

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

Official Minutes
February 21, 2018

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He reported that there was no closed session.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

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

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

No closed session was held.

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Alper/Hemphill and unanimously approved 6-0.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 17 people addressed the Board:

One comment in support of removing the dean of attendance and safety officers from the cut list.

Two comments advocating for a permanent bilingual substitute teacher.

Two comments advocating for additional support at Cragmont.

One comment in support of keeping the VP at MX.

Four comments advocating for the lifelong program at BAS.

One comment thanking the Board for its support of the TO bilingual program.

Four comments in support of keeping all safety officers at BHS.

One comment requesting an expedited teacher hiring timeline.

One comment in support of TK classes remaining where they are currently.

UNION COMMENTS

President of the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE) Paula Phillips urged the Board to not cut any safety officer positions.

President of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) Cathy Campbell urged the Board not to make any cuts to school sites.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Leyva-Cutler thanked the seniors who came out in support of the long life program at BAS

Director Nagarajan-Swenson spoke in support of the lock down drills at BHS and stressed the importance of being prepared.

Vice President Appel thanked all who came out to speak. She called for a moment of silence in light of the violence our nation is experiencing. She announced that there will be a 17-minute walk out on March 14, one minute for each life lost in the Parkland shooting.

Director Hemphill thanked staff for making difficult decisions with respect to budget cuts. She reported that the facilities subcommittee will be presenting safety plans for schools for the safety of our students. This proposal will be brought before the Board on Feb. 28. She suggested adopting a resolution in support of gun control.

President Daniels recalled the fear that permeated BHS caused by the Columbine shooting while he was a senior at BHS. He added that while Berkeley is a place of few

gun shootings, there are countless of people who are affected by gun violence. He thanked the students in Florida who are using this tragedy to effect change.

Superintendent Evans also thanked the public for coming out tonight. He said that our students' safety is of paramount importance. It is tragedies such as the one in Florida that bring our work home. He thanked Student Director Nagarajan-Swenson for her presence on the Board as she is a reminder of why we do the kind of work that we do.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Hemphill/Alper and unanimously approved 6-0.

Decisions on Proposed Ongoing Base Grant/General Fund Budget Reductions for 18-19 – Action

Allotted time: 45 min

Actual time: 86 min

Associate Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansbee presented remaining considerations for reductions. When this item was last presented, the Board agreed on \$1.6 million in solutions, leaving them with \$200k of additional reductions to make in order to meet the \$1.8 million cut target.

Daniels directed the Board to express their stance on and propose any additional reductions.

Individual Board members proposed various reductions and the Board discussed each proposal.

Eventually, Hemphill moved to close discussion on this item approximately \$15,000 away from the \$1.8 million cut target. Motion seconded by Appel. Motion passed on a 5-1 vote:

Josh Daniels, President – *No*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Yes*

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Yes*

Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Uma Nagarajan-Swenson, Student Director, BHS – *Yes*

Alper moved, and Hemphill seconded, to approve the following list of solutions:

The Board agreed to:

- Reduce contribution to the child development fund from the General Fund by \$127,404
- Consolidate BTA and BIS Administration for a reduction of \$127,347
- Reduce 1.0FTE counselor at BTA for \$102,000
- Reduce 1.0FTE safety officer position at BTA for \$67,500
- Reduce the peer assistance and review budget for \$18,000
- Reduce homeless budget by \$50,000
- Reduce GATE program budget by \$15,000
- Reduce BHS graduation budget by \$15,000
- Reduce transportation repairs and supplies budget by \$75,000
- Reduce central office supplies budget by \$45,000
- Downgrade Director of Student Services position to Manager of Student Services for a savings of \$25,000
- Reduce .4 FTE TSA at DO for \$39,494
- Reduce .4 FTE TSA at BHS for \$39,464
- Electricity savings of \$60,000
- Transfer \$489,000 from the General Fund to BSEP
- Reduce roving custodian position for a savings of \$68,000
- Reduce legal costs by \$75,000
- Reduce consulting fees by \$100,000
- Reduce 2.0FTE safety officer positions for \$135,000 in savings
- Reduce .6 FTE behavioral specialist position for \$162,000 in savings
- Relocate TK classes to K-5 sites by 2021 for \$50,000 in savings

For an amount of \$1,785,209 in solutions.

Motion passed on a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Daniels closed this item by thanking the Superintendent and staff for their work. He noted that this is a process that exemplified good governance.

Consideration of New Ongoing Expenditures

President Daniels explained that consideration of new ongoing expenditures would happen assuming the Board desired to propose new ongoing reductions. Given that this is not the case, he proposed tabling this item, and revisiting it to the extent that there is revenue resulting from P-2 or part of the May revise.

Daniels moved to table this item until April 25 after P-2 (when we recognize our attendance numbers).

Motion to extend meeting to 11:45pm:
Appel/Daniels and unanimously approved 6-0.

Hemphill amended Daniels' motion requesting that this item return before the Board before April 25.

Appel further amended motion to table this to the first meeting in April when we can once again look at all items for discussion followed by potential action on the second meeting in April.

Daniels moved to table this item until April 25 preceded by a discussion on a date to be determined by the Superintendent, President and Vice President. Motion seconded by Appel. Motion passed without objection on a 6-0 vote.

Proposed Re-assigning og General Fund costs to BSEP

President Daniels explained that the Board has agreed to transfer \$489,000 from the General Fund to the BSEP fund. This is an opportunity for the Board to weigh in on what the P&O is considering to transfer.

Associate Superintendent Scuderi added that the focus is on items that support high quality instruction. He provided an overview of the proposed positions to transfer to BSEP and the possible programmatic reductions that might be made as a result. Questions and discussion followed. A majority of the Board did not express concerns regarding the possible programmatic reductions that might be made a result.

ADJOURNMENT

11:40 pm