

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702

510-644-6206

Official Minutes

January 23, 2019

Director Beatriz Leyva-Cutler 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:

Judy Appel, President – Excused

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – Present

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – Present

Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – Excused from open session

Julie Sinai, Director -- Present

Arvin Hariri, Student Director, BHS – Excused

Oneida Abrams, Student Director, BTA -- Absent

Administration:

Donald E. Evans, Ed. D, Superintendent

Pasquale Scuderi, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Evelyn Tamondong-Bradley, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Lyz Chairez, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Sinai/Alper and approved 3-0

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Director Leyva-Cutler reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(s))

Claim No. 11604043

Motion to accept staff’s recommendation on this matter:

Sinai/Brown and approved 3-0:

Judy Appel, President – *Excused*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Absent*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*
Julie Sinai, Director -- *Yes*

Claim No. 1603645

Motion to accept staff’s recommendation on this matter:
Brown/Sinai and approved 3-0:
Judy Appel, President – *Excused*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Absent*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*
Julie Sinai Director -- *Yes*

Claim No. 120800232 & 130500227

Motion to accept staff’s recommendation on this matter:
Alper/Brown and approved 4-0:
Judy Appel, President – *Excused*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*
Julie Sinai Director -- *Yes*

OAH Case No. 2018100551

Motion to accept staff’s recommendation on this matter:
Alper/Sinai and approved 4-0:
Judy Appel, President – *Excused*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*
Julie Sinai Director -- *Yes*

OAH Case No. 2018100524

Motion to accept staff’s recommendation on this matter:
Alper/ Leyva-Cutler and approved 4-0:
Judy Appel, President – *Excused*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*
Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*
Julie Sinai Director -- *Yes*

OAH Case No. 2018110164

Motion to accept staff's recommendation on this matter:

Sinai/Alper and approved 4-0:

Judy Appel, President – *Excused*

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Yes*

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*

Julie Sinai Director -- *Yes*

Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(c)) Two (2) Potential Cases

The Board received update on one of two potential cases. No action was taken.

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

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

Local 21

Berkeley Federation of Teachers

The Board heard an update on union negotiations and gave direction to staff. No action was taken.

Public Employee Appointment (Government Code Section 54957)

Title: Superintendent

Director Alper reported that the Board has selected Leadership Associates to conduct the search for BUSD's new superintendent.

SNAPSHOT OF OUR SCHOOLS

Willard Middle School

Eighth grade Willard students engaged in a Socratic Seminar as part of their presentation to the Board.

RECOGNITION

Director Alper presented Berkeleyside reporter Natalie Orenstein with California School Board Association's (CSBA) 2018 Golden Quill Award.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 12 people addressed the Board:

Five comments in opposition to proposed cuts to the Office of Family Engagement & Equity.

Three comments in advocacy for increase in employee compensation.

Two comments opposing proposed transportation fees for afterschool programs.

One comment thanking the Board for its collegiality and ability to uphold President Appel's values in her absence.

One comment acknowledging the great restorative justice work at BHS.

UNION COMMENTS

Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) President Cathy Campbell referred to a recent NPR article highlighting the positive impact of teachers of color on Black students. She suggested that hiring timelines be moved up in order to ensure BUSD's ability to hire teachers of color. In addition, she urged the Board to consider investment in 21st century technology to facilitate a smooth onboarding process for new hires, as well as enable HR to better track absences, hours worked and other employee related information. Campbell went on to emphasize how critical it is for BUSD to also consider a meaningful compensation increase as it proceeds with its budget reductions process.

Berkley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE) Member Mark Ramia read aloud a statement on behalf of BCCE president Linnette Robinson, urging the Board to ensure that budget cuts have the least implications on students.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) member Laura Babbitt commented on behalf of the PAC sharing concerns expressed during its last meeting.

Isaiah Roter, member of the Board's audit committee, reported that BUSD's financial audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance provided to agencies whose financial statements are fairly presented and contain no material misstatement. As a result, BUSD maintains its 3% reserve as required by the state. He attributed these results to the work of Asst. Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansbee and staff.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Alper reminded the public that the Board has difficult decisions to make with respect to cutting the budget and the next several meetings will involve discussion on budget reductions. He noted that while there may be some disagreement among the community on how 2019-20 budget cuts are made, there is no disagreeing with the fact that schools are underfunded statewide. He went on to report that the Board held a special meeting this morning for the purpose of interviewing firms for the

search of BUSD's next superintendent. The Board has selected Leadership Associates to conduct this search and further information will be shared with the community as it becomes available. He then alerted the public to the consent item requesting approval of BUSD's comment in response to the proposed Title IX changes, noting that BUSD is one of very few districts who has submitted comments raising concerns about the proposed changes. With respect to the public comment regarding proposed after school transportation fees, he stated that more information regarding the actual numbers will be forthcoming.

Director Sinai sent healing energy to President Appel and her wife as they continue to recover, reiterating that President Appel's presence would be felt and her voice represented on the school board. She thanked the Willard students for their presentation to the Board. She shared that she attended an event honoring Martin Luther King where three high school students were recognized for exemplifying MLK's spirit. She announced that the Board will hold a study session on Feb 6 to discuss workforce housing,

Director Leyva-Cutler thanked those who contributed to the success of this year's annual MLK breakfast. She noted that due to her role as an after program director, she will be recusing herself from any discussion and vote concerning proposed transportation fees for after school programs.

Superintendent Evans congratulated Natalie Orenstein for her well deserved award. He thanked the community for the input around budget priorities/cuts.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Alper/Sinai and approved 3-0.

Approval of Independent Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 –

Discussion

Allotted time: 15 min

Actual time: 5 min

External auditor Jeff Jensen added to the audit report provided earlier during public comment, saying that there were no audit adjustments since the approval of the first interim budget in September. He noted the great results achieved by BUSD are not commonplace among school districts, and attributed BUSD's success to its community centered, transparent process.

Update on District Indicators – Discussion

Allotted time: 40 min

Actual time: 34 min

Associate Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi provided an update on BUSD's indicators, noting that the goal is to revisit efforts on identifying best practices for the reporting of information, and tracking local indicators and benchmarks, producing requested data in a more streamlined and standardized way. Questions and discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT 9:45