

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702

510-644-6206

Official Minutes

September 26, 2018

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:45pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:33pm.

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

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

At the request of Vice President Appel item 17 was pulled altogether. At the request of President Daniels item 12.5 was pulled from the consent calendar and moved to action.

Motion to approve agenda as amended

Appel/Abrams and unanimously approved 7-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

President Daniels reported out on closed session:

Parent/Student Challenge to Content of Pupil Records (Ed Code Section 49070 (c))

Motion to approve staff recommendation:

Hemphill/Daniels and approved 4-0.

Josh Daniels, President – Yes

Judy Appel, Vice President – Yes

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director/Clerk – Yes

Karen Hemphill, Director – Yes

Ty Alper, Director -- *Absent*

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)) – One (1) Potential Case

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

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

BFT

The Board did not discuss.

BCCE

Discussed and gave staff direction. No action was taken.

Local 21

Discussed and gave staff direction. No action was taken.

Superintendent's Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board did not discuss.

Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)

Executive Director, Facilities

Motion to appoint John Michael Calise as the new Executive Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations:

Hemphill/Appel and unanimously approved 5-0.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of eight people addressed the Board:

Two comments in support of the sustainability plan.

Two comments advocating for increase in compensation for BCCE members.

Three comments in opposition to STAR assessments.

One comment raising concerns around safety at King.

UNION COMMENTS

BCCE President Linnette Robinson advocated for increase in compensation.

BFT President Cathy Campbell voiced BFT's support of BCCE. She thanked the Board for its assistance and the dialogue that has begun around reading assessments and requested that it continue until a

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Hariri announced his appointment of Zaira Rodriguez to the Peace and Justice Commission.

Vice President Appel shared that she met with Principal Shweng who reported that the BHS administrative team is working well together and is excited about the positive progress of the U9. She also reported that the MEET program proposal that was approved last year is in its early implementation stage as they are looking for student peer educators. Appel went on to acknowledge BHS student Rachel Alper for her successful advocacy for sanitary napkins and tampons to be made available in student restrooms at BHS. She hopes that this provision can be duplicated at the middle schools as well. She moved on to announce a Bay Area-wide effort to stand united against hate through a number of community events during the week of November 11. She closed her comments by thanking teachers who reached out to her to express their opinions concerning STAR assessments and to apologize for the hissing that took place at the last Board meeting. She accepts the apology and looks forward to continue working in collaboration with teachers and classified staff.

Director Hemphill shared that she just got back from her college reunion. She gave a shout-out to Pedro Noguera and Prudence Carter who were present at this monumental reunion held on the 50th anniversary of the Black student walkout at Brown University in 1968 when Black students made up only 2.5% of its student population. She added that this year also marks the 50th anniversary of Berkeley voluntarily integrating its schools, as well as the 50th anniversary of BUSD's African American Studies Department. She expressed how important it is to ensure that the same objective driving the aforementioned progress 50 years ago is the same objective of equity driving our efforts today, especially since not a whole lot has changed for our Black students in the last 12 years she has been on the Board. She closed her comments by requesting follow-up information on the public comment concerning safety issues at King.

Director Leyva-Cutler shared that she attended a 2020 Vision meeting with Berkeley City College, UC Berkeley, BUSD, The City of Berkeley and community members. She recalled that it's been 10 years since the 2020 Vision was created in partnership with the City. She added that although there has been some progress, there is still great deal of work to be done as we approach 2020.

Superintendent Evans said that while he acknowledges the need for increased employee compensation, he also is aware of the inadequate funding schools are receiving statewide, causing budget restraints that make it challenging to significantly increase employee compensation. He reminded the public that BUSD is gearing up to make \$2 million in cuts in order to address its structural deficit. He stressed how important maintaining fiscal solvency is to the survival of the District. He closed by expressing his appreciation for the work of BUSD's classified and certificated staff.

President Daniels shared that in his day job he works with districts around the state who, like BUSD, are engaging in efforts to improve both their academic outcomes and fiscal health. He stated that addressing fiscal issue requires identifying possible ways to support BUSD staff amid the rising cost of living, and doing so in the most financially responsible way so as to not sacrifice the future stability of the District. He noted that BUSD heavily depends upon the new state budget scheduled to come out in January, which may result in additional dollars as well as impose restrictions on how said funds can be allocated. Such was the case this year when BUSD received more money than the previous year, but was mandated by law to increase contribution to its employee retirement system. In order to prepare BUSD for a possible similar outcome, he noted that the board set a goal of up to \$2 million in budget reductions. The resulting savings will afford BUSD some flexibility to allocate resources to areas in desperate need of investment. Daniels reminded the public that the recent special education budget update presented to the Board budgeted for an increase in special education costs, yet the actual costs exceeded what had been initially projected. He stated that there are no easy solutions and this effort will require a community process that relies on the ideas, input and buy-in from the public. He closed his comments by remarking that this is now his second Board meeting as a parent of a BUSD student and he continues to be impressed with the staff at his son's school. He shouted out Mr. Albert, Ms. Vanessa and Ms. Desi for the way in which they have welcomed all incoming kindergarten families.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Alper/Hemphill and unanimously approved 7-0

12.5 Public Hearing and Approval of Resolution for Grades K-12 Textbooks and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2018-19

President Daniels opened public hearing at 8:41pm

No one came forward.

President Daniels closed public hearing at 8:41pm

Motion to approve:

Alper/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 7-0.

Update on Leadership Restructuring and Program at Berkeley Technology Academy and Independent Studies – Discussion

Allotted time: 30 min

Actual time: 30 min

BTA/BIS Principal Heidi Webber shared that BTA/BIS had a successful opening day of school. All BIS students were there to meet their peers on the first day. Principal Webber reported that the counselors at BTA now work on instructional learning plans for students. Students have access to Berkeley mental health services whose staff is on campus once a week. With respect to Instructional goals, the focus is student engagement and staff is in the brainstorming phase. Currently they are preparing for the WASC visit scheduled for May 8, 2019. Questions and comments followed.

Solicit Answers to Trivia Question

Review the Progress of the Sustainability Plan – Presentation

Allotted time: 15 min

Actual time: 28 min

Sustainability Consultant Susan Silber and Facilities Manager Steve Collins presented a draft sustainability plan and reported that they have been working on this plan since January. The goal of this presentation is to obtain feedback from the Board. The goal of the sustainability plan is to reduce BUSD's environmental footprint, save money and support NGSS. Their presentation provided an overview of progress and community engagement thus far. They shared results of survey conducted to gauge level of interest. Next steps involve identifying funding and developing professional development for all staff. A final plan will be presented for approval in November. Questions and comments followed.

Notice of Violation for REALM Charter School – Action

Allotted time: 15 min

Actual time: 17 min

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansbee explained that following the Board's approval of REALM's request for a material revision, REALM was getting ready to relocate to its new site as scheduled. However, due to unforeseen construction delays, REALM signed a lease to temporarily occupy a campus in El Cerrito, which is outside of Alameda county and therefore in violation of the charter. REALM should have instead submitted an additional material revision for approval to occupy the different location. A letter of concern was sent and REALM has 90 days to respond. The recommendation is to approve BUSD to issue a Notice of Violation. Questions and comments followed. No REALM representative was present to comment.

Motion to approve issuance of Letter of Violation:

Alper/Hariri and unanimously approved unanimously 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

10PM