

## **BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Board of Education**  
**1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702**  
**510-644-6206**

**Official Minutes**  
**October 24, 2018**

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:44pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 6:00pm.

### **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 -- Excused

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 Daniels, order of agenda was rearranged as follows:

- Update on BHS Redesign/Universal 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Next Steps to Lower the Voting Age for Berkeley School Board Elections to 16 Years Old
- Update on Possibilities for Financing Educator Housing

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Appel/Alper and approved unanimously approved 6-0.

## **REPORT CLOSED SESSION**

President Daniels reported out on closed session:

### **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a))**

Claim No. 120300232

Motion to approve settlement in this case as recommended by staff:

Alper/Leyva-Cutler and approved on a 4-0 vote:

Josh Daniels, President – *Yes*

Judy Appel, Vice President – *Absent*

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

Karen Hemphill, Director – *Yes*

Ty Alper, Director -- *Yes*

OAH Case No. 2018030397

President Daniels explained that this matter involved an agreement that BUSD entered into. As part of the agreement, he read aloud a statement from the plaintiff followed by BUSD's response:

*On behalf of the District and the Board, I would like to apologize to the student and his family for the District's failure to appropriately serve the student and for the discrimination and harassment that the student experienced at Cragmont Elementary School. The District did not appropriately serve Student when he was a student at Cragmont Elementary School. The District did not implement Student's IEP during the period covered by this Agreement. And finally, I would like to reiterate the District's deep commitment to appropriately serving all students with disabilities such as the student in this case.*

### **Superintendent's Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)**

The Board discussed and gave the Superintendent a preliminary evaluation; no action was taken.

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

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

The Board received update; no action was taken.

Local 21

The Board received update; no action was taken.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

A total of people addressed the Board:

One comment thanking the Board and staff for addressing issues brought up by the King CDC community.

One comment in support of efforts around the Vote 16 initiative.

One comment in support of affordable housing for teachers.

One comment noting positive feedback received from families and students on the BHS Redesign/U9.

### **UNION COMMENT**

BFT President Cathy Campbell commented in response to the statements shared by the Board earlier and remarked that there is much work that can only be done with the support of the district. She went on to speak to the possibility of educator housing and the issue of teacher recruitment and retention. She hopes that citizens will vote in support of Measure O as BFT and BCCE support these efforts.

### **BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

**Director Hemphill** responded to the public comment about the playground issue at King CDC saying that it is coming to the Facilities Subcommittee for review on Nov. 7. She invited the King CDC community to attend this meeting. She announced her last office hours will be held on Saturday, November 10 at Café Leila at 10:30am. With respect to the statement, she expressed deep sadness and apologized that the situation that led to the Board making the statement even took place. No student should have to endure not having appropriate support. She concluded her comments by announcing that the next event for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the African American studies department will be on Sat, Nov 10 and Berkeley alum Bobby Seale will be the speaker.

**Director Leyva-Cutler** reiterated that the apology read aloud is sincere and captures the entire Board's sentiment. She will hold her next office hours on the first Monday of the month at Casa Latina, 6-7:30PM.

**Director Hariri** apologized to the student to whom statement was directed. He also expressed his support for affordable housing for educators.

**Vice President Appel** shared that she and Director Hemphill attended the inaugural event for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African American Studies department. She announced that *The Pushouts* will be screened this Friday at the Berkeley Fine Arts Museum, 8pm-11pm. Office hours will be on the last Sunday of the month at Mo'Joes, 3-5PM.

**Director Alper** thanked the King CDC community for raising their concerns before the Board.

**President Daniels** shared that a memorial for a former BHS graduate whose family has been a staple in Berkeley and BUSD communities was held today. He went on to report that the first Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting was held yesterday as part of a multi-month process that will result in the next Board making a decision around budget cuts. He encouraged those interested to provide input to attend SBAC meetings, which will follow a similar process as last year's. He noted that BUSD is currently in a good situation, and non-crisis mode to make such decisions. He added that school districts who are currently struggling financially have instability in common as a result of unpredictable, unexpected changes that can cause chaos when the appropriate precautionary actions have not been taken. He remarked that BUSD needs to find a way to support its employees in the process.

**Superintendent Evans** announced that the Superintendent's speaker series will begin next week on Thursday, Nov. 1 at Longfellow.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended:  
Hemphill/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 6-0.

### **Update on BHS Redesign/Universal 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Discussion**

*Time allotted: 45 min*

*Actual time: 63 min*

BHS Principal Erin Shweng, BHS Vice Principal Tonia Coleman, BHS Design Team Lead Hasmig Minassian, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Coordinator Sumeyye Cardakli presented some preliminary data preceding the release of quarter one grades, which are not out until the end of the week. Their presentation provided an overview of the naming process for all of the seven hives, as well as an update of the U9 launch, which was successful in part to the early hiring of committed teachers. They reported that feedback from teachers, the community and students has been positive so far. Two more student surveys are scheduled to be conducted before the end of school year. Results will be used to track student growth and to further inform what is and isn't working. Additionally, a newly implemented student support contact tracking system by subject matter and tardy policy have improved student attendance. Moving forward, the plan is to continue tracking attendance, student experience and grades. Questions and discussion followed.

### **Next Steps to Lower the Voting Age for Berkeley School Board Elections to 16 Years Old – Action**

*Time allotted: 30 min*  
*Actual time: 25 mi*

Students Leading the Vote 16 initiative reported that for the past two months they have continued to register peers to vote. In partnership with the Women League of Voters, they have conducted a number of trainings for those who wish to help register others. The students shared that they met with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and discussed the logistical aspects involved in the implementation, mainly funding sources and potential challenges that could arise in the process. They would like to retain legal counsel to help them to better understand and address said issues. The goal is to have this initiative in place by November of 2020. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to direct the Superintendent to retain legal counsel for the purpose of moving Vote 16 efforts forward:  
Daniels/Hariri and unanimously approve 6-0.

**Update on Possibilities for Financing Educator Housing – Discussion**  
*Time allotted: 15 min*  
*Actual time: 22 min*

BeHome representative David Mayer presented information regarding workforce housing for BUSD employees. He provided some data indicative of current housing crisis. In the discussion that followed, the Board agreed that staff should include educator housing in the master plan process, as well as plan a follow-up meeting to discuss the specificities of the process.

While there was unified desire expressed by the Board about the importance of moving forward with this effort, there was also consensus about really clarifying what every step entailed and what would be the next steps after potential land is identified for possible workforce housing.

**EXTENDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

One public comment in support of employee housing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

10:48PM