

Date: March 9, 2021
To: Planning and Oversight Committee
From: Pete Gidlund,
Re: Proposed Changes to BSEP VAPA Plan for 2020-21

The following addition to the P&O and Board-Approved plan is being brought to the Planning and Oversight Committee for information.

New Language:

BMuZ is a music summer day camp run through the city of Berkeley (Parks and Rec). Currently, the camp organizers are unable to run the camp this year because current health regulations will not allow the usual enrollment numbers that would fund staffing for the camp. However, the camp could run - even with a smaller enrollment - if there were an alternative funding source.

Important equity consideration:

Historically, the camp relies on full-pay students to fund scholarships for many of our BIPOC students to join. This current year, BMuZ would have provided full scholarship camp experiences that would have addressed the significant learning loss that has disproportionately affected the BIPOC community during COVID-19.

The plan would provide VAPA funding for the camp as a vendor contract with the City of Berkeley. This will allow BMuz to run the campon smaller numbers, and BIPOC students, especially those whose participation in BUSD music was limited this year, will be a primary focus for outreach and enrollment.

The requested budget to support this camp is \$25,000. The vendor in this case would be City Of Berkeley.

External links: [BMUZ Budget](#) and [Letter from BMIE parent group](#)

BSEP Director's Note:

This does not require a vote of the P&O Committee in that it is not a substantial change in the direction of the program, in that the VAPA program partners with the City of Berkeley for the Cazadero music camp in order to provide opportunities for students. Nor is this a significant change in the allocation of budgeted funds in that it does not constitute a 10% increase or decrease in projected overall expenditures nor a 15% reduction in fund balance for this \$1.8M annual budget. This would be a new budget line item added to the 2020-21 VAPA budget as a one-time expense, in essence an emergency COVID fund.