

**Superintendents Budget Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**October 24, 2017**  
 BUSD Offices – Room 126  
 2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

**SBAC Committee Members Present**

Cynthia Allman, BFT	Stephen Collins, Local 21
Robin Henke, Superintendent appointment	Cathy Campbell, BFT
Bruce Simon, P&O	Rosa Luevano, BHSDG
Rebeca Todd, UBA	Dan Lindheim, Audit Committee representative
Eric Weaver, Superintendent appointment	Josh Daniels, Board Member
Christine Staples, PTA	Jessica Hilton, BHSDG
Erin Schweng, UBA	

**SBAC Committee Members Absent**

Audrey Amos, UBA (A)	Stephanie Upp, P&O (A)
Paula Phillips, BCCE	Tim Mull, Local 21
Michael Herbert Gray, PAC	Frank Hernandez, BCCE
Marie Ferguson, BCCE	

**Visitors, Guests**

Dove Cher, Parent & IS Advocate	Dale Long, Teacher ECE Program
Davin Gordy, Malcom X Teacher	Elsa Rosa, BAS Advocate
Barry Gordon, BAS Advocate	David Schroder, Teacher IS
Nakia Baird, BHS Math Department	Max Bueler, BHS Teacher
Don & Ruby Kusaki, BAS Advocate	Jean Doe, BAS Advocate
Claudia Gonzales, BHS AMPS Advocate	Paula, Parent & IS Advocate
John Tabias, BHS AMP Advocate	Jennifer Adcock, Malcolm X Teacher
Hasmig Minassian, BHS Teacher	

**BUSD Staff**

Donald Evans, Ed.D, Superintendent	Natasha Beery, BSEP Director
Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services	Jay Nitschke, Director Technology

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm**

**1. Opening of Meeting / Roll Call of Committee Members**

**2. Public Comments**

BUSD staff and community members were in attendance for public comments. Because there were so many people the Superintendent gave each person one minute to speak. There were 11 speakers. Teachers, community members all spoke about how the cuts would affect the students and the adult school community and urged the committee to find solutions with the least impact on the older adult population and especially the student population. Public comments concluded and the Superintendent thanked everyone for attending the meeting. (*see attachments*)

**3. Review of Minutes: Committee members moved to approve ; minutes approved.**

#### 4. Superintendent Comments

Thank you all for being here tonight. These are not easy decisions. We have the recommended budget cuts, and I need everyone here to help us finalize the list before we take it to the Board. We have a packed agenda tonight, and we want to make sure everyone's questions are answered. We don't want to rush through it--lets' take our time through this.

"What is the timeline on making the final recommendation?"

Superintendent responded, "We have two more meetings, November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>" and will bring the recommendations to the Board in January.

Pauline Follansbee, We should also mention the Governors' Budget workshop is in January and if there significant impact to our budget we will make adjustments.

Dr. Evans turned the meeting over to Pauline Follansbee, Interim Superintendent of Business Services.

#### 5. Old Business

##### ***BSEP Measure E1 revisions***

Staff had a recommendation for BSEP, we now are bringing a revised recommendation, you may remember the previous proposal we were transferring 2.75 RTI into BSEP and also a academic counselor from the base grant into BSEP, that was \$450,180. We met and have a new list we think will fit better with the requirements of the measure.

- Classroom support and IB coordinator - \$
- Hourly and PD staffing - \$124K
- BHS Technology TSA - \$110K
- Student Support Counselors 1.0 fte - \$110K

It is an even swap it would impact the total amount we have in the budget proposal, we feel these positions will fit better within the new measure.

##### ***Review of Class Sizes at BTA***

The average class size for 28 sections was 9 students per class: 12 sections with 10 or more students, average 13.3; and the remaining 16 sections has average class size of 5.75. Total enrollment 51 students.

Ms Henke asked if this was enrollment or attendance. *It is enrollment.*

Another member asked why the classes are so small if the measure specifies an 18-1 student/teacher ratio? Lack of *voluntary transfers and we don't have a policy.*

What is the thinking on why the enrollment is decreasing? *We don't think the program appeals to enough students to volunteer to enter this program. We plan on revisting this situation and look at restructuring the program.*

Suggestion was made to move program to BHS to save running program with separate facility. *Law prohibits running continuation school at same location it needs a separate location and administrator.*

Question from committee: "We have 51 students who probably also have low attendance, is there a better way to serve them than running this school that costs so much money? If we were to change how we served these students, how would they feel, i.e., are they attached to the school such that not having this school would it be a disruption to the community?" The Superintendent answered, "That is something we have talked about, the disruption and what it would look like, the political piece and what might happen. We have had this discussion but have not decided on anything."

##### ***Review of General Fund Legal Expenditures***

Summary of departmental expenditures was reviewed by function. Total legal fees for 2016-17 amounted to \$899,568.70. Cathy asked if we know of other districts that have lowered their legal bills. The superintendent

explained they have considered in-house rather than contracted counsel and found that in house legal cost more doesn't give the district the option to find the best counsel for a given legal issue. Cathy asked for legal costs from prior 3 years. (2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15)

***Discussion of Allocation of Music Instruments for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades and Reduction in VAPA Support to Middle School***

Josh Daniels, Board Vice President, suggested that the committee consider music program expenditures for cost reductions. "I don't say I want to see these cut but I would like to see that these have been considered. It is up to the committee if you want to recommend these or not, but when it comes to the board we can say that this was considered and not have to review it after the cut list has been submitted. If we reduce the number of instruments would mean higher class sizes and fewer musical options. Middle school makes music available to anyone, this would mean to stop this practice replace or limit it by raffle, fewer options and fewer staff, this is the savings."

Committee member noted that one year after the voters approved new measure to support music in schools, this would look terrible. "I don't know how you would reduce the number of music teachers in the middle schools that are already filled over capacity. I don't see how that would save money." Another member suggested that we teach fewer music classes, i.e., have them meet less often, which would allow us to layoff some teachers.

Another member noted that although the measure does not specify how to carry out the VAPA program there are years of expectations that the measure will meet the needs of students who don't otherwise have access to music lessons. Otherwise just the kids who have access outside of school will make progress. Another member asked how this would help—this would reduce BSEP expenditures, but not help the general fund. Because the way of BSEP is structured, BSEP can only assume certain types of GF expenditures. Saving BSEP money on music program won't allow district to spend that money on GF expenditures we're talking about cutting.

Josh asked Peter Gidlund his opinion; "that cut looks like 7 or 8 teacher loses their jobs. That would be a huge loss. Pedagogy requires small classes on single instruments. Instruction does not work in larger groups." Peter Gidlund and several other committee member spoke about how increased class room sizes would hurt the music program and possibly affect enrollment/ADA as middle school music feeds into the high school music program, and music programs keep students in school.

Board member Josh Daniels concludes this discussion stating, VAPA is an award winning program that has been recognized for multiple years. There are a lot of data points we could look at, e.g., attendance, number of students in high school music program who were not enrolled in music previously. It is not my role to say how any one else should view the cuts, not to say that political considerations are not important, not to say that operational considerations are not important, but try to figure out what to do to minimize the harm.

Superintendent Evans asked what was added in the last year to encourage students of color to participate in the music program. *Chorus was recently added. .2fte*

***Part-time TK Principal - \$159,850 (Fund 12)***

A member wondered whether the amount to be saved through this cut as reported on the cut list was correct. Most of the TK principal cost is paid by headstart funds. The member believed that general fund contributes only \$10K to this position. Pauline to investigate this and report back to committee. It was suggested to relabel this in the document and cite exact dollars and source of funds. Will revisit this cut when discussion of CDC is on agenda.

***Reduce ECO at BHS by 1.0 FTE, Reducing Budget by \$107,133***

Principal Erin Schweng informed the committee that BSEP ECO funding is used to pay for extra course offerings outside of the school day, which covers all of the science labs. Echo funding is not measured in people. It is bits/increments of people adding up to 1 fte. It is a challenge to figure out of all the pieces that would go and that would stay.

Superintendent Evans asked if credit recovery class was part of this FTE. *When offered in 7<sup>th</sup> period, credit recovery is part of this, and this is how we prefer to provide credit recovery. A student who is credit deficient should not get credit recovery during a 6<sup>th</sup> period day class. We have 50 students in 7<sup>th</sup> period credit recovery class.*

Board member Judy Appell asked Principal Schweng to provide committee with a list of the programs the FTE covers.

Board member Josh Daniels reiterated that all of those increments should be reviewed for cut list consideration, maybe not the full FTE but increments in dollar amounts; the committee should consider differential impact to other programs, VAPA, counselors, BTA.

BSEP Director Natasha Beery noted, "Given where it is in the current measure, if you were to reduce the allocation of staff course offerings it needs to go to something that fits within the classification of support for teaching in the measure. BSEP is structured to pay for teachers who are outside the teacher template."

Board Member Josh Daniels: "In a previous slide we identified a new list of \$450,000 of expenses to transfer to BSEP funding; clearly there are things available to swap. As a board member my feeling is that; what is most valuable for me to hear quantitatively is the impact on students. If its operational we could sit down and work it out."

Principal Erin Schweng to share with committee all the projects this position covers.

#### ***Exploring Other Options for Budget Cuts***

Superintendent Evans asked the committee to come up with options to discuss to replace those items the committee members believe are not expendable that would severely affect the students.

Local 21, Stephen Collins asked when the deadline is to consider cuts. *November 9<sup>th</sup> is enough time for staff to consider.*

Pauline Follansbee recommended that committee members add their ideas to the list and start comparing a committee recommendation column to the current list with dollar values.

First idea: Eliminate staffing increases as a result of enrollment growth

Additional noon supervisor \$30,000 – *based on current enrollment, not based on enrollment growth.*

Additional school secretary/Admin Asst II \$61,900

School campus monitor \$54,500 – added

Pauline will bring formula that determines staff to child ratios to next meeting Pauline to cost out and bring to next meeting.

Second idea: Eliminate 2 (\$220,000) or 3 (\$330,000) academic counselors at BHS

It was reiterated how detrimental it would be to the HS if they were to lose one counselor.

Another member reiterates that we are looking for GF saving and not just swapping BSEP for BSEP.

Wanted for next meeting

- Written description of what is happening at the health center
- Chart with new ideas for cuts and dollar figure added to current list
- Chart of history of legal cost
- CDC
- Added positions (staffing formula)

Question: Why the reduction in nonsalary budget for homeless students? *Balance over 2 years \$81K was not spent.*

***Nutrition Services Update***

**Analysis of Meals Sept 2017 and 2016**

Proposed reduction in the contribution by \$150K. Breakfast participation year over year, you can see that federal program we received \$28k more compared by last year. This is also showing we have a potential problem with our lunch program, we need to look at that.

Assistant Superintendent Pauline Follansbee did a brief review of information items;

- Board presentation of special education
- Fund 13 Contraction History
- Enrollment and ADA Table, 2017
- Teacher Template

Cathy Campell asked to revisit ADA at next meeting: estimate at first interim, cost and revenue, whether there's a significant increase in revenue over projected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. Next meeting: November 14, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Room 125;