

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

Official Minutes  
May 19, 2021

President Ty Alperl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm before turning meeting over to Student Director Miles Miller to facilitate tonight's meeting.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Ty Alper, President – Present

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – Present

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – Present

Laura Babitt, Director – Present

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- Present

Miles Miller, Student Director, BHS – Present

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

At the request of President Alper item 12.5, Elimination/Reduction of Specified Classified Positions was pulled altogether; and item 12.4, Approval of Job Description for Director of Office of Family Engagement and Equity (OFEE) was pulled from consent to action.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Alper/Vasudeo and unanimously approved .

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

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

OAH No. 2021010523

Motion to approve staff recommendation:  
Sinai/Vasedo and unanimously approved 5-0

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

Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT)

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

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

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

Union of Berkeley Administrators (UBA)

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

Local 21

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

Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Motion to accept staff recommendation:  
Alper/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 5-0.

Superintendent Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The board heard an update and provided direction.

STUDENT PRESENTATION:

Heirs to Our Oceans

A multi age youth empowerment group comprised of BUSD students presented the ways in which they advocates for the ocean.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 22 people addressed the Board:

- One comment in support of mental health support for students
- One comment in support of OFEE expansion
- One comment on rising medical insurance cost; asking the busd and teachers split cost in new contract
- One comment requesting a joint statement from the Board and BFT in support of school reopening

- Three comments in support of Latinos Unidos
- Seven comments in support of the BRIDGE program
- One comment asking the district not to increase caseloads to sped teachers
- One public comment thanking the district for its tireless work adjusting to new normal.
- One comment regarding employee covid testing
- One comment requesting hazardous pay for BCCE employees
- One comment in support of busd proposal for preschool teachers increase salary schedule
- One comment in support of students who presented earlier
- One comment in support of mandatory vaccination and testing for students
- One comment asking for a plan to reopen middle and high school now

#### UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer provided comment on behalf of BFT

BCCE VP Veronika Huntsberry provided comment on behalf of BCCE

#### COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Lindsey Nofelt provided comments on behalf of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

#### BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Members of the Board and the Superintendent provided individual comments.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Alper/Brown and approved unanimously 6-0.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on BUSD School Reopening, Fall 2021 (30 min)

Superintendent Stephens provided an update based on developments at the state level.

The Board discussed details and resources that will be made available to students and their families for vaccination, as well as respiration services.

Approve BERRA Educator Recruitment, Retention and Development Budget, 2021-2022 (15 min)

Assistant Superintendent Tobias-Espinosa Sam provided an overview of the positions supported with these funds. She also provided an update on plans to support educator recruitment and retention efforts.

The Board discussed goals and objectives with respect to recruitment as well as securing credentialed vs non credentialed substitutes.

Motion to approve:

Alper/Vasude and unanimously approved.6-0

Approve BSEP and BERRA Communication, Community Engagement and Measure Oversight Budget, 2021-2022 (15 min)

Director Beery went over the proposed job description for her position as she will be retiring. She provided an overview of proposed reorganization and restructuring of this position. Questions and comments followed.

Motion to approve:

Alper/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 6-0.

Governor's May Revise and BUSD Budgeting Process (30 min)

Assistant Superintendent Follansbee presented highlights of the Governor's May Revise. Questions and discussion followed.

Approval of Job Description for Director of Office of Family Engagement and Equity (OFEE)

Dr. Stephens stated that the community has expressed a desire to see an expansion of the OFEE. The proposed job description is meant to augment the OFEE team, and represents one of many steps that will take place towards the expansion of the program.

Director Sinai requested that the organization of the program come back to the Board. She would like to add knowledge of family engagement framework as a requirement.

Motion to approve with Director Sinai's direction:

Brown/Babitt and unanimously approved 6-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Four people addressed the Board:

- One comment on the impact of inadequate supports for students as they transition back into the classroom.
- One comment requesting that a remote option be maintained for next year for BIS students

- One comment thanking the Board for its robust discussion around OFEE, and in appreciation of Director Beery for her service to BUSD.
- One comment in appreciation of Director Beery

ADJOURNMENT:

11:30pm