program that helps students prepare for college life, shared some of the program's successes.

A parent spoke in support of the Coordinator of African American studies as a K-12 position.

A developer addressed the Board about developer impact fees, saying that school districts can obtain up to 25% of costs and urged the Board to take action as the state has run out of bonding.

A parent called attention to the comment written by the LCAP committee which advocates for more accountability, including fund related and evaluative data.

The Executive Director of the Green Schools Initiative thanked the Board for solidifying the administrative component and expressed support for the Master Facilities planning.

A teacher and a parent thanked The Board for the Soda Tax. They also advocated for the gardening program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PAC

A PAC representative addressed the comments the PAC submitted to the Board and said they were awaiting a response from staff. She thanked the Board and staff for their work and cooperation with bylaws and accountability plan.

BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Josh Daniels thanked Director White, Superintendent Evans and President Appel for their contribution to the Facilities Master Plan. He reported that the public comment forum will open on Friday, June 12, and added that they had closed on a refunding of an existing bond, saving \$2.4 million.

Director Carlos Ku-Ceja advocated for the Gardening program at BTA and for the African American studies class.

Director Ty Alper reported that in February 2016 there will be a better sense of how many portables will be needed, allowing the Board to make a responsible, better informed decision.

Director Karen Hemphill also thanked Director White for his proposal regarding the Master Plan. She also commented on school climate, saying that recently there have been some arising matters not necessarily related to sexual harassment, but directly connected to the school climate, that also need to be captured in District policy. She added that the yearbook incident, in which some students made some dishonorable comments, was indicative of an unsafe climate. As the LCAP is discussed, she said she will be a strong advocate of school culture.

Vice President Leyva-Cutler responded to Director Hemphill's comments, saying that one of the ways in which school climate can be addressed is by providing Chicano and African American Studies courses throughout BUSD. She also congratulated the first graduating cohort of BUSD's EMT program. She concluded by recognizing the student who passionately addressed the Board during public comment in regards to the gardening program.

President Appel thanked everyone who spoke. She also thanked the PAC for its work in collaboration with staff and particularly commended Laura Babbitt. She acknowledged the Student Board Representatives, announcing that today was Student Director Barber's last meeting. She commended Director White for his facilities master plan, which is now being referred to as the facilities planning process. She said she was excited about the work as it validates the deep commitment to equity. In regards to the article on BTA, she tearfully apologized for the comments that were made and encouraged everyone to read BUSD's response.

Student Director Jesse Barber announced that he graduated from his small school CAS and said that this was his last meeting. He thanked the staff for their support and for pushing him beyond his own limits.

Superintendent Evans thanked the student directors for a job well done. He also congratulated the graduating class of 2015. He thanked all of the committees for their work on the LCAP and said that the goal is to continue supporting the programs that will have the greatest impact on student success. He acknowledged the students and teachers who have contributed to the decline in suspensions. He shared that he was able to attend the graduation ceremonies for BAS and the EMT program and commended the students for their achievement. He personally thanked Director Saddler for her work with the Black Parent Affinity Group and said he hopes she continues this great work.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to Approve Consent Calendar:

Ku-Ceja/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 5-0

Discussion Item

1. Public Hearing – Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Acting Chair Barber opened hearing at 9:04 p.m.

A BTA teacher came forth to advocate for resource and intervention for BTA students. She said they are in need of a dean and a family engagement coordinator and added that BTA students need to be advocated for.

A public council member thanked the Board for the number of programs it has implemented, but said that the coordination component still needs to be solidified in order to effectively manage these programs.

A parent thanked the Board for putting in place the LCAP plan and asked the Board to ensure follow-through.

The PAC co-chair shared an email she received from a parent who said that she witnessed targeted disciplinary action on an African American student whose teacher singled him out.

Hearing closed at 9:17 p.m.

Director Saddler and Assistant Superintendent Scuderi introduced this presentation by saying this was a response to the Board's budgetary recommendations at the previous meetings. With regards to Restorative Justice, they proposed to identify one elementary school in which a Restorative Justice program will be piloted along with a coordinator at each middle site. They also displayed some of the goals and timeline. Questions and discussions followed.

President Appel went down the line to allow the Board to voice support or concerns for any of the items.

Director Barber moved to extend Open Session to midnight.

Motion to extend Open Session to midnight:

Barber/Appel and unanimously approved 5-0

*Carlos Ku-Ceja, Student Director excused himself at 11pm

Action Item

1. Approval of Proposed Budget for Garden-Based Learning Program for 2015-16

Given this was the first time the Board is considering ongoing funding for the gardening program with the inclusion of RTI, Jezra Thompson, the Gardening Program Supervisor, walked the Board through the budget and clarified its allocations. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve Proposed Budget for Garden-Based Learning to include a proportional increase at BTA:

Alper/Appel and approved 4-1

Judy Appel, President – Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President - Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk – Yes
Josh Daniels, Director - No
Ty Alper, Director - Yes
Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS - Yes

After Director Daniels expressed his negative vote, President Appel withdrew her seconding motion.

Director Hemphill amended motion to include a ratio balanced increased for each site involved.

Motion to approve Proposed Budget for Garden-Based Learning as amended by Director Hemphill:

Alper/Hemphill and approved 4-1

Judy Appel, President – Yes Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President - Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director/Clerk – Yes

Josh Daniels, Director - No

Ty Alper, Director - Yes

Jesse Barber, Student Director, BHS - Yes

Public Hearing – 2015-16 Preliminary Budget

Acting Chair Barber opened Hearing at 11:53. No one came forward.

Presentation followed and it went over budget highlights, changes since estimated actuals, multi-year projections and other considerations. Questions and discussion followed.

Director Daniels suggested that staff modify their proposal to show a reduction in the General Fund's contribution by 50,000 every year. The Board agreed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forth.

President Appel adjourned meeting at 12:30 a.m.