

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702

510-644-6206

Official Minutes

May 23, 2018

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Josh Daniels, President – Present,

Judy Appel, Vice President – Present

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – Present

Karen Hemphill, Director – Excused

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

President Daniels reported out on closed session:

Public Employee Appointment (Government Code Section 54957)

Executive Director, Special Education

Motion to approve the appointment of Jan Hamilton as the new Executive Director of Special Education:

Appel/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 4-0:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Yes*

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

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Absent*

Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Principal, Thousand Oaks Elementary

Motion to approve the appointment of Jacqueline Parker as the new Principal of Thousand Oaks Elementary:

Leyva-Cutler/Alper and unanimously approved 3-0:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Absent*

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

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Absent*

Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Motion to approve the appointment of Pauline Follansbee as the new Assistant Superintendent:

Alper/Daniels and unanimously approved 3-0:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Absent*

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

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Absent*

Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)

Executive Director, Facilities

The Board discussed this item and gave direction to staff; no action was taken.

Superintendent

The Board discussed this item and gave direction to staff; no action was taken.

Conference with Legal Counsel -- Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54958.9(b))

Claim No. 15-082115, 110800046, 121100115, 140300127

Motion to approve the settlement request in this matter:

Alper/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 4-0:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Yes*

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

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Absent*

Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Case No. 2016030226

Motion to approve the settlement request in this matter:

Daniels/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 4-0:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Yes*

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Karen Hemphill, Director – *Absent*
Ty Alper, Director – *Yes*

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code Section)

Employee ID No. 8471

President Daniels reported that, at the request of Travis Dennis, this matter was addressed in an open public hearing. He added that the Board will resume its deliberation with respect to this case when it recesses back to closed session immediately following open session.

President Daniels called to order an open public hearing and stated that the recommendation of the administration is to dismiss Mr. Dennis based on the statement of charges.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Evelyn Tamondong-Bradley read aloud the statement of charges against employee. She reiterated that staff's recommendation is for the dismissal of employee no. 8471.

Mr. Dennis and his representative were given an opportunity to respond to charges.

President Daniels then opened up public comment.

A total of 12 people addressed the Board in support of Mr. Dennis.

President Daniels announced that the Board would recess back to closed session to deliberate on this matter.

Employee No. 5405

Motion to approve the intent to dismiss employee no. 5405 based on the accompanying statement of charges:

Alper/Daniels and unanimously approved 4-0.

Superintendent's Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board did not get to this item; they will address this matter when they recess back into closed session.

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Appel/Alper and unanimously approved 6-0

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 14 people addressed the Board:

- One comment in support of the Young, Black and Gifted program
- Four comments in support of the recommendation for the new name of Le Conte
- Three comments in support of adequate teachers compensation
- Three comments in support of a computer teacher
- Three comments advocating for additional support at Longfellow

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Alper thanked the naming advisory committee, the Le Conte community and Natasha Beery for a thoughtful and well led school naming process.

Director Leyva-Cutler also thanked everyone who participated in and contributed to the school naming process.

Director Nagarajan-Swenson called for 10 seconds of silence in honor of the lives lost at the Santa Fe School shooting.

Vice President Appel recognized Director Beery for her exemplary leadership in the Le Conte renaming process. She looks forward to voting on a new name tonight.

President Daniels mentioned that we have had a couple of Board meetings where District employees have shared how economically difficult it is to live in Berkeley. For anyone interested in looking at some current data, he referred to a survey that was administered among BUSD staff and explicitly revealed the need for affordable housing for BUSD staff. He added that as conversation around how to address said need continues, investment in affordable housing for BUSD staff is considered as one possible solution. He thanked Director Nagarajan-Swenson for her comments on the Santa Fe tragedy.

Superintendent Evans expressed his gratitude to the Le Conte community. He also thanked the BHS team for its work on the U9.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Aper/Appel and unanimously approved 5-0

Recommendation for Renaming Le Conte Elementary School

Allotted time: 45 min

Actual time: 39 min

Director of Communications Natasha Beery and Grace Khan presented an overview of the renaming process. Their presentation highlighted the naming discussion criteria, process for name solicitation and the review of 220 initial name submissions which were ultimately reduced to a list of the top seven. The Superintendent's Naming Advisory Committee recommends the name Sylvia Mendez Elementary. Moving forward, the goal is to continue meaningful engagement around the other six candidates in order to carry the learning. Some potential, future plans include naming the auditorium after Denise Brown, painting an arcoiris mural, and taking a field trip to the Tape house. They added that the renaming process not only produced a new name for a school, but also lifted up the lives of people who embody our values.

Motion to approve the renaming of Le Conte Elementary to Sylvia Mendez Elementary School:

Leyva-Cutler/Appel and unanimously approved 5-0.

Solicit Answers to Trivia Question

Update on BHS Redesign/Universal 9th Grade

Allotted time: 30 min

Actual time: 30 min

Principal Schweng and Leader Teacher Hasming Minassian presented an update to the Board on the U9. They reported that their ability to move up hiring timelines has allowed for application submission from highly qualified candidates, and are prepared to open one full LEAP class per hive. As the hiring process and the development of the schedule continue, it has become clear that there are areas that will need additional attention and review, specifically around efforts in intervention and math 1 support. Questions and discussion followed.

Approval of Tentative Agreement with the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

Motion to approve the Tentative Agreement with BCCE:

Appel/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 5-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Two people addressed the Board:

- One comment in gratitude to the Board for its approval of renaming Le Conte
- One comment on employee compensation

President Daniels recessed to closed session

10:01

Following the discussion and deliberation with respect to item 3.5.1, President Daniels resumed open session and reported the following action:

Motion to approve staff recommendation for the dismissal of employee no. 8471: Alper/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 4-0.

ADJOURNED:

10:30PM