

**Statement from 5/11/21 P&O Meeting
BUSD BOD 5/18/21 Meeting
Terry Pastika, Alt BHS**

Good evening, my name is Terry Pastika and I am here on behalf of the Planning and Oversight Committee. The P&O is an advisory body comprised of representatives of every school in the District that makes recommendations to the School Board on BSEP and BERRA, two special tax measures passed by Berkeley voters that supplement school funding.

- BSEP generates an additional \$32 million for the District over the baseline property tax, with 2/3 of funds going towards supporting smaller class sizes along with multiple specific purposes in support of our students.. The P&O reviewed g 9 budgets and plans which were brought to the Board by Director Beery on May 5th for Board approval
- BERRA is a newer measure which supports teacher and staff recruitment and retention.

This is an overview of P&O questions and comments to BUSD staff at the last meeting.

We started with an overview of the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee. Recognizing that another SBAC meeting just happened yesterday, at last week's meeting, we heard an update on the revised enrollment figures for 21-22 affecting the anticipated budget gap and preliminary plans by the District to begin assessing cost reductions.

The next topic was a second review of the BERRA 5% Budget, or about \$470K from the BERRA tax measure, that the P&O has discretion to review. Per the BERRA Measure, this 5% budget is dedicated to providing programs designed to strengthen the recruitment and retention of educators especially in historically difficult to fill positions. It was acknowledged that at the last P&O meeting, which was April 27th, the P&O had asked for quantitative information about Special Ed positions over the last 4 years (outside of this COVID year), showing the number of open Special Ed positions and rate of turnover among those positions, and that as of May 11th the information was still being collected and it was noted that it was a difficult task to complete because it had to come from multiple sources. A follow-up question was asked as to when the information would be available, and it was suggested that it would take weeks. The last question was how many more P&O meetings were on the table and if the data would be available before then. The answer was one more, May 25th and that it was uncertain if the information would be available by then, however it could be circulated to the P&O at a later date, however, we would not have an opportunity to discuss as a group.

A question was asked as to whether stipends could be offered to address teacher turnover, such as at Longfellow. The response was that stipends would require negotiation, and that is unlikely to happen in the fall.

Next, the P&O turned to revisiting a discussion from the last P&O meeting with respect to BERRA and racial inequity as applied to the stark difference in pay between certificated and classified staff. A question was asked about where that pay inequity standard was set and is it something that can be addressed. Staff confirmed that there is no language in the BERRA Measure related to increase in compensation being applied in any specific way, and further discussion indicated that this was a complicated issue that was based on various contract negotiations, which are just about to start.

We then turned to a second review of the BSEP and BERRA budgets for Oversight and Communications, for which there was a comment thanking staff for the concrete and reasonable proposed outcomes that

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were outlined in this budget. We also did a second review of the carryover funds from the BSEP Measure A, and recommendation to allocate approximately \$22K to the Office of Family Engagement and Equity to support the program needs for non-staffing costs and approximately \$79K for Library services to address needs that have arisen this year, including replacement of materials, technology, and library facilities .

Lastly, we heard a report on how School Site Councils were doing over the year with respect to how they were proposing to spend their share of site funds, as well as how the meetings went in a remote school year. As with everything else, schools reported flexibility in funding was needed with shifting budgets and priorities but also some highlights with remote SSC meetings bringing in more and diverse parent engagement.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this brief recap. P&O meetings are open to the public and we invite any of you, as well as members of the public, to attend.