

**BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**October 11, 2018**

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

**P&O Steering Committee Members Present:**

Terry Pastika, <i>King Middle School</i>	Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Weldon Bradstreet, <i>Rosa Parks</i>	Josh Irwin, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Bruce Simon, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Shauna Rabinowitz, <i>Berkeley High</i>

**P&O Steering Committee Members Absent:**

Harry Charalambides, *Jefferson*  
Liz Fox, *Cragmont*  
Stephen Murphy, *Thousand Oaks*  
*\*Alternates and co-reps are not marked absent if another rep is present.*

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

Jay Nitschke, *Director of Technology*

**BSEP Staff:**

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

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

At 7:04 p.m. Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order.

**2. Chairperson's Comments**

Simon shared hope that this year members will nominate themselves to become new Chair(s).

**3. BSEP Director's Comments**

*Natasha Beery, Director BSEP & Community Relations*

Director Beery distributed the current draft P&O Meeting Calendar, noting that district is heading into another year of budget cuts. There may be significant cut targets, and coupled with rising costs, it is likely that decision-makers may look to BSEP to fill gaps. Some P&O members will continue work with SBAC, will start with framing and understanding overall picture. The expectation is to prepare for "significant" cuts, which the School Board stated in the realm of \$2 million. The final target won't be available until state budget is released in January. Chair Simon noted 2-3 new Board members will be starting in December, after the November elections. Director Beery also shared that the District and Site Committee Orientation event will be held on October 18.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**5. Presentation: Class Size Report**

*Natasha Beery, Director of BSEP and Community Relations*

Director Beery provided the following handouts:

- Class Size Report
- Class Size Reduction Print Out

Director Beery began by sharing that report is currently generated by the Admissions Department. The P&O's role is to verify that class sizes are in compliance with the BSEP measure. 2018-19 is an interesting moment, as class size goals in elementary are adjusting incrementally, but the BFT teacher contract does not specify the same incremental changes. Instead the BFT contract sets a goal of 23:1 for grades K – 3 as of this year, while the measure only stipulates 23:1 for Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grades in 2018-19. The district wide goals of 26:1 are maintained for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

On first page of the CSR printout, there are district-wide averages shown by grade, and numbers in parentheses are the total number of classes per each grade level. Some combo 4/5 classes are included as well. Overall BUSD is meeting the 26:1 goal for grades 4-5. Director Beery will need to verify that TK isn't included in other totals. Overall the district is ahead of schedule in meeting the 23:1 goal for grades K-3. Before being presented to the School Board, the document will adjust graph ranges so that all elementary class graphs will be shown with a consistent 0-30 Y-axis.

In 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, we see some larger class sizes in cases where individual schools decided to have combo classes rather than larger than average 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes. One exception is Emerson, which has two 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at 30 students each. Emerson was offered an additional teacher, but decided against that so as not to lose a flex room space. Instead, after the two teachers consulted with Ed Services it was decided to have extra release time for those classes instead. Chair Simon asked what was being done with that extra release time.

Note: SDC is short for Special Day Class, also known as Counseling-enriched. Rep. Glimme shared that his rough math makes it seem that TK is not included in school-wide totals on the handouts. Chair Simon added that this information makes it look like 23:1 is achievable across the elementary schools within a year.

Director Nitschke added that a projection for the facilities planning process shows that over the first four years of measure, increasing class sizes by small amount will result in fewer lower-grade classrooms in use. However, once that balanced group gets to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades the amount of classrooms needed for smaller classes in upper grades classes is greater. We will then have fewer available flex rooms in the district over the following two years. The facilities master planner is relaying this reality to Principals and teachers.

In Middle School, the district-wide average goal is 28:1, and in Middle and High school we look at class sizes by subject. We expect PE and electives to have higher ratios. Chair Simon noted that the Measure specifically allows PE sections to be higher. Director Beery noted that each individual site has some slightly higher or lower numbers. The exception is Longfellow's math and elective sections, which are much lower than those at the other two middle school sites, while their science sections seem to have higher ratios. This is probably due to the dividing up of some classes between English and Spanish instruction as a part of the Two-Way Immersion Program, as well as the fact that when there are English supports students go to ELD rather than English classes. Generally speaking, class size averages are

all under 28. Rep. Glimme added that we often see the intentional choice to make some classes larger so that other classes can be smaller.

At the High School level, BTA has much smaller classes, at 9.2:1 than the BHS average, where we see core academic classes under or at 28:1, with the exception of History which is slightly higher. Data is also broken down by small learning community, including U9; so learning communities don't always include 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Rep. Glimme noted the U9 numbers are for core classes, but 9<sup>th</sup> graders are spread among elective and language courses with 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. So the columns for each "small program" as well as those by department do include students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade who aren't in a community yet. Many classes aren't tagged for small school, so many classes aren't represented in this graph. Math and world languages tend to be very mixed in student ages.

Note that every student at BHS is assigned to history class, and it takes 4 years to qualify for A-G graduation. There are fewer support classes for History, all kids tend to be together; also any AP classes in History will be larger as AP classes are usually larger. The School Board allocated money for release time for U9 teachers to do "Leap" student support classes with student totals in the single digits. Director Beery stated it would be good to have the class size targets on the slides as well as overall average for BHS. Glimme added that BHS has always has wide distribution; the BSEP measure and the teacher contract are written specifically to averages.

Chair Simon expressed that his experience at the Middle School level was the same: a very intentional decision to have a trade-off between some classes being larger so that others could be smaller as was appropriate. Rep. Glimme summarized that the data shows the class sizes are clearly in compliance with the measure; any question would come at the site level, to discuss if these are the right decisions based on a site's needs. Rep. Irwin stated that there will be a variation of student experience, some students will always end up in larger settings depending on their academic course. Chair Simon added that was sometimes by course choice.

Rep. Rabinowitz asked if the smaller-than-average Leap classes are impacting the averages at BHS. The Leap classes do contribute to the average numbers; the calculation method hasn't changed. Rep. Glimme suggested that the discussion might be more internal (including stakeholders at the school), and center around whether that is the best way to allocate resources. Director Beery noted that the teacher contract states that sites may make decisions about how best to balance classes. Chair Simon added that most importantly those classes do provide a needed support for students.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.