

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

Official Minutes  
May 6, 2020

President Judy Appel called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. She reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:35pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Judy Appel, President – Present  
Ty Alper, Vice President – Present  
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director/Clerk – Present  
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director – Present  
Julie Siniai, Director -- Present  
Estella Hemp, Student Director, BHS – Present  
Edwin Castro-Romero, Student Director, BTA -- Absent

Administration:

Brent Stephens, Ed., D, Superintendent  
Baje Thiara, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Samantha Tobias-Espinosa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Lyz Chairez, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Brown/Leyva-Cutler and approved 5-0

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Alper reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54596.9(a)

The Board heard an update; no action was taken.

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

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

Collective Bargaining Government Code Section 54957.6L (a) (District Negotiator: Samantha Tobias-Espinosa)

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

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

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**UNION COMMENTS**

BFT President Matt Meyers appreciated teachers for going above and beyond for their students and families as they adjust to unprecedented conditions.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Director Brown thanked the Superintendent and staff for holding a great Town Hall that allowed BUSD to engage with the community in response to COVID-19. She noted that Zoom has been reestablished as a tool for distance learning.

Director Sinai thanked all of the teachers and BUSD parents in the healthcare field for their service. She encouraged support for the Berkeley Public Schools Fund. She called on officials to ensure that resources are being directed to families in need.

Director Leyva-Cutler expressed her appreciation to all teachers. She also thanked the parents for their support during this transition. She shared that she is working with community organizations to identify undocumented families in need of financial support and will be sharing out as appropriate.

Student Director Hemp thanked all teachers, especially those who have their own children to look after while teaching. She shared that she had been invited to join the executive team as part of the California Student Board Association.

Vice President Alper thanked all of BUSD educators.

President Appel expressed her appreciation for all teachers especially during teacher appreciation week. She shared that she enjoyed joining in on a virtual sleepover held by a BUSD teacher. She also thanked the Berkeley Public Schools Fund for its support to the community during this time.

Superintendent Stephens announced that the BPSF will be hosting its annual luncheon virtually. He thanked teachers for their work during this time. He invited members of

the community to a third townhall to be held on May 13. With respect to the survey sent out to the BUSD community, he reported that responses from students and families about their distance learning experience have been coming in. He encouraged the community to continue to send in their responses.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:  
Brown/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Update on COVID-19

Superintendent Stephens introduced this item and welcomed Early Childhood Education Principal Maria Carriedo and Adult Education Principal Tom Reid who will join to provide update on their respective departments.

Natasha Beery provided an update on COVID-19, highlighting the Governor's direction on a reopening process based on six guiding indicators. She noted that at the April 29 town hall more than 300 participants engaged in dialogue and were able to receive responses from the Superintendent in real time. She shared some of the participants' questions and comments concerning next school year, including the need for a backup plan in the event that we open schools only to have to close them again. Beery added that among the many adjustments taking place is the need to modify how student participation will be tracked. Staff is in the process of developing these metrics.

With respect to the budget, Superintendent Stephend added that the Governor will be announcing his May revision of the budget which will be further revised as late as August. He noted that district revenue projections take into account potential school budget cuts expected to be worse than cuts made during the Great Depression.

ECE Principal Maria Carriedo reported that a distance learning team has been created to focus on meeting weekly to discuss lessons and activities, and design weekly material for the various subjects. She shared that results from a survey conducted among teachers contained positive feedback overall. Teachers are complying with state required outreach to preschool families by making weekly calls, connecting families in need with various resources, and keeping record of all communication with families. RTI target students continue to support weekly support.

Adult Ed Principal Tom Reid shared that BAS students were disappointed about the closures. He noted that outreach efforts for when classes resume in April will be specifically directed. at students working towards a high school diploma.

Superintendent Stephens stated that BEARS and extended learning opportunities will be expanded this summer. Two different sessions will be provided and outreach efforts will focus on unduplicated students. Plans for a potential reopening in June or July will

be made in line with the guidance from the Alameda County Public Health Department.

In terms of Fall 2020, the Superintendent explained that BUSD will follow the reopening roadmap introduced by the Governor directing the slow reopening of our school. Schools will continue to be impacted by COVID-19 in 2020-21 and there's no guarantee that school will resume business as usual. He asked families to anticipate and prepare for a variety of other contingency planning that will be put into place between now and the end of the academic year. Many adjustments will be made in an effort to minimize risk, including a modified building use and student schedule, finding a balance between on-campus and distance learning, the creation of two new advisory committees to engage the community in a number of topics around facilities capacity and options for student learning. The committees will meet twice a week starting next week, and will serve as a sounding board to staff work moving forward. He asked the community to be on the lookout for a robust calendar of various events including a number of town halls and many other interactive forms of community engagement.

Superintendent Stephens added that new calculations will be developed to determine the number of individuals on campus at a time, as well as buses transporting students. He emphasized that equity will remain at the center as we transition and readapt goals for student learning. Grading practices, required work and exemptions will be reconsidered as we potentially go into a year of hybrid learning. Childcare for both parents and employees has been highly advocated for. He expressed a continued commitment to feedback as we go through these unprecedented times. Questions and discussion followed.

Approval of Resolution 20-050 in Appreciation of Berkeley Public School Educators Approve Resolution Calling for Increases in Federal Funding for California Public Schools in 20-21

Motion to approve Resolution 20-050:  
Appel/Brown and unanimously approved 6-0

Approval of Resolution to Apply for COVID Disaster Funds

Motion to approve Resolution 20-051:  
Alper/Leyva-Cutler and unanimously approved 6-0

Approve Directions to BUSD Staff to Identify Budgeting Strategies in the Event of Further Reduction in State Revenue for 20-21

Superintendent Stephens explained that this is in response to the Board's request to identify \$2 - \$6 million in solutions.

Director Sinai amended motion to include the participation of EAC, SBAC and PAC committees. Alper seconded the motion. Motion carried on a 6-0 vote.

Approve Funds to Study the Feasibility of Increased Sinks or Handwashing Stations on School Campuses

Superintendent Stephens explained that Allows staff to move forward with feasibility study.

Motion to approve staff recommendation:  
Leyva-Cutler/Appel and approved 6-0.

Approval of Recommendation for BSEP and BERRA Funds in 2020-21: BSEP Measure Oversight, Communications and Community Engagement; BERRA Measure Oversight

Natasha Beery presented BSEP plans for the multiple purposes funded through the BSEP special tax as well as the new tax, BERRA. The recommendation is for the existing P&O committee also take on BERRA oversight rather than creating a brand new committee for this purpose.

Motion to approve staff recommendation:  
Alper/Appel and unanimously approved 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:  
9:04