

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

Official Minutes
May 5, 2021

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm.

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

Motion to approve agenda:

Sinai/Alper and unanimously approved 6-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

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.

Superintendent Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The board heard an update and provided direction.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 18 people addressed the Board:

- Six comment in support of the BRIDGE program
- Four comments in support of BUSD's Sustainability Plan
- One comment stating that it is not equitable for BIS and BTA students to be given last priority for elective courses.
- Two comments on health care benefits for teachers
- One comment concerning hazard pay for BCCE members
- One comment in advocacy of annual stipend for BFT members
- Two comments in support of expanding tOFEE
- One comment in support of math intervention for EL students

UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer spoke on behalf of BFT members

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Adam Villasenor provided comments on behalf of the PAC

Terry Pastika provided a report to the Board on behalf of the P&O committee

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Members of the Board and Superintendent Stephens provided individual comments. They each expressed their gratitude and well wishes for outgoing Associate Superintendent Baje Thiara.

Associate Superintendent gave farewell remarks.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Alper/Miller and approved unanimously 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on BUSD's Phased Plan for School Reopening

Superintendent Stephens an update on school reopening for elementary, middle, and high schools. His presentation featured updates on transportation and graduation ceremonies. Questions and discussion followed.

Update from the Office of Family Engagement & Equity (OFEE)

Ann Callegari and the OFEE team updated the Board on the ways the Office of Family Engagement and Equity has been supporting students and their families through the pandemic. Their presentation highlighted successes, challenges and next steps. Questions and discussion followed.

2021-22 Budget Update and Discussion of Priorities

Assistant Superintendent Pauline Follansbee provided updated priorities for the Unrestricted General Fund, BSEP, LCAP and COVID funds. Her presentation also featured revised enrollment assumptions based on reductions in enrollment and ADA. Questions and discussion followed.

Independent Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

The District's Audit Committee provided a brief fiscal update which highlighted zero findings and determined the district is in good financial standing.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of COVID Relief Fund Expenses, 2021-22

The Superintendent walked the Board through proposed COVID relief fund expenditures related to technology replacement, special education summer assessments and graduation.

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation:
Sinai/Brown and unanimously approved 6-0.

Approve Workforce Housing Developer Selection

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Sinai/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 6-0

Public Hearing for Initial Proposals for Successor Agreement Between the District and the Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) - Action (5 min) Time Certain: 9:30PM

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Four people addressed the Board:

- One comment in support of OFEE

- One comment asking that district staff be more clear when differentiating LCAP funds with supplemental funds
- One comment in support of reopening schools full time
- One comment in gratitude to Associate Superintendent Thiara for her contribution to BUSD while serving as Associate Superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT -11:30pm