

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702

510-644-6206

Official Minutes

September 12, 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 – Present

Ty Alper, Director -- Present

Arvin Hariri, Student Director, BHS – Present

Oneida Abrams, Student Director, BTA – 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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

At the request of Director Alper, item 14 (Approval of revised Bylaws for BUSD K-8 School Site Committees) was pulled and moved to the consent calendar.

Motion to approve agenda as amended.

Alper/Leyva-Cutler and approved 5-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

President Daniels reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a))

Claim No. LBI502240

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Leyva-Cutler/Hemphill and approved on a 3-0 vote:
Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*
Judy Appel, Vice President – *Absent*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Karen Hemphill, Director – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director -- *Absent*

Case No. 201805009

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Appel/Daniels and approved on a 3-0 vote:
Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*
Judy Appel, Vice President – *Yes*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – *Recused*
Karen Hemphill, Director – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director -- *Absent*

Employee No. 2929

Motion to approve rejection of claim filed within the Government Claims Act by
employee No. 2929:
Appel/Alper and unanimously approved 5-0.

Case No. DSC1503595

The Board discussed and gave direction.

**Collective Bargaining Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator:
Evelyn Tamondong-Bradley)**

BCCE

The Board discussed and gave staff direction. No action was taken.

BFT

This matter was not discussed.

Local 21

The Board discussed and gave staff direction. No action was taken.

Superintendent's Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board discussed this matter. No action was taken.

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of nine people addressed the Board:

Seven comments in opposition to STAR reading assessments.

One comment on the address verification policy

One comment concerning student assignment

UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Cathy Campbell spoke on behalf of BFT members in opposition to proposed STAR reading assessments. She stressed that any implementation of assessment needs to produce the best use of time and allow educators the opportunity to be included in the decision making process.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Alper thanked all who came out tonight. He stated that he did not know with certainty the impact of STAR reading assessment on instructional time. He recalled that this conversation began a year ago, and added that because this item was not agendaized, extensive discussion on this matter could not take place tonight. He asked staff to ensure that there is communication with teachers regarding these assessments.

Director Abrams shared that with the changes at BTA, including change in leadership, BTA feels more like part of BUSD. She is enjoying her experience there.

Director Hemphill announced that plans are under way for the 50th annual celebration of the African American Studies Department. She thanked Director Alper for his comments. She shared that when she first became a Board member 12 years ago standardized assessments were not administered. She recalled that it was with standardized tests that we found out that BUSD had the largest achievement gap along racial lines of school districts in the state. She added that what concerns her about the assessments conducted to date is the data that shows that these assessments are failing to capture students who are struggling to read by the time they reach middle school. Internal assessments are not enough. She said that regardless of how teachers feel about the process, it is important to keep the eye on the prize with the goal in mind to close the achievement gap. External assessments will help to identify students early enough and allow for informed interventions to be put into place. Something different has to happen in order to properly serve all students.

Director Leyva-Cutler thanked teachers for taking the time to come out. She added that communication about processes between administration and teachers needs

improvement. She also expressed concern that data does not point to any literacy progress for our Black and Brown students. She also recognized Sylvia Mendez elementary. Sylvia Mendez herself will be visiting the school and sharing with the community.

Vice President Appel thanked all who were present for taking time away from their families to be here. She added that she believes there is a shared commitment to tackle the achievement gap. She said that while there may be disagreements about how to address the issue, she agrees with teachers about the importance of respect and collaboration towards a collective approach. She stressed that the lack of progress is not due to not making attempts at addressing the achievement gap. She emphasized that in order for there to be respect as these conversations are held, we must be able to listen and have open minds. She went on to address a group of teachers' hissing response to Director Hemphill's comments, and said that respect should be reciprocated. She is hopeful that we can move forward in a more collaborative manner. With respect to the facilities committee, she reported that a number of projects, delivery options and seismic mitigation program funding will be coming to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

President Daniels also thanked all who came out tonight. He noted that he had already jotted his comments down before today's meeting and before any of the comments on assessments were made. He went on to say that he wants to adjourn tonight in memory of Jacky Fox Ruby who served as a BUSD teacher for 30 years, on the Alameda County Board of Education for eight years, and as BFT President. Ms. Ruby passed away last month at the age of 80. He went on to announce that BUSD is offering a \$200 stipend to all staff who attend a training on mental health aid. He shared that he has been on the Board for 161 meetings as a board member, but tonight's meeting is his first as a parent of a BUSD student. He attended back to school night and had a phenomenal experience as a parent hearing from an amazing teacher about the way she was approaching teaching our kids. He observed that kids were taught, comforted and welcomed into the same classroom he was in as a kindergartener. He closed by appreciating all of the folks present tonight who have taught.

Superintendent Evans thanked all for coming out. While there are so many things he is proud of, he acknowledges the need to address some issues head on. He shared that since he began teaching over thirty years ago, there has not been much progress at closing the achievement gap. The reason he sits on a number of African American committees and taskforces whose mission is to address the achievement gap is not because he is a Superintendent, but because he was also once a teacher. This kind of work is not easy and it requires working together. He stressed the importance of looking closely at our data data to inform the way we tackle the achievement gap. He expressed his appreciation of all teachers and their work, but urged them that simply

waiting to see if will eventually obtain better results is not the answer. We must do something. He solicited their input and welcomed any ideas they may want to contribute to address the needs of all students and help move BUSD forward.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Appel/Hariri and unanimously approved 7-0.

Update on Special Education – Discussion

Allotted time: 30 min

Actual time: 39 min

Director of Special Education Jan Hamilton reported that a special education advisory committee will begin to convene monthly to create a plan for strategic and specific measurable attainable goals. The department will focus on professional development for and strategic placement of IAs, careful consideration of inter district transfer student placement, and annual review of NPS placement and extended school year costs.

Questions and discussion followed.

First Half of 2018 Board Self-Reflection – Discussion

Allotted time: 20 min

Actual time 26 min

President Daniels reminded all that at its January 6 retreat, the Board identified budget reductions, special education, and secondary offerings priorities for this year. Additionally, changes to board meeting formats were also agreed upon at the Jan 6 2018 board retreat.

President Daniels led the Board in discussing some of the things that seem to be working or need improvement.

Director Leyva-Cutler:

- Appreciated that substantive amount of time spent discussing identified priorities.
- Anticipates even more time will be spent on budget cuts in the following year.
- Staff presentations have improved.
- Feels we can do without the paper copies and would prefer to have the ability to have electronic access to the actual presentation for the purpose of note taking.
- Suggested adding to meeting overview that is shared at the beginning of meeting the equal importance of respect on the part of the audience

Director Alper:

- Agrees with Director Leyva-Cutler
- Initially resisted the shortened board memo format, but likes it now. Said
- Would like to see consistency in cover memos for closed session items.
- Added that we should try our best to not use restroom during a staff presentation.

Director Hemphill:

- Thinks the new agenda is clearer and easier to follow by the public.
- Would like to see a description of consent calendar and an explanation of how action items differ from discussion items be included on paper agenda.
- Likes the paper presentations because she can take notes, but would prefer to do it electronically if it were an option.
- Noted that public comment has been shortened to 2 min less frequently. Shortening it when we have a large number of people who want to speak allows us to hear from more people
- Would like to consistently have the more substantive issues be addressed earlier on in the meeting.
- Appreciates longer, more detailed reports as they help decrease discussion time during board meetings.

Vice President Appel:

- The board has necessarily spent a lot of time on budget cuts. She would like to figure out how to more deliberately spend less time on it next years.
- She noted that the Board was able to spend more time on instruction after budget cuts concluded.
- Appreciates the good management of time as we have adjourned before 11 for the most part.
- Likes reference to past related meetings embedded in the cover memos.
- Agrees with Director Alper about having for consistency with closed session format

Superintendent Evans:

- Suggested earlier start time for board meetings
- Finds links to former meetings helpful
- Thinks it would be helpful for board questions to all be addressed during staff presentation.

President Daniels:

- Noted that the significant amount of time spent on budget cuts does not determine the level of importance of the other priorities. We are trying to spend more time on the rest of the priorities.

- Thinks that the forming of a Board Facilities subcommittee has been beneficial was two board members have the opportunity to vet important issues before they come to the board.
- Agrees with including explanation for parts of the agenda on the paper agenda.
- Reminded that the board agreed to to not use cell phone at the dais and not to be on computer during public comment

Approval of 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals—Action (15 min) Actual time: 30 min
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansbee presented unaudited actuals. She reported that BUSD met is 3% reserve. Her presentation provided an overview of deficit spending, LCAP supplemental designation over the years, LCAP expenditure for each of the three goals, and an explanation of variances in revenues, expenditures and contributions. Questions and comments followed.

Motion to approve the 2017-18 unaudited actuals:
Daniels/Appel and unanimously approved 7-0.

Approval of Gann Limit Resolution 19-001 – Action (5 min)
Motion to approve Gann Limit Resolution 19-001:
Leyva-Cutler/Hemphill and unanimously approved 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT
10:40 PM