



**Fund Balance**

*Beginning: \$491,881*

*Ending: \$312,723*

*Decrease: (\$179,158)*

**RESOURCE SUMMARY**

In FY 2015-16, actual revenue and expense for this Resource was very close to the budget proposed in the plan. Revenue in FY 2015/16 was slightly higher than budgeted due to additional tax revenue in the current and prior year and a distribution from the fund balance to each of the Resources.

Expenses included the increase in FTE for Elementary librarians from .5 to 1.6 as outlined in the plan. In addition, the Classification and Compensation Study was implemented which moved some Library Media Specialists to new salary schedules in 2015-16 and all Elementary Library Media Specialists to new salary ranges in 2016-17. The Classification and Compensation Study recognized the Library Media Specialists in the Elementary schools are solely responsible for the libraries and the job description and compensation were modified to reflect these this.

During the year, the expense budget was increased based on the projected cost of salary and benefits for staff. The increase was funded by the fund balance. The additional funds were not needed due to careful management of expenses. The ending fund balance was projected to be \$293,017 but ended slightly higher at \$321,723.

**STATUS REPORT**

BSEP funds provide the backbone for library staffing and resources throughout the Berkeley school system, with a core mission of addressing every student's academic and independent reading needs with a wide range of books, online resources and integrated programming. The library lens of the 2020 Vision focuses commitment on developing skilled thinkers and learners throughout the entire Berkeley school community with continual mindfulness about diversity in characters, themes, authors and illustrators. Following are highlights from FY 2015-16.

**Solid support for a culture of reading**

Our BUSD libraries promote a strong reading culture with print and digital resources aligned to curricular assignments, as well as reader interest and initiative. Over 260,000 books circulated in the K-12 schools in 2015-16, a slight increase over the previous year. The continued allocation of \$15 per pupil for library books and materials allowed the program to address the broad range of reading levels and interests of students and staff. Some libraries periodically run book clubs or special reading initiatives such as a Mock Newbery program or Battle of the Books, which are largely funded through grant monies.

Our preschoolers made good use of the Preschool Book Bag Lending Library at each of our three child development centers. The Preschool Book Bag staff continued with consistent morning and afternoon hours, ensuring that all students had a weekly opportunity to hear an additional story and exchange a book for home reading.

The BEARS Summer School Library program continued in the summer of 2016, with a Library Media Specialist at both BEARS/EDC summer school sites (this past year at BAM and Thousand Oaks) for fifteen hours per week at each site, a total of 30 hours per week for five weeks. This program supports the focus on literacy, helping mitigate against the common “summer slide.”

### Library Staff

During the 2015-16 school year, we had some delightful developments in our library staffing, most notably the final implementation of the Classification and Compensation Study which resulted in our elementary site library staff being recognized as Library Media Specialists. Woohoo! New staff included Berkeley High welcoming Sarah Rosenkrantz as one of their two full time Teacher Librarians, as the two current Teacher Librarians each went on a 50% Reduced Work Load schedule. Cragmont was blessed with J Stewart as the new Library Media Specialist, who had previously been working as the Library Tech at Longfellow. Jenny Berggren was our new addition at Longfellow, bringing many years of experience in the NY Library system to our Berkeley schools. The Central Media Library Tech position was vacant for the first half of the year as Kevin Kunze transferred to serve the Music Library, until Davey Reed returned and brought renewed energy to both that office and to each of the large elementary sites at which he assisted for part of every day. In the District Office, Mary Ann Scheuer increased her TSA role to a full 3 days a week (up from 2 ½ days), and we brought Eric Silverberg on board wearing a broad Digital Citizenship hat as his TSA position. Many site library staff serve on school committees, and a number are recognized leaders in the school library field, serving on regional and national boards and presenting at conferences. All are dedicated to serving our 9,500+ students and families with a hearty embrace of reading and learning across the disciplines, with a reasonable dose of technology to boot.

### Information Literacy Instruction

The teacher librarians throughout the district provide direct instruction in research skills and information literacy. The high school librarians regularly collaborate with classroom teachers to guide students’ use of online databases and research protocols. At the middle school level, a core curriculum has been created and shared between the three schools with all three teacher librarians contributing lessons, which include collaboration with classroom teachers in all disciplines. As the staffing of teacher librarians for the elementary schools has increased to 1.6 District-based TSAs, more direct instruction has been added to many elementary class library visits. This is especially applicable with the upper grades with audiobooks, curated online resources, targeted book lists, and digital citizenship instruction.

### Instructional Technology

The District Library Coordinator, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, continued to facilitate DigiTech, the Instructional Technology Department. Working with Assistant Superintendent Scuderi, a Technology Blueprint was developed. This led to establishing a Working Group of elementary teachers and TSAs who developed a Digital Literacy Scope and Sequence to guide the District’s 1 to 1 Chomebook initiative for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. We

also supported all educators working with these grade levels to become Google Apps For Education Certified. With all of this focus on tech skills, our intention to continue a *balanced* approach to the use of technology remains strong.

#### Visiting Authors and Illustrators

Authors and illustrators love visiting Berkeley Schools! The year started with a special National Park-related celebration of the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative for all 4th grade families, by bringing author Mike Graf to every school’s 4th grade cohort. Throughout the year we were fortunate to have Eric Elliott, Zetta Elliott, Ian Lendler, Jean Reagan and Judd Winick share inspiring words of wisdom with our students and staff. The end of the year wrapped up with a bang as we brought award-winning Kwame Alexander to all three middle schools and 8 of the 11 elementary schools.

#### Community Collaboration

Our libraries host many events beyond the hundreds of student visits every week. We display student art and science projects; provide space for music classes and vision screening; host meetings for staff, PTA, ELAC, SGC; support the Rotary Club’s third grade Dictionary Distribution; and actively collaborate with the Berkeley Public Library.

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