

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702
510-644-6206

Official Minutes
September 27, 2017

President Alper called the meeting to order at 7:40pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Ty Alper, President – Present,
Josh Daniels, Vice President – Present
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – Present
Karen Hemphill, Director – Excused
Judy Appel, Director -- Present
Uma Nagarajan-Swenson, Student Director, BHS – Excused
Kimora Ashby, Student Director, BTA – Excused

Administration:

Donald E. Evans, Ed. D, Superintendent
Pasquale Scuderi, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Pauline Follansbee, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Evelyn Tamondong-Bradley, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lyz Chairez, Recorder

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

President Alper reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b))—One (1) Potential Case

The Board discussed and gave direction to President. No action taken.

Collective Bargaining: Lead Negotiator: Evelyn Tamondong-Bradley—Local 21 and BCCE Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)

The Board discussed and gave direction to staff. No action taken.

Superintendent’s Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board discussed the Superintendent’s evaluation; no action taken.

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

At the request of Director Leyva-Cutler, item 2.3 was pulled for action and will follow item 14.1.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:
Appel/Daniels and unanimously approved 4-0

RECOGNITION

Former members of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee were recognized.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 13 people addressed the Board:

Five comments on hate speech at BHS.

Seven comments on tennis courts at BHS.

One comment on Free Speech Week.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

President Alper read aloud a statement from Student Director Uma Nagarajan-Swenson in response to an incident at BHS involving hateful social media posts. He also made a statement of his own. His statement acknowledged the existence of racism, anti-Semitism, ableism, homophobia, and discrimination of all kinds in Berkeley. He expressed that we have as much of an obligation to protect students who are affected by such hateful acts as we do preventing them in the first place. He encouraged everyone to unite as we move forward in continuing to do the hard work ahead, and he thanked students, classified staff, teachers, and administrators for their commitment to do so.

Superintendent Evans thanked President Alper for his remarks. He also thanked the students who have been part of the constructive conversations surrounding the social media incident. He added that expressions of racism and other forms of hate are not tolerated in Berkeley. He reaffirmed his commitment to working through this alongside students, teachers, staff, administration and the Board. He went on to report that the PAC met last week for the first time and discussed their recommendations for the use of additional funds. He also reported that he met with the LeConte community around school name change.

Director Leyva-Cutler thanked President Alper for his statement and requested that it go out District wide on behalf of the Board. She also thanked

all of the students who came out tonight. Will hold office hours next week on Monday at 4:30pm.

Director Appel thanked all of the students for their comments as it is important more than ever to speak up. She also thanked President Alper for his words which she found to be expressive of the Board's values. She said students need to know that they are supported and loved. She added that despite the current divisive environment that we live in, we cannot be stripped of our ability to stand together in unity. She is hopeful as we move forward in a positive and healing way.

Vice President Daniels expressed how proud he was as a BHS alum to see so many BHS students speak up at Board meetings.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Appel/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 4-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion about Tennis Courts for Berkeley High

Allotted time: 40min

Actual time: 40 min

Director of Facilities Tim White explained that following the Board's approval of the Measure I Facilities Reallocation Plan in January, the facilities department has been able to comprehensively analyze the facilities needs at the various sites. With respect to the tennis courts which were initially part of a shared, multi function design allowing for parking and housing, the Board had authorized a total \$5 million for the project. When the consultant concluded analysis, however, we found out that costs associated with this project would exceed the \$5 million allotted. The response from the community and other stakeholders was that we consider the feasibility study that previously proposed the building of five tennis courts and one full basketball court at Moellering Field. The request from staff tonight to once again consider Moellering Field is based on our ability to remain within the allotted \$5 million and on the expediency with which the courts can be installed there. Question and discussion followed.

This item will come back to the Board for further discussion.

BP 3101: District Reserve Policy

Allotted time: 20 min

Actual time: 23 min

Vice President Daniels explained that it is state mandated for a school district our size to have a 3% budget reserve. This policy would create an additional

committed reserve of 1% of our General Fund requiring the Board to pass a resolution. Another resolution would be required in order to uncommit said funds. In addition, the policy allows for setting aside funds for committed reserve only if we are in good financial standing, and the amount funded will be determined by June's estimated actuals. Daniels went over the conditions that need to be met in order to uncommit funds. Only one of the six conditions must be met. He directed the Board to the last condition requiring that all Board members be present and seated during the vote. A majority of the Board supported the availability of a condition that would allow all five members of the Board to vote to uncommit the funds. Questions and discussion followed.

The majority of the Board supports this policy. This policy will come back for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Resolution for K-12 Textbook/Instructional Materials Compliance for 2017-18—Public Hearing (9pm)

Motion to approve resolution:
Beatriz-Leyva/Alper and unanimously approved 5-0.

Resolution supporting DACA Legislation

Director Leyva-Cutler said this resolution is a demonstration of our commitment to support our students and their families.

Motion to approve resolution:
Leyva-Cutler/Alper and unanimously approved 5-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Six comments on tennis courts.

ADJOURNMENT

10:10 p.m.