

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1231 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94702
510-644-6206

Official Minutes
March 13, 2019

Vice President Beatriz Leyva-Cutler called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. 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 – Present
Julie Sinai, Director -- Present
Arvin Hariri, Student Director, BHS – Present
Oneida Abrams, Student Director, BTA -- Absent

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

Motion to approve agenda:
Alper/Brown and unanimously approved 5-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Leyva-Cutler reported out on closed session:

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

The Board heard an update and gave direction to staff; no action was taken.

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

Claim No. 16-087856

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Alper/Brown and approved 4-0.

Case No. 2018100524

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Leyva-Cutler/Sinai and approved 4-0.

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Evaluation (Government Code Sections 54954.5(e), 54957)

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Alper/Leyva-Cutler and approved 4-0.

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

BCCE ,BFT and UBA

The Board heard an update and gave direction to staff; no action taken.

Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957) Title: Superintendent

The Board heard an update on the superintendent search.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 18 people addressed the Board:

Eight comments in support of increased teacher compensation.

Two comments in opposition to cuts to the transportation department.

Three comments in advocacy for increased stipend to athletics' coaches

One comment thanking the Board for implementing the provision of menstrual products and suggesting that the products supplied are cost effective.

One comment in opposition to after-school transportation fees.

One comment in support of students with disabilities and special needs.

One comment in advocacy of welcoming schools for gender fluid and non binary students.

One comment regarding complaint process.

UNION COMMENTS

BCCE President Linette Robinson commented in support of increased employee compensation and in opposition to cuts impacting classified staff.

BFT President Cathy Campbell commented in support of increased compensation in order to keep our teachers here; she also advocated in support of implementing a full inclusion model.

PTA council representative expressed support of increased compensation for teachers and staff. She also shared some comments on behalf of the committee.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Director Hariri thanked all the teachers for coming out tonight, especially his his own teachers for the great impact they've had on his life.

Director Alper announced his appointment of Auden Friedman and Malika Hari to the Youth Commission. He remarked that as BUSD embarks on negotiations, the district recognizes that teachers are underpaid and schools are underfunded. He noted that every 1% raise translates to \$1 million.

Vice President Leyva-Cutler thanked all who came out. She shared that she went to Sacramento and witnessed as our legislators advocated loudly on our behalf. She encouraged the community to take every opportunity possible to make our voices heard. She concluded by thanking BHS student Rachel Alper for her comments on making menstrual products accessible to students and affordable to the district.

Director Sinai thanked Oxford for its presentation and BUSD teachers for their continued advocacy. She stated that because increased compensation is a shared goal, the process by which we reach it should also be one of collaboration. As the district looks into a fair compensation package, she added, it is also looking into providing employee housing to address one of the most pressing issues that may not be immediately alleviated with just a raise. To learn more about these efforts, she invited the public to attend a housing commission meeting on April 4.

Director Brown thanked all who sacrificed family time to be here tonight. She announced that she will hold office hours every fourth Wednesday of the month at 8:30am at Zazzi Foods. She closed by acknowledging the voices of all of the educators who have spoken before the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Arvin/Brown and unanimously approved 5-0

Superintendent's Propose Reductions for 2019-2020 Base Grant (Proposed Fees for After-School Transportation) Action

Allotted time: 5 min

Actual time: 17 min

Motion to approve proposed fees for after-school transportation of up to \$100,000, exempting programs serving more than 50% of low-income students; and with the direction that staff come back with a formula for calculating and determining transportation fees:

Alper/Sinai and approved 4-0:

Judy Appel, President – *Excused*

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *Recused*

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Director – *Yes*

Julie Sinai, Director – *Yes*

Arvin Hariri, Student Director, BHS – *Yes*

Superintendent's Proposed Reductions for 2019-2020 Base Grant – Action

Allotted time: 30 min

Actual time: 17 min

Associate Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Assistant Superintendent of Business Pauline Follansbee presented a third reiteration of the Superintendent's proposed reductions for 2019-2020, noting that this was part of the process of identifying up to \$2 million in solutions. On Feb 6 the Board came to a preliminary agreement of just over \$1.1 million in reductions, and on Feb 20 an additional \$700,000 was approved. Tonight's items total \$184,000 and include reductions to the transportation department and to the conference travel budget.

Alper moved to approve reduction to the mechanics; motion failed on a 1-4 vote:

Judy Appel, President – *Excused*

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – *No*

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Director – *No*

Julie Sinai, Director – *No*

Arvin Hariri, Student Director, BHS – *No*

Leyva-Cutler suggested that the transportation department is closely monitored to accurately gauge the impact of potentially one less mechanic position.

With respect to travel, the Board agreed to an additional \$25,000 in reductions. and an additional \$10,000 for waste disposal.

Alper proposed an additional \$10,000 in reductions from the waste disposal line item. He also proposed reviewing and updating rental fees for district facilities to go into effect in January of 2020.

In total, there was consensus among the Board for a total of \$135,000 in solutions.

First Reading of Recommended Ongoing and One-Time Budget Proposals for 2019-20 from Base Grant (Unrestricted General Fund) - Discussion

Allotted time: 30 min

Actual time:

Associate Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Assistant Superintendent of Business Pauline Follansbee presented a list of proposed ongoing expenditures totaling \$123,500 which included increased stipends for athletic coaches, provision of sanitary products, supplying emergency kits to school sites, and ongoing estimated costs related to administrative systems upgrades. The proposal also accounts for one-time expenditures totaling \$255,000, including start up costs associated with provision of sanitary products, admin systems upgrades, exploration of alternative special education delivery models, demographic enrollment study, and polling and measure planning. Questions and discussion followed.

Director Alper asked Board members to direct any concerns with proposed items to the Superintendent.

Certification of Second Interim Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2019—Action

Allotted time: 15 min

Actual time: 14 min

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Follansbee presented the second interim report highlighting multi-year projections, changes since First Interim, 2018-19 revenues and expenditures, and next steps. She noted that BUSD met its state required 3% reserve, increased its contribution to sped program by \$.8 million, and has an increased ending fund balance of \$.5 million since First Interim.

Motion to approve the certification of Second Interim report fro the period ending January 31, 2019:

Brown/Leyva-Cutler and approved 5-0.

Public Hearing on Initial Proposals for Successor Agreement Between the District and the Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) – Action

Allotted time: 15 min

Actual time: 2 min

Vice President Leyva-Cutler opened public hearing at 10:54pm. No one came forward. Leyva Cutler closed public hearing at at 10:54pm.

Motion to approve:
Sinai/Alper and unanimously approved 5-0.

Alper moved to extend open session until 11:10pm. Leyva-Cutler seconded motion. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Approval of Revisions to BP 6173: Education for Homeless Students

Alper explained that revisions to BP 6173 were in response to Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) requirements. He noted that changes are not substantive and do not impact the education of homeless students.

Motion to approve revisions to BP 6173:
Leyva-Cutler/Hariri and approved 5-0.

Approval of Revision to BP 6174: Education for English Learners

Alper explained that revisions to BP 6174 were in response to Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) requirements. He noted that changes are not substantive and do not impact the education of English learners.

Motion to approve revision to BP 6174:
Alper/Sinai and approved 5-0.

Approval of Low Performing School Block Grant

Associate Superintendent Scuderi explained that the Low Performing School Block Grant is a State funded grant for students who did not perform well in state assessments. The allocation for BUSD is approximately \$400,000. The plan is to use it for two years thereby creating some relief in LCAP and Measure H funds.

Motion to approve:
Leyva-Cutler/Brown and approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT 10:57PM