

Potential P&O Statement to BOD Wed., May 5,2022

Good Evening. My name is _____ and I am representing the Planning and Oversight Committee (P&O). The P&O reviews and makes recommendations on expenditures in the BSEP and BERRA Tax Measure budgets, which together represent 30%, or \$30M/ yr, of the BUSD budget. Our work is expansive. In totality, we review more than two dozen budgets from three different fiscal years. The P&O members represent every school in the District, and when we review BSEP and BERRA expenditures, we do so on a macro-level, asking how well is the District as a whole served, as well as on a variety of micro-levels, asking how well BSEP and BERRA impacting the specific grades, schools, students of different academic abilities, students of different socio and economic levels, and more. About half of our members have served between 4- more than 10 years and half are in their first or second year, so we have a great mix of institutional knowledge and fresh perspectives.

Tonight the Director of Local Resources will present an overview of BSEP budgets that include professional development, research and evaluation, expanded course offerings, classroom support, libraries, music/VAPA, instructional technology, student achievement strategies and counseling. The P&O comments tonight are targeted on themes that were consistently present as we reviewed all the budgets you are seeing tonight, and we ask that you keep these themes in mind as you hear the Director's presentation.

First: We are at a transition stage in this BSEP Measure. Current spending levels in the High Quality Instruction Budget are not sustainable for the last two years of the measure so clear priorities need to be set. The E1 Measure was structured to specifically avoid complications that happened at the end of the last measure by frontloading revenue generation. The idea was that by frontloading revenue generation and careful spending 1) Fiscal resources could keep up with program expenses through the *full* lifespan of E1; 2) Planned deficit spending would happen in the mid-years of E1, such as more staffing in various areas and, when the need arose, increasing the portion of teachers that BSEP pays vs the GF and 3) End E1 with a reserve that can sustain program costs of the first year of the new measure without any tax increases, besides the COLA.

We recognize there are unknowns that will impact BSEP: unresolved labor negotiations, if healthy state funding will enable the GF to restore paying the original share of classroom teachers, or if the timing for when BSEP expenses need to be reduced will coincide with the District being forced to address the fiscal impact of the enrollment reduction. To prepare for the hard work ahead, the P&O needs clear priorities to guide our budget reviews. **The P&O is also requesting that the Director of Local Resources be part of the Superintendent's Executive Committee rather than report to the Assoc. Superintendent of Ed Services. The Director's primary responsibility is to the taxpayers who approved the measure, which places her in a unique position and offers a different perspective on how what happens throughout the District impacts BSEP and BERRA, beyond Ed Services, and therefore needs a seat at the table.**¹

Second, Equity, paired with an improvement in setting outcomes for academic, social, and emotional needs of BUSD's diverse student body is needed. Concerns about equity with respect to race, ethnicity, students with special needs, and low-income students were a constant across all budget areas. The P&O needs an improved understanding of how the mosaic of the

¹ Possible area to cut. Was a priority for P&O when the position was created.

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following fits together: 1) where are dollars needed, 2) how is it determined where and how much to allocate (with respect to programs, or individual schools), and how often is that revisited, 3) the impact of individual programs funded by multiple sources when different funding sources are earmarked for specific student populations and have varying levels of accountability. Examples include the District expanding the LCAP goals to apply District-wide to programs funded through BSEP, BERRA, and the GF and the Literacy Action Plan. We recognize revisions of the narratives budget managers provide the P&O as part of the budget review to specifically include an equity section is an improvement, and look forward to further revisions and responsiveness.

Third, on a general level, improvement is needed in the evaluation of the efficacy of BSEP spending in a manner that balances qualitative and quantitative measurements, including within the High Quality Instructions budget. Again, we recognize that preliminary improvements in this area are happening, but more work is necessary. Clear measures of qualitative and quantitative is a reasonable expectation just based on 1) the LCAP has been expanded to include BSEP programs and the required LCAP accountability provisions and 2) clear goals will ensure consistency in expectations of outcomes when funding for particular programs is swapped out to and paid for with fund that have differing accountability provisions, which happens frequently. Also, with the reorganization of BREAA, now is an ideal time to set the baseline for what can be measured, can not be measured, document if data is being collected for the first time, and what we have a long-eye view on.

Lastly, we wanted to acknowledge and thank Director Fleming for the work put in during her year, which we know has been voluminous, and also acknowledge and thank Program Specialist Danielle Perez who has been an incredible resource and steady hand as the BSEP office has navigated this transition period.