



Services and other operating expenses was budgeted for \$30,800 in 2016-17. Only \$11,452 was used, leaving a balance of \$19,348. With a structural deficit in this program, reducing costs where possible was necessary to ensure funding staff salaries for the 2017-18 school year. To continue to provide a high level of service to our families, other sources of funding, including a BPSF grant, school site funds and community donations and collaborations have been sought to support ongoing Family Engagement programs.

### **STATUS REPORT**

The Family Engagement and Equity Specialists reported making personal connections with approximately one thousand families, representing over four thousand individual contacts during the 2016-17 school year. The team focused on the target population of underserved families and supported the District with ongoing parent engagement activities and training. In addition to many site level parent engagement activities, OFEE was instrumental in providing a four-part districtwide parent education workshop series, our annual Why 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Matters welcome and parent training, a screening the documentary Screenagers, college and career readiness and financial aid workshops, workshops around race and racism, and immigration forums and clinics with legal support to empower immigrant families and our school communities.

The Office of Family Engagement and Equity model of Family Engagement is consistent with the Dual Capacity Building Framework developed by Karen Mapp in collaboration with Harvard University. Three members of our team attended the annual Family Engagement Conference where Karen Mapp taught and inspired the implementation of strategies and development of parent trainings for our district. The supervisor attended the two week Family Engagement Course at the Harvard Business Graduate School in Cambridge to strengthen the foundation of family engagement in BUSD.

OFEE is working to build the capacity of staff and families to support the academic and socioemotional advancement of students from our target families. OFEE supports certificated and classified school staff with training (at staff meetings) and informally, to supported school staff with understanding the challenges of target families from diverse cultural, racial, religious, economic and linguistic backgrounds.

Family Engagement Specialists were tasked with working with target families based on chronic absenteeism, academic performance, and behavior. OFEE worked closely with families on attendance during the 2016-17 school year, and encouraged early detection and intervention when students miss school. As a result, more students were brought to the Student Attendance Review Board earlier in the year, allowing time for intervention and getting on track. OFEE was also successfully communicated the opinion that attendance is a responsibility of the school, and that attendance committees which included site administrators, teachers, and classified staff are needed for increased effectiveness. As a result, most school sites now have attendance teams (OFEE on the team) and many are seeing improvements.

## BSEP ANNUAL REPORT: FY 2016-17

The OFEE team provided parent education, outreach, and coordinated, collaborated, facilitated, initiated and implemented groups, workshops and programs at school sites and at the District level. Consistent themes and needs in our district included: attendance, need for housing and food, special education and overrepresentation of African Americans, and supporting guardians in meetings with school and District staff.

### **Activities in 2016-17 included:**

- K-to-College School Supply and dental hygiene Give-Away which reached more than 1,000 socio-economically disadvantaged families in September 2016
- Attendance Awareness Month Celebrations at every elementary, middle and BHS in September 2016
- College Readiness and Financial Aid Clinics in October, 2016, March 2017
- 9th Grade Matters - Personal welcome and school and district navigation workshops for target 9th grade students and families. This event was well attended.
- Kinder Fair parent outreach
- Four-part Parent Education and Leadership Training (11/22, 1/21, 3 /4, 4/29, 2017) - Parent Champion These workshops addressed the history and policies race, gender and nationalism that create obstacles to educating children of color. Understanding the educational system, navigating the educational institutions with confidence, and parents were learned to create an action plan for their children's education and future.
- BUSD Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Visual Arts and Essay Contest and Celebration April 2017
- Screenagers - Documentary screening and the film director Q&A about the impact of screen time on youth. Parents and students committed to less screen time.
- Supported schools with outreach and developing parent leaders for ELAC and DELAC
- Middle School and High School transition meetings for seamless transitions for our most vulnerable students and families
- PowerSchool support ongoing parent education
- Back to School Night and Open House outreach; worked with schools to provide childcare
- Parent Teacher Conference outreach and bridge communication gaps for families and staff when needed

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- Educate and support for families of students with IEPs (Individual Educational Plan for special education students) or 504 (Child Education Accommodation) plans.
- Immigration Forums, workshops, and legal support for our immigrant families in November 2016 and January 2017
- Food Pantries at most elementary schools and BHS.
- Partnered with McKinney-Vento Coordinator to support homeless families with food, clothing, housing, student enrollment, and communicating with school staff.

As Berkeley continues to gentrify, many low income families are becoming displaced and seeking basic needs such as food, shelter, mental health and medical support. OFEE is collaborating with the District Nurse and the City of Berkeley to customize the Family Information and Navigation Desk (FIND) online tool that is currently used by Children's Hospital to bridge the inequities in health care by identifying appropriate resources and supports for families. When using this tool, Family Engagement staff will quickly access customized lists of resources for families based on their unique needs.

### **Progress on 2016-17 SMART Goals**

Goal #1.

Form a Family Engagement Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders, including parents/guardians, community partners and district leaders and staff.

**Result:** Forming a district level advisory committee that has a strong parent/guardian base is our goal. This was difficult to do without starting with site committees. The OFEE team has been tasked with coordinating Family Engagement Advisory Committees at their sites, and the representatives from these committees will form the base for the district committee. We have three community partners and district administrators who are ready to join this committee. We have a goal of coming together in March 2018.

Goal #2.

Train at least five parents and staff at every school in a program such as the "Parenting Partners Program" in order to build capacity for family engagement.

**Result:** The OFEE team decided to develop its own BUSD customized parent education program to support and build the capacity of parents and staff. After careful research and cost estimates to purchase packaged parenting programs to bring to our district, we decided to go in a different direction. The cost of Parenting Partners and other similar programs was between three and five thousand per site, and this did not fit our budget. The cost was not the only reason we did not use a package program for parent development. The programs did not fit the diversity we have in Berkeley, which is not only racial, but includes education, levels of awareness, and abilities to

partner, support and advocate for student success and socioeconomic status. Our parent training takes Berkeley's uniqueness into consideration.

We piloted our customized OFEE Parent Education training with our Ramp Up Saturday School parents beginning October 2017, and it has been well received. We are also offering and scheduling relationship and partnership development training to school site staff and parent groups.

Goal #3.

Engage at least two parents from each school in a Latino Family Affinity Group, with meetings at least monthly, and one retreat, using a framework such as PIQE.

**Result:** Immigration was the focus in 2016-17. Although we know that all Latinos are not immigrants, many needed legal, emotional and advocacy support. In response to this shift, OFEE focused on gathering information, and making sure families know their rights. Also, as with the Family Engagement Advisory, we have come to understand that developing site affinity groups before district-wide connections makes sense. Specialists are tasked with identifying one or two Latino parents/guardians to assist them with bring together other Latino families. The OFEE Parent training (focused on helping parents to tell their stories in their affinity group) will be used to strengthen families at the site.