

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

Official Minutes
March 24, 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

At the request of President Alper consent item 11.5, Approval of Job Description: Sustainability Coordinator, was pulled for action.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Siani/Babitt 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.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 20 people addressed the Board:

Three comments calling for the resignation of the Board president.

One comment in support of a hybrid model

One comment on BUSD's sustainability plan and distance learning

One comment in support of reopening middle and highschools now.

One comment on how teachers are being impacted by distance learning amid reopening efforts

One comment asking that ionizers be removed from classrooms

Five comments requesting 5 full days for students who choose to return to the classroom in person.

Two comments in gratitude for transparency concerning data related to families' choices between distance learning and in person instruction.

One comment requesting continued intervention services for distance learners.

One comment in support of the demands by the EL community

One comment in opposition to reopening middle school and high school full time.

One comment in requesting a stipended position to support student mental health

One comment requesting the creation of a welcoming schools curriculum for all.

UNION COMMENTS

Local 21 President Stephen Collins addressed the Board on behalf of Local 21.

BFT President Matt Meyer addressed the Board on behalf of BFT.

BCCE President Frank Hernandez addressed the Board on behalf BCCE.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Terry Patsika provided a report on behalf of the BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee.

Patricia Rodriguez and Sagrario Zepeda commented on behalf of the DELAC committee.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Members of the Board and Superintendent Stephens provided individual comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Alper/Babitt and approved unanimously 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BUSD's Phased Plan for School Reopening, Updates on Elementary, Middle, and High Schools (60 min)

Superintendent Stephens provided an update on reopening plans for elementary, middle and high schools. The proposed reopening schedule is contingent upon a vaccination timeline for teachers that will allow middle and high schools to reopen with a hybrid model. Questions and discussion followed.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval Annual Declaration of Need for Fully-Qualified Educators
Motion to approve:
Sinai/Brown unanimously approved 6-0.

Approval of Job Description:Sustainability Coordinator

Director Vasudeo requested that sustainable transportation be included in the proposed job description:

Motion to approve the job description for the Sustainability Coordinator position with Director Vasudeo's addition:
Vasudeo/Babitt and unanimously approved 6-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of six people addressed the Board:

One comment in support of reopening schools now

One comment in support of reopening middle and high schools full time this month

One comment suggesting that reopening plans take into account what we have learned; it's important to invest in up to date technology/

One comment asking for continued intervention and support in English and math

One comment on the Go Guardian application that student are being asked to download to their DL device.

One comment asking for a better approach in the options given to families concerning remaining in DL or returning to school in person and requesting for emotional support to elementary students who remain in distance learning.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:50PM