

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

Official Minutes
December 8, 2021
The Board Meeting was held virtually.

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. He reported that the Board convened to closed session at 5:30 pm.

4. 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

Administration:

Brent Stephens, Ed., D, Superintendent

Ruben Aurelio, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Samantha Tobias-Espinosa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Rosalina Barrios, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Sinai/Brown and unanimously approved 5-0

6. REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

All school Board Directors were present.

Motion to approve the Closed Session items:

Alper/Brown and approved 5-0

3.1 Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b))

3.2.1 OAH Case Number 2021090699

Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9)

3.3 Superintendent's Evaluation (Government Code Section 54597)

The Board received an update and provided direction. No action was taken.

7. ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENT

7.1 Approval of School Board Meeting Calendar for 2022

Motion to approve the BUSD 2022 Calendar:

Alper/Vasudeo and approved 5-0

Ty Alper, President - Yes

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President - Yes

Julie Sinai - Director/Clerk - Yes

Laura Babitt, Director - Yes

Ana Vasudeo, Director - Yes

7.2 Approve Appointments for President, Vice President and Clerk

Motion to approve appointments Ka'Dijah Brown President, Laura Babitt Vice President, and Ana Vasudeo Board Clerk:

Alper/Sinai and approved 5-0

8. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 9 people addressed the Board:

One Commenter had concerns of the lack of outreach to the Spanish speaking Latinx community.

One Commenter requested the Board to consider improving communication with middle and high school families to inform them of the school climate and to prioritize the health and wellness of students.

One Commenter shared their positive thoughts on President Brown's appointment.

One Commenter extended an open invitation for Board members and the public to attend their college bound academy program and showed gratitude to BUSD for the support and collaboration to their program.

One Commenter congratulated the appointed Board officials and thanked Director Alper for his service as Board president.

Three Commenters are in full support of the College Bound program and emphasized the positive effect on black students. Encourage them to continue to endorse it and support the program. Black students have the opportunity to integrate colleges and keep their grades up to enter universities.

9. UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer addressed the Board on behalf of BFT members. Matt Meyer suggested potential budget cuts and impacts to be fully thought out and planned ahead.

10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

11. BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Members of the Board and the Superintendent provided individual comments.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Sinai/Alper and approved 5-0

Ka'Dijah Brown, President – Yes

Laura Babitt, Vice President - Yes

Ana Vasudeo, Director/Clerk - Yes

Ty Alper, Director - Yes

Julie Sinai - Director - Yes

13. DISCUSSION ITEMS

13.1 Update on African American Success Initiative Community Engagement

Superintendent Dr. Stephens provided an overview on the launch of the African American Success Initiative Community Engagement. The "Design and Build" process for African American students.

Dr. Robin Fisher of RT Fisher Enterprises provided a framework for the African American Success program and gave her four major recommendations for the coming three years for the intended outcome.

Associate Superintendent Ruben Aurelio presented the three year strategic plan. A written timeline plan and to include other BUSD communities.

African American Success Program Manager Kamar O'Guinn presented a review and analysis on the selected past BUSD efforts for the African American Success program and provided the development process to support our African American students.

13.2 Update on Multilingual Learner Master Plan and English Learner Family Engagement

Associate Superintendent Ruben Aurelio presented an update on the Multilingual Master Plan and partnership with CAFE and PIQE.

Director of Programs and Special Projects Liza Estupin provided an update on CABE (California Association for Bilingual Educators) multilingual masterplan development. PD session 1 & 2 for English Language Learner students and Latinx communities. Liza Estupin provided an update on PIQE (Parent Institute for Quality Education) on the two established cohorts. Cohort 1 includes school sites at Sylvia Mendez, Thousand Oaks, Longfellow, and King Middle. Cohort 2 includes school sites at Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Berkeley High, and B-Tech and will continue outreach to the community.

13.3 Update on Community Engagement about the Middle School Student Assignment Policy

Local consultant Stacey Smith presented an overview of the second round of middle school engagement process with the community. Stacy Smith provided data from May 2021 - November 2022, key findings, and community engagement preferences. Implications for Spring 2022. Possible decision by November 2022.

13.4 Discussion on ACOE-Required Reductions to 2022-2023 General Fund Budget

Superintendent Dr. Stephens discussed ACOE has requested for BUSD to engage and begin a preliminary identification of the potential reductions toward general fund spending for the 2022-23 SY. Input comments from committees PAC, DELAC, and SPAC.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansabee provided a preliminary draft list of budget reductions to meet ACOE reduction requirements. Discussed educational programs, U9, staffing, and the impact on students and U9 structure and the drafter list of budget solutions. The final list will be presented to the Board for approval at the December 15th Board meeting.

14. ACTION ITEMS

14.1 Approve the 2021-2022 First Interim Budget Report

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansabee presented the 2021-22 First Interim Budget Report. Provided budget highlights and multi-year projections unrestricted general fund. Summary of other sources and uses for the 2021-22 first interim budget and an overview of budget priorities. 2021-22 second interim will be presented to the Board in March 2022 for approval.

Director of Fiscal Services Elizabeth Karam presented the changes on the Variance Report -2021-22 first interim unrestricted general fund.

Motion to extend the meeting to 11:30 PM

Brown/Apler and approved 5-0

Ka'Dijah Brown, President – Yes

Laura Babitt, Vice President - Yes

Ana Vasudeo, Director/Clerk - Yes
Ty Alper, Director - Yes
Julie Sinai - Director - Yes

Motion to approve the First Interim Report
Alper/Babbit unanimously approved 5-0

Ka'Dijah Brown, President – Yes
Laura Babitt, Vice President – Yes
Ana Vasudeo, Director/Clerk – Yes
Ty Alper, Director – Yes
Julie Sinai, Director – Yes

16. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward.

17. Extended Board Member and Superintendent Comments

No one came forward.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

11:22 PM