

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
Berkeley Unified School District
2020 Bonar Street
Berkeley CA 94702

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Roll Call 7:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Josh Daniels, President
Judy Appel, Vice-President
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director
Julie Sinai, Director
Karen Hemphill, Director

Administration: Donald E. Evans, Ed.D, Superintendent
Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent
Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent,
Educational Services
Delia Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent, Human
Resources

The closed session meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Report Closed Session Actions

Closed session discussions would resume after the public meeting adjourned as only items 1 and 2 were discussed during the evening's first closed session.

- 1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated/Existing Litigation
- 2) Collective Bargaining: BCCE
- 3) Public Employment: Superintendent's Evaluation
- 4) Complaint against District Employees:

The open session meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The Board discussed Public Employment: Superintendent's Evaluation and Complaint against District Employees during Closed Session.
. The Board agreed to hold a hearing on Item No. 4 – Complaint against District Employees.

Reading of Mission and Meeting Overview

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Levy/Sinai and approved on a vote of 5-0

President Daniels proposed that Action Item 1 be moved to the Consent Calendar and Board members unanimously agreed to this.

President Daniels: Yes

Vice-President Appel: Yes

Director Hemphill: Yes

Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes

Director Sinai: Yes

Public Testimony

Eight people addressed the Board.

- Bay City Produce Company wants to promote healthy eating by donating fresh produce to BUSD (1)
- A BUSD mother requested an apology from Le Conte's principal as disciplinary consequences for her son resulted in his picking up papers in the school's bathroom. The boy's family appealed for an amendment to, and an open-house hearing on BUSD's disciplinary policy (3)
- Statement of support for amendment to BUSD's behavioral/disciplinary consequences from a representative from the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (1)
- A staff member urged BUSD to increase support staff's compensation as some classified staff members receive less money in their take home pay than they spend on medical benefits for their families. (1)
- A candidate for Alameda County Superintendent of Schools introduced herself to Superintendent Evans and the Board. She asked for their vote on Election Day, November 4, 2014. (1)
- Statement of Support for Resolution No. 15-004 – A Humanitarian Response to a Humanitarian Crisis Welcoming and Accompanying the Children at the Border (1)

Union Comments

Steve Collins, Local 21

Collins thanked BUSD staff and Board members for their hard work during school year 2013/14. He pointed to three areas where progress had been made: District/Union Negotiations, BUSD's Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP), and the Classification Study. Collins said he looked forward to another great year. He added that although the Classification Study was not perfect it "gets us a long way there". He said a lot of District employees would benefit from its implementation. With that in mind, Collins offered his support for a fair and reasonable

solution to negotiations with the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE).

Committee Comments

LAURA Babbit Parent Advisory Committee

Babbit expressed dismay about BUSD data which showed declining test score results in reading and mathematics among African American and Latino students. She said everyone involved in the implementation of LCAP should be held accountable and that data analysis should be reviewed. Referring back to the disciplinary incident at Le Conte School, Babbit said poor leadership had been shown.

Board Members' Reports

Highlights:

- Vice President Appel said she was excited to be implementing LCAP and working with school sites and downtown leadership.
- Director Sinai expressed excitement about starting the new school year. She acknowledged Superintendent's Evan's hard work during school year 2013/14. She expressed enthusiasm about LCAP and urged the Board to use communication tools that led to its goals being clearly understood by the public. Sinai said she was saddened that the school year was starting with the somber backdrop of global conflict, the killing of Michael Brown in Missouri, and the tragic July 10, shooting death of Ayana Dominguez, an 18-year-old graduate of Berkeley Technical Academy. She said schools had to be places where all could flourish and receive moral grounding as part of public education.
- Director Hemphill said she was looking forward to the new school year and she urged BUSD to support parents so they in turn could better aid their students with the new Common Core Curriculum. She said it was important to track whether or not all students were successfully navigating the transition from the old to the new curriculum, and she challenged the Board to take on this task.
- Director Leyva-Cutler said the Humanitarian Crisis at the Border was personal to many families who are immigrants. She said in addition to passing Resolution No. 15-004, we needed to take action. She urged teachers to provide a forum for discussing difficult issues like the recent violence in Ferguson, Missouri. Director Leyva-Cutler reminded everyone that September was attendance awareness month.
- President Daniels said that starting September 13th, his office hours would be at 1pm, every second Saturday of the month at Take Five Café and Gallery, 3130 Sacramento Street, between 66th and 67th streets. Daniels said he had tried to discuss the implications of local gun violence from the beginning of his time as

president and that he would continue to do so. He said he had reached out to Ayana Dominguez's family to offer any support they needed and to express the District's condolences. Daniels said the Board had to find a way to publicize that this type of tragedy was happening in our community.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Evans said school would start on August 27, 2014. He reported that in August, BUSD's management team had attended a retreat entitled "A Worlds Fair for a World Class District". He said that during the retreat staff had watched a TED video called "How to start a Movement".

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Debbi D'Angelo, Director of Evaluation and Assessment presented on the *Student Outcomes Report* which featured data on third grade reading, ninth grade math, English Language Development, and Secondary African-American Suspensions. Dr. Susan Craig was invited to give a definition of *Disruption and Defiance*
2. REALM Charter School Report
Superintendent Evans introduced REALM Founder Victor Diaz. Diaz gave an overview of the school and its goals, and showed a short film. He invited Superintendent Evans and Board members to visit the school and then he introduced REALM's Board of Directors: Tracey Schear, Rebecca Prager, and Emily Nathan.

President Daniels ended the meeting at 10:15 p.m., and the Board adjourned to closed session for a second time.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

This included Action Item 1 which was moved to the Consent Calendar.

Daniels/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously 5-0

President Daniels: Yes
Vice-President Appel: Yes
Director Hemphill: Yes
Director Leyva-Cutler: Yes
Director Sinai: Yes

INFORMATION ITEMS

Facilities Plan Update
New AP Science Textbook, Environment; The Science Behind the Stories at BHS

Williams Case Settlement Quarterly Report
Employee Evaluation Report

EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

The Board adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk
Board of Education