



Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
2021-2022 School Year

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 29, 2021

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss the Middle School Enrollment Policy, discuss proposed SBAC recommended reductions, introduce PAC members to the Gardening and Cooking Program, and answer questions.

Meeting takes place over Zoom for distancing purposes.

Time	Topic	Minutes
6:30pm	Welcome and Introductions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Your name2. Site you Represent3. Student age(s)4. Your interest in PAC, History with PAC, or anything you would like to share about yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator introduction.• Stated meeting objective and agenda for the night.• Went over norms. Board members in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liza Estupin - Director of Categorical and Special Projects• Rubén Aurelio - Associate Superintendent, Education Guests presenting in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Francisco Martinez - BUSD Admissions, Manager• Stacey Smith - SKS Consulting• Jezra Thompson - Program Supervisor, BUSD Cooking and Gardening Project Committee members in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dvora P. - BAM Rep.• Andres B. - Emerson Rep.• Christine G. - Oxford Rep.• Mandisa H. - King Rep.• Erin H. - Longfellow Rep.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taliva M. - Thousand Oaks Rep. ● Lindsey N. - Cragmont Rep. ● Humberto R. - Longfellow Rep. ● Nadia T. - Rosa Parks Rep. <p>Each member introduced themselves and gave their site, children’s grade level, why they are interested in being on PAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representative, co-chair, was not able to attend.
6:40pm	PAC Meetings, Structure, Norms, Rules	<p>Went over the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>BUSD PAC Website</p> <p>PAC Meeting Dates (All meetings are 6:30-8:00 pm unless otherwise noted)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1/10 ● 2/28 ● 3/21 ● 4/18 ● 5/23
6:45pm	Questions/Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question was asked about adding more time or an additional meeting to discuss budgetary questions. Established that another meeting could be added if necessary.
6:50pm	Middle School Enrollment Policy, Diversity Initiative	<p>The BUSD has been looking at it’s diversity numbers for it’s middle schools based on current allocation of students, worried that some middle schools are becoming less diverse.</p> <p>The current model is structured as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle School Enrollment Policy is guided to focus on socio-economic factors: parent education, parent income, and race/ethnicity. ● The current Enrollment Composite Diversity Map is based on census data, separated into diversity categories. ● In 1995, BUSD added Longfellow as a “choice” or “district-wide” magnet school. ● Over time, middle schools have become not as diverse, due to using maps to allocate student attendance and Longfellow being offered as optional.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions and changes will be made in next year, 2022, and will likely not take place into the 2023-2024 school year.
7:00pm	Middle School Enrollment Policy, Recommendations	<p>BUSD is looking for parent input on the Middle School Attendance Policy. Alternatives will be considered.</p> <p>A few recommendations are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-Zone for Longfellow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creates a small sliver of the map that spans all areas of Berkeley. ○ Possible transportation issue. • Create a “Feeder School” model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students from specific elementary schools will be designated to respective middle schools, based on distance and zoning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ King: Ruth Acty, BAM, Cragmont, Thousand Oaks ■ Willard: Emerson, John Muir, Rosa Parks, Washington ■ Longfellow: Malcolm X, Oxford, Sylvia Mendez ○ Possible transportation issue. • No Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue as normal, schools will become less diverse based on current socio-economic trends. ○ Familiar to families and students.
7:30pm	Questions/Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative: What is a “district-wide” school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mgr. Martinez: A district wide school services an entire district, not just an area. • Representative: Is there an option that is better for Black and Latinx students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: We are currently analyzing possible impacts and discrepancies. • Representative: What is the impact on students affected by the LCAP plan with a balanced diversity model? How does it impact affected communities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: There’s a decrease in Black and Latinx student population, and increases in multicultural student populations. ○ Mgr. Martinez: Diversity of students and teachers has a value and provides an authentic experience. • Representative: For transportation issues, aren’t there some areas of Berkeley that do not require it?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A. Super Aurelio: Transportation issues are more about getting cars off the road and preventing traffic congestion. ● Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: How are out-of-district students factored into this model? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mgr. Martinez: We assign them where we have space, as well as required special accommodations, such as special education. ● Representative: Do you include income and education of all student parents? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mgr. Martinez: We only use census data, we do not use individual data. ● Representative: Do you have any early insights into the survey? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guest Smith: We are presenting a report in early December with the data that has been collected. <p>Several comments discuss socio-economic issues and prioritizing underprivileged students, as well as families who rely on public transportation or the bus system.</p>
7:25pm	Budget Outlook	<p>County office has asked to propose the 22-23 SY budget over the actual enrollment, based on a 400-600 student enrollment decrease.</p> <p>Share a preliminary deduction list, to prepare in the instance that we might need to make cuts.</p> <p>Guiding Principles for Reductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect services that directly serve students. ● Protect services that serve LCAP-students. ● Make data-driven reductions to reduce based on projects that don't meet goals. ● Make cross the board reductions instead of single-source reductions. ● Look into restructuring and making things more efficient. ● Be transparent about budgets that can be used for more than one purpose.
7:30pm	Proposed Budget Reductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Education: Remove some of the reliance on contracted work, bring services in-house and consolidate needs. ● Teacher on Special Assignment – Reduce the numbers to reduce total FTE. ● LEAP – Elective 9th Grade course have low attendance, reduce the number of sections. ● Gardening/Cooking – large budget comes from the soda tax, but is on the table for cuts. ● Nutrition Services is proposing \$1.4M in savings. ● Operation Reductions total \$650K.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consulting Contracts is unknown, don't truly qualify as savings. ● OFEE Reduction: Reduce one available supervisor position and freeze liaison hiring. ● Class Size Increase: Increase class sizes to 20 students/1 teacher. ● Grants will not be applied for or used to fill positions. ● We need another \$300K, unset in current projection.
7:40pm	Questions/Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representative: In the past, were contracted services used due to the district being overwhelmed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: No. Contracted services were used to fill immediate vacancies for services that needed to be provided on short notice. ● Representative: Does more staff mean more HR? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: We plan to have new hires for HR in accordance with an increase in staff. ● Representative: Can the county supplement any positions in Behavioral Health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: It will take time, the plan is not to eliminate staff or services. ● Representative: The proposed doesn't seem to be cuts, but a long-term savings plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: These are cuts but are also long-term savings, which is required from BUSD going forward. ● Representative: Would TSA Reduction impact Special Projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: Yes, but the plan is to replace TSAs with full-time roles. ● Representative: Would removing the TSA increase the burden on other roles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: We wouldn't remove the TSA until the role is filled, we will see true numbers at the end. ● Representative: How will 9th graders get the support if LEAP is reduced? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Sup. Aurelio: We don't plan to remove the LEAP program, just increase class size and ensure we are maximizing the section enrollment. <p>Several comments mention the possibility of not saving as much as expected by removing contracted work. Several comments also encourage not to reduce the OFEE budget. Some comments state that aspects of pay can reduce morale for operational staff.</p>
8:00pm	Gardening/Cooking Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Gardening Program promotes Academic Achievement, increased health awareness, and the cultivation of essential life skills. ● Gardening / Cooking serves all school sites. ● There are a total of 18 educators across 17 school gardens. ● Updated curriculum includes Indigenous Community History and Food Justice.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle School CTE Program includes life skills, such as food handling, tool handling and diet. • High School CTE Public Health to manage food pantries and talk about healthy food access, partnered with community food banks. <p>Jezra has sent a Parent Google Survey to ask how best the Gardening/Cooking program can best serve the community.</p>
8:10pm	Next Meeting/Closing	<p>Next meeting 1/10/2021 @ 6:30 PM</p> <p>Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.</p>