

BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 27, 2018

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

P&O Committee Members Present:

Nicole Chabot, *Arts Magnet (Co)*
Liz Fox, *Cragmont*
Dawn Paxson, *Emerson*
Lucero Lupercio, *LeConte (Co)*
Jane Tunks Demel, *Malcolm X*

Weldon Bradstreet, *Rosa Parks*
Rita Gaber, *Willard*
Aaron Glimme, *Berkeley High*
Bruce Simon, *Berkeley High (co-Chair)*

P&O Committee Members Absent*:

Harry Charalambides, *Jefferson*
Vacant, *John Muir*
Aaron Schiller, *Thousand Oaks (Co)*
Stephen Murphy, *Thousand Oaks (Co)*
Carla Bryant, *Oxford (Alt)*
John Eknoian, *Oxford*

Stephanie Upp, *Washington*
Sean Poremba, *Longfellow*
Angela Gallegos-Castillo, *Longfellow*
Terry Pastika, *King*
Shauna Rabinowitz, *Berkeley High*
Josh Irwin, *Berkeley High*

**Alternates and co-reps are not marked absent if another rep is present. Currently there is not representation from the stand-alone T-K, Pre-K, John Muir, BTA, or BIS.*

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

Donald Evans, *Superintendent of Schools*
Jay Nitschke, *Director of Technology*
Pasquale Scuderi, *Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*
Becca Todd, *District Library Coordinator*
Jessica Lee, *Willard Teacher Librarian*
Pete Gidlund, *VAPA Supervisor*

BSEP Staff:

Natasha Beery, *Director, BSEP and Community Relations*
Danielle Perez, *BSEP Program Specialist*

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Site Reports

At 7:20, Chairperson Bruce Simon called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees. Each then followed with introductions and site reports. Rep. Glimme reported that the Berkeley High BSEP Committee had received all proposals for the 2018-19 year, including one that was new, and as is fairly typical there are more requests than money available. They are currently awaiting final cost estimates for the various positions, and will start the budgeting process the week after Spring Break. Rep. Lupercio updated that the LeConte SGC will have another meeting to work on its site plan. During the last meeting, they looked at reading scores and reviewed literacy data. Rep. Fox shared that Cragmont's family outreach coordinator began the last SGC meeting with an icebreaker meant to explore where people were coming from, show how varied people's lives are, and build an inclusive environment. The group discussed the timeline for the site plan decision-making process and will begin work on it at the next meeting. Rep. Chabot shared that the Arts Magnet science teacher attended the SGC meeting to inform them about changes in the science curriculum and the expansion of the 1st – 3rd grade release time which will result in more minutes of science instruction. Rep. Bradstreet reported that Rosa Parks completed its read-a-thon last week. Rep. Paxson reported that the Emerson SGC is working up to its site plan and looking to increase hours for its ELD teacher.

2. Establish the Quorum & Approve Agenda

The quorum was not established, with only eight committee members present. Chairperson Simon noted that item 9 on the agenda should have been labeled "Action" rather than "Presentation." [However, without a quorum, no action can be taken.]

3. Chairperson's Comments

Bruce Simon, Chair Planning and Oversight Committee

Chairperson Simon did not have any comments.

4. BSEP Director's Comments

Natasha Beery, Director, BSEP & Community Relations

Director Beery updated the group that the Board President had just this evening decided to pull the BSEP item from the consent calendar for the subsequent night's Board Meeting in order to discuss it. While the Teacher Template has already been approved on an expedited timeline in order that HR could begin its work, the ancillary purposes of High Quality Instruction (Professional Development, Program Evaluation, Classroom Support, and Expanded Course Offerings) will be discussed by the Board in further detail. Because of the General Fund shortfall, aspects of those plans have been reconfigured to allow for BSEP to assume what had been GF costs, including additional BHS Teacher Leaders paid for under Professional Development, and some of this would be achieved through savings in a reduction of BREA administrative staff oversight.

Beery hoped that by the end of the evening's meeting there would be a quorum to vote on the plans presented at the last meeting; however, another opportunity exists at the April P&O meeting. All the BSEP plans are due in May, however, so it is crucial that there be a quorum at the next two meetings. The hope had been that with fewer spring meetings, the potential would be higher for having a quorum at the ones scheduled.

Chairperson Simon asked what the consequences of further Board discussion might be for the P&O, and whether it might lead to a request to the budget manager to re-do the plan and then

bring it back to the Committee. Beery replied that that is a possibility, although the chances are not high. Dr. Evans concurred, adding that there is respect for the work that was done by the P&O Committee.

Rep. Chabot asked for clarification on the Board process, and whether the Board can decline to fund a certain line item. Beery replied that the Board can nix any particular item that the P&O has approved. Rep. Glimme added that the P&O is an advisory committee, but it can also respond in such instances, and its statements do carry weight. Similar scenarios have happened in the past. Chair Simon said that if something like this were to happen, there might need to be another Steering Committee meeting to draw up a response.

Mr. Scuderi asked if that item were to be called into question, whether it would hold up the entire approval process. He wanted to be sure his department was doing what was necessary so that the sites would not be impacted, as there are implications for hiring within this budget. Director Beery said she had raised this concern with Board President Daniels, and there might be room to hold up certain items while moving to approve the staffing portion.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Evans added that Director Beery has done an amazing job in the Le Conte Elementary School renaming process and that she will provide an update to the Board the following night. There will also be Next Generation Science Standards and Professional Development presentations. Dr. Evans added that it is possible that 16-and-over voting for school board elections might be in place for 2020. Chair Simon noted an article written by a Berkeley High School junior about the national movement to lower the voting age for local elections. It was published this week in Teen Vogue online. Director Beery noted that women's suffrage followed a similar trend line, with women gaining the vote nationwide in 1920, but in Berkeley in 1910, beginning with School Board voting.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Simon stated that the group would come back to minutes if a quorum was achieved later in the meeting.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in FY 18-19: Effective Student Support

Pasquale Scuderi, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services

Mr. Scuderi provided the following handouts:

- *Recommendation for Allocation of BSEP Effective Student Support Funds for 2018-19*

Mr. Scuderi began by saying that there isn't a significant change in this proposal from previous years. This budget funds counseling support at the middle schools, although when the new measure was written the language was "Counseling and Behavioral Health" to allow for other options. For now, holding on to middle school counselors is the chief priority of this budget. It also pays for RtI teachers at the elementary and middle schools as well as OFEE Family Engagement specialists. Mr. Scuderi allowed time for the committee to review the recommendation.

Rep. Paxson asked about the vision or thoughts for middle school regarding Office of Family Engagement staff, and whether that purpose might be covered under LCAP or some other budget. Mr. Scuderi said he wouldn't suggest that it's already being covered, although there had been discussions last Spring with Ann Callegari about the desire to move into the middle schools. The District is at a fork in the road as to what the Family Engagement program should look like and do. He and his staff are looking for more specificity and qualitative information on a program like this, as there is still uncertainty about what the chief role of the office is. At some sites, it's a parent drop-in center, but there are instances in which it might still not be reaching all families who need it. Although K-5 principals are happy to have the person, in terms of expansion Mr. Scuderi doesn't yet feel confident enough in the model to expand it. At the time of deciding on LCAP-funded programs, the middle school principals specifically requested RtI staff who might have been able to take on some of those family engagement responsibilities. Rep. Paxson commented that the family engagement piece has been in question over the past several years, and because it seems that the middle school model needs to be a specific animal she understands that it takes time to decide what that would be. She felt she would continue to ask and check in to see if there it takes shape or there is a good fit at some point in the future. Mr. Scuderi noted that the District added intervention counselors at the middle school, and although they are not an exact fit, they do address some issues. Rep. Paxson said that she has personally found that position to be helpful.

Rep. Chabot added that it sounds like family engagement is a work in progress, and was curious about one of the smallest programs in the bucket having a program supervisor outside of the sites while the other programs did not. With respect to the appearance that this program was top-heavy vs other larger programs, Chair Simon responded that the supervisory staff might be funded out of other sources. Chabot asked where Lit and RtI coaches "live," or who they report to. Mr. Scuderi said those positions are site-based allocations that are rolled into general staffing, and RtI teachers work with the principal or district program supervisor. Lit Coaches are multi-funded and meet in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with the lead literacy coach and from time to time report to the K-8 director, and as employees of the school site they are evaluated by principals.

Rep. Fox referred again to the presentation by Cragmont's Family Engagement Specialist, noting that the issue of family housing loomed large, and the population served by OFEE is being priced out of the community. She asked what the school district and board were doing to address the housing crisis, and what could be done. Mr. Scuderi deferred to the Superintendent to discuss the larger issue of employee housing and collaboration with the city regarding the availability of below-market rate housing, but noted that the District is already experiencing this problem with respect to IAs who work with the highest needs kids. The vacancy rate for these positions is climbing due to the district's inability to pay enough for them to live in the city. Dr. Evans said a grass-roots organization has been trying to move forward on housing, bringing the city and district together. Following a recent poll, the city is looking to go out in 2018 with a measure around employee housing. Rep. Fox noted that this issue impacts families and students, not just staff. Mr. Scuderi replied that the District has experienced a huge change in its demographic make-up because of the cost of housing. Rep. Paxson added that there are many challenges for these families, that processes and steps for putting in place transitional housing and other needs are bumpy and take a long time. She wanted to mention that family engagement staff have to deal with this process, which can get backed up because it takes so many people to make it happen.

Chair Simon said this recommendation will come back to the P&O at the April meeting when there will hopefully be a quorum. Beery noted that the “TBDs” in the plan do not refer to the model of the office. It’s that after staffing is paid for, drawing upon fund balance may be needed. In April, the Committee will hear about how the remaining funds will be spent on workshops or materials for example, and subsequent discussions will focus on the future of the program.

9. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in FY 18-19: Library Program

Becca Todd, District Library Coordinator and Pasquale Scuderi, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Ms. Todd provided the following handout:

- *Overview of Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Funds for Libraries in FY 2018-19*

Ms. Todd began by giving a quick review of what was covered at the last meeting for any members who weren’t present. BSEP Library monies pay for all staff, including credentialed staff with classified support at the secondary level, and classified librarian specialists at all the elementary schools. The main change brought forward last year was to increase to 2.0 the 1.6 FTE TSAs that worked at the district level to support all eleven elementary schools. The .4 FTE comes from Professional Development, as it is 2/3 of the DigiTech team in partnership with Instructional Technology. [With respect to the .4 FTE, she didn’t yet know how it was going to be continued.] The Instructional Coordinator at the helm will have 3 Tech TSAs and 2 Teacher Librarians, having brought forward our commitment to teaching digital literacy and citizenship K-8. At LeConte, the .8 library Media Technician will increase to .9 FTE because of population growth and in recognition of the additional amount of work necessary to support TWI. There will also be a shift away from the .2 Teacher Librarian at BTA, with the campus to be more fully served by the TSAs on the DigiTech team. With the inclusion of their skills, there will also be more flexibility to appropriately serve both BTA and BIS.

On page 4, Ms. Todd noted, there is the shift in funding for the ECE book bag program to the Library budget from Early Childhood Education. With regard to the proposed use of carryover from the previous Measure A, Ms. Todd stated that towards the end of Measure A, they had started installing new short-throw projectors at the high school and stopped at the middle schools. At many sites, the libraries are the largest classroom, so in addition to library programming they are also used for community and faculty meetings. Now that there is carryover of \$120,000, her proposal is to continue to install these projectors or something comparable in the rest of the libraries to make the multi-use function of those spaces smoother. [The document should also include Jefferson between John Muir and Berkeley HS in sites that have already received the projector.] Chair Simon expressed appreciation for the proposal of carryover funds and felt it was a valuable and well thought-out decision.

Ms. Todd also updated that the libraries will try a Mock-Sibert (most distinguished informational book in science) to expand to informational texts out of the success of the Mock Newberry program. Chair Simon noted that the committee will vote on this proposal at next meeting.

10. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in FY 18-19: Music/VAPA

Pete Gidlund, Visual and Performing Arts Program Supervisor and Pasquale Scuderi, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Mr. Gidlund provided the following handout:

- *Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Funds for the Music, Visual, and Performing Arts Programs in 2018-19*

Mr. Gidlund began by giving background information. Three things that came to him from school leaders and the community about music were the need for large equipment and specifically pianos; and from teachers, questions and ideas about the instrument fleet and how to move forward strategically, in particular with respect to larger instruments. At the time, the budget was geared toward small incremental growth and didn't work in a way to take care of those large items, so overhaul and maintenance was not really possible. At the last P&O meeting, there was discussion of how to use carryover from Measure A, so the only change to this budget is the addition of a "Deferred Maintenance Initiative" proposing the use of \$100,000 in Measure A carryover to undertake large maintenance projects. In broad strokes, it would focus on pianos, large brass instruments and specialty woodwinds. Mr. Gidlund noted that emphasis on large instruments is a pedagogical engagement strategy to take kids who need an extra carrot by moving them to a larger instrument in middle school. This push, from clarinet to saxophone or bass clarinet for example, can keep kids from falling off the map and address the historic drop-off at sixth grade. Transitioning to specialty instruments results in increased engagement.

Mr. Gidlund added that the district-contracted piano tuner reported that there is only one good piano currently in the district, the Steinway at King Middle School, and in order to preserve that asset it would need major renovation to bring it up to optimal shape to maintain usability. \$20,000 would be needed to bring it up to where it should be, but it would be a step back to get rid of it. He noted that some schools need a piano, and some have ones that aren't working or are unused. There is a grand piano at Le Conte that sits on the basketball court and needs to be disposed of, but that is also expensive without even considering replacement costs. Rep. Glimme commented that the initiative is a great idea, particularly in low brass. His only suggestion would be to keep in mind the long-range picture, that as those large instrument players move up from middle to high school, there won't be instruments for them there unless that is planned for and addressed. Chair Simon wondered how much all the different instruments cost, and was curious about the process to prioritize what to fund. He imagined that to do everything would probably far exceed available resources. Mr. Gidlund replied that the carryover won't solve everything, but it will do things his department hasn't been able to do previously. He noted that he has a great working budget but that it is locked in a yearly cycle. This \$100,000 can supplement annual purchases to amp the District up for a few years. He will need to have a lot of staff meetings, with teachers giving him information and principals establishing needs, then writing contracts, and making purchases, etc. Chair Simon recommended that given the considerable fund balance, Mr. Gidlund could think about the initiative as a multi-year process. Mr. Gidlund agreed. He will be able to come back next year with an update, report on how process went, and to evaluate whether it solved the problem and then plan to move forward.

11. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in FY 18-19: Instructional Technology

Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

Mr. Nitschke provided the following handout:

- *Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Technology Funds in FY 2018-19*

Mr. Nitschke began by asking members to review the handout. The plan is substantively what the committee saw last time. Rep. Paxson asked if there was increased revenue, to which Mr. Nitschke replied yes. Regarding Chromebooks, Rep. Paxson asked if they are available in science

classrooms at the elementary level. Mr. Nitschke replied that Chromebooks are in all 4th and 5th grade classrooms, and are 1:2 at the 3rd grade classroom level. Chair Simon asked whether any schools other than Rosa Parks have dedicated science labs. Mr. Nitschke did not know this information. Rep. Glimme asked if there would be Technology PD across the district. Mr. Nitschke replied that last year PD was just math, and this year the conference at adult school would be opened up for teachers to present to other teachers.

12. For the Good of the Order

No items. Simon asked everyone to encourage attendance at the next meeting, where the committee will need to vote on the four plans presented this evening as well as two sets of minutes.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21.