

BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 11, 2018

BUSD Offices –Technology Room 126
2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

P&O Steering Committee Members Present:

Liz Fox, *Cragmont*

Henry Charalambides, *Jefferson*

Danielle Perez, *John Muir (co-Chair)*

Weldon Bradstreet, *Rosa Parks*

Stephen Murphy, *Thousand Oaks*

Bruce Simon, *Berkeley High*

Aaron Glimme, *Berkeley High*

Josh Irwin, *Berkeley High*

Shauna Rabinowitz, *Berkeley High*

P&O Committee Members Absent*

**Alternates and co-reps are not marked absent if another rep is present.*

Visitors, School Board Directors, Union Reps, and Guests:

Jay Nitschke, *BUSD Director of Technology*

Elizabeth Karam, *BUSD Budget Analyst*

BSEP Staff:

1. Call to Order and Introductions

At 6:35 p.m. Co-chair Simon called the meeting to order and each member introduced themselves briefly.

2. Establish the Quorum/Approve Agenda

The quorum was established with all 7 Steering Committee members present and the agenda was approved (motion to approve by Bradstreet, seconded by Glimme.)

3. Chairperson's Comments

Simon noted that all documents presented are same as given at last P&O meeting, January 9. He described documents: Carry-over from Measure A; Current estimates of revenue and expenses for Measure E.

4. BSEP Director's Comments

Natasha Beery, Director BSEP & Community Relations

Natasha Beery could not attend meeting due to illness, Jay Nitschke was filling in as input on discussion on behalf of district perspective.

5. Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.

7. Discussion—SBAC Budget Proposals related to BSEP Funding

Simon noted that Committee's work is to look at proposals for four transfers of General Fund expenses to BSEP and confirm they can meet spirit and letter of law. Should vet the proposals as being permitted, or identify issues. Glimme added that committee should

consider whether those transfers most closely fit in the proposed funds, and whether each proposed fund has enough resources to cover the proposed expense.

Simon and Perez explained the 3 categories of Measure E structure to help identify where funds can come from. Describes flexibility (e.g. 10%) that can be used as committee looks where in Measure E to possibly pull from.

Group discussed each proposed transfer into BSEP individually, in the order they were presented on the Summary of Budget Reductions handout.

1. BIHS Coordinator position: Staff Recommendation: Annual Cost: \$110,000; What BSEP Fund, if any, fits this function: 0741/0841 (High Quality Instruction/CSR), Measure E1 accounting subcategory (068) Classroom support.

Glimme described position: tracks process of students through various steps to get IB diploma; overseeing the IB requirements, coordinates PD for teachers to maintain accreditation under IB program; always existed to support IB program and support for helping teacher's deliver curriculum; serves 35% of school students.

Concern that using this amount of current fund balance from Measure E1 resource 0741, while not allocated so far, may be a concern for the future because staffing costs will increase so that could lead to expenses exceeding revenue, as under the last measure at the end. This is the first year of the new measure E1, so we want to be careful committing to putting too many positions into 0741.

Charalambides: What will be no longer funded if we commit 0741 to pay for BIHS Coordinator?

Glimme: Historically funds go both ways from BSEP to General Fund and reverse depending on time and needs.

But, why not use old Measure A, funding source 0841, that has enough for two years: \$273,625. Use that money to pay for this move and reevaluate in two years.

Discussion of using Measure A carryover funds to limit affecting measure E1 resources for the rest of the measure time.

2. Professional Development Staffing & Hourly: \$124,180
Which fund from Measure A carryover: 0841 (0855 – Professional Development)-
\$209,786 fund balance as of First Interim

Nitschke: This is only a temporary fix unless Measure E1 takes it on later.

3. 9-12 Technology TSA: 110,000
Which fund from Measure A carryover: 0841

Total for these 3 positions: \$344,180

Irwin: Does district have reason to not use Measure A funds now?

Perez: leaning toward recommendation to use the Measure A fund balance first, but need to look at where there is planned fund balance of Measure E1.

Simon: these 3 positions are affordable for the first two years of Measure E1, given our current fund balance now and anticipated for Measure E1 under 0741.

Bradstreet: What else is the plan to use the Measure A funds, if not to spend down now when needed.

Fox: easier to track things and spend down Measure A funds now, to move toward new Measure.

Steering Committee Recommendation: Support first 3 positions above being moved to be funded by BSEP, but with recommendation to use the Measure A funds used first, as much as possible, and then Measure E fund 0741. We would like to see the intentional fund balance of E1 maintained as long as possible to account for future economic uncertainty.

4. “Student Support” Academic Counselor for BHS. Staff recommendation is this fits under: 3rd BSEP Measure E1 bucket of “Effective Student Support” which currently provides 2.25% toward Counseling & Behavioral Health. But not enough funds there, so would requires transfer of funds from Measure E1’s second bucket, “Essentials for Excellence” to transfer up to 10%.

Concern: the VAPA bucket is a target, but there is concern to permanently take from that bucket and rely on it long term to pay for BHS counselor. Maybe one time borrow from Measure A carryover?

There is no clear place from Measure A carryover that is appropriately matched to the BHS academic counselor position. Can we look harder? How do you define program support in Measure A?

Concern: “Essentials for Excellence” Programs: Looking at Music/VAPA 0753, Libraries 0761, and Technology 0762 to provide 10% transfer to Effective Student Support – not favored. Not recommended by the Steering Committee.

Glimme: would need to put more in the CSR “High Quality Instruction” in E1 to shift in order to move forward for multiple years with funding this position.

Glimme proposes: Easier for BSEP to approve absorbing another position into the CSR fund (0741) because BSEP’s counselor fund is on point, but way too small.

Simon: great passion from public to not cut any counselors from BHS.

Glimme: But where does the High School Counselor fit into E1? Only under 0764? (2.25% is just too small structurally)

The first 3 positions have a better place for BSEP to absorb, whereas the 4th position does not appear to have a good source. And there is concern of negative public response to reducing funding from one resource to transfer to another to absorb the counselor position into the appropriate bucket (0764). And concern if transfers/reductions/decreases were made between resources, could impact long-term financial viability of the “Essentials for Excellence” programs.

Nitschke: said one perspective is that we need to try to figure out how to appropriately spend down the VAPA/music carryover from Measure A. No significant support for taking 10% from VAPA/music in Measure E1 this year, requiring that program to backfill from carryover from Measure

Nitschke: VAPA/music has to have room to deal with 4th/5th release time that fluctuates with enrollment: \$100,000. The positions must be with certificated teachers, can't often find teachers with necessary certifications to watch kids; instructional specialists won't be enough because kids still need certificated teachers in the classroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.