



Meeting minutes

Location: 2020 Bonar Street, Room 126, Berkeley, CA

Date: 11/14/18

Attendees: Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Board Member, Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Fiscal Services; Bonnie Christensen, Director of Nutrition Services; Jezra Thompson, Supervisor, Gardening & Cooking Programs

Time: 1:00pm

Agenda items

- I. **Revising wellness policy:** per Bonnie, USDA says we have to establish goals, set standards (i.e. Smart Snacks in school), and follow USDA guidelines. Beatriz wants to address the whole child and wants wellness policy to go beyond food program - should include sex education, P.E., physical school environment, staff wellness (i.e. WE CARE), etc. She wants to include whole child, family, and staff. She wants a template to show how it will be implemented and an agreed upon format for how people will format their sections - what are we already doing, what do we want to do in the future, vision and challenges in terms of resources, and roadmap for district. Jezra agreed - goal is to have one all-encompassing wellness policy and letting staff know how to implement it. Bonnie agreed and said template that Bonnie and Jezra have already created is all-encompassing. Bonnie added that they can look at formats and agreed that we need to have uniformity so that everyone is speaking the same "language." Jezra advised that the USDA has templates; they have been working on this for years. She knows the person who leads the Farm to School project. She could ask her to sit in (on the Wellness Committee meetings). Jezra added that subgroups of the Committee will also work on regulations.
- II. **Enrolling committee members:** Bonnie, Beatriz and Jezra are inviting board volunteers (Beatriz), teachers, students, (2) DLAC parents, BCCE staff, people outside district (i.e. ESY, Ecology Center), people inside district (i.e. Steve Collins, Greg Williams, Aaron Jorgensen), principals, and Nutrition Services staff volunteers. Jezra said that they are also reaching out to Family Engagement to get their feedback. Beatriz said there may

already be a student committee at BHS. Per Jezra, ESY teacher, Nick Lee, is heading up program at BHS where students work as interns in the Public Health sector within the community. Beatriz wants whoever is in charge of Sex. Ed. To be included in the Wellness Committee. Jezra said they could include Cal Fresh. They are under Alameda Co. Food Bank. Could also include Berkeley City Council. Jezra also recommended inviting James Wogan or Title IX person. Also, Pat Sadler is making recommendations for committee members. Beatriz suggested inviting the Superintendent's Assistant. Beatriz said she can talk to the Superintendent about sending message out to staff regarding wellness policy and that we are trying to update current practices. Bonnie: hoping to have working list by next week. She said that they need to represent as many stakeholders from the community as possible for continuity and meaningfulness of collaboration.

- III. Site Wellness Committees:** Bonnie said site wellness committees will look at how wellness policy is being adopted at their site and liaison between district and community's needs. They can go beyond general district committee. Will bring more "eyes" on this project and more investment in making the wellness policy a realization. Also, will keep the document a "living" document - meaning it will be up-to-date. The Site Wellness Committees are for down the road; not a priority now. Beatriz agreed – for down the road. Everyone is stretched including parents. Jezra said thus far, the site wellness committees have been a real connector. Bonnie added that they provide an opportunity for different departments to see how they are connected.
- IV. Connecting the Wellness Policy to the City of Berkeley:** Beatriz asked how do we connect the wellness policy to our city? Where do we agree with our city? For example, Berkeley is teaching kids to recycle. How do we continue that positive messaging? We are part of larger community. It's about seeing big picture. Beatriz said she will ask Superintendent to invite City Manager.
- V. Presentations:** Bonnie and Jezra presented to the Principals this morning and requested nominations from each site. They also presented at Business Services meeting today, and received feedback from Natasha and Pauline. Natasha's feedback – how can we link policy to specific departments?
- VI. Future Wellness Committee meetings:** Next meeting is on December 5th – will discuss who, what, when, and why, and then open up discussion around specific categories. Beatriz said that

in her absence from meetings, either Julie or Ka'Dijah, or possibly Ty, would attend. She recommended at Dec. 5th meeting to determine who will lead sections in terms of writing. Per Jezra, meetings will be held 1st Wednesday of every month with the exception of April which will be on the 2nd Wednesday. Also, food for the meetings will need to be considered. Per Bonnie, may to be able to use leftovers from school lunch. Beatriz suggested holding the meetings at King (so that warmers can keep food heated for meetings). Per Bonnie, there is plenty of parking, but may have an issue with sitting for 2 hours on hard benches. Also, difficult to do presentations in the Dining Commons, because there isn't a screen. However, can use the walls to present flow charts. Per Jezra, will use Room 126 (at Bonar) so that chromebooks and projector can be in use.

VII. Meeting with community: Beatriz recommended that Bonnie and Jezra send a shout out to meet with community to get their input before we get to work. Per Jezra, Charles Burress said he can do a shout out through A+ news. Beatriz said the meeting can be in-person or online.

VIII. Board involvement: Per Beatriz, Policy Committee will be talking to Board with updates. She said she can bring up (Wellness Policy's) ideas to Board and check with them for what they want to be considered (in the Wellness Policy). The Board needs to look at the current policy to see if it reflects BUSD'S practices and visions. Jezra requested that Beatriz share hyperlink to Wellness Committee's PowerPoint presentation with the Board. Jezra wants Food Policy and Wellness Policy to come together. Beatriz recommended going to Board Policy Committee first, making changes, and then presenting them to the Board.

IX. Good Food Purchasing: Bonnie and Jezra said they met with Good Food Purchasing and SPUR (non-profit that works with Good Food Purchasing). Good Food Purchasing would assess what we're doing, vendors we use, environmental sustainability, labor, animal welfare, etc. They would give us a grade based on their evaluation of 5 areas. They would also make recommendations (i.e. vendors). They connect communities together which increases our buying power and supports the district's vision. They would give us more visibility through acknowledgement of what we are already doing and by featuring our school district, acknowledging what we are already doing, and promote our practices. There is a cost - \$15k range. Once they do assessment, they re-assess for additional fee. Additional advantages: having outside evaluator - neutral

party. Can look at progress over the years. They set goals. Beatriz suggested that Bonnie and Jezra meet with Alice Waters to request a donation to cover the cost. They agreed and Bonnie added that grants and loans may also cover the costs. Jezra added that SPURS has resources and possibly the Berkeley Public Schools Fund could write a grant.