

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

Official Minutes  
September 20, 2023

President Laura Babitt called the meeting to order at 7pm. She reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Laura Babitt, President – Present  
Ana Vasudeo, Vice President – Present  
Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – Present  
Jennifer Shanoski, Director – Present  
Mike Chang, Director -- Present  
Katelyn Lao, Student Director, BHS – Present  
Jhanai Dell, Student Director, BTA – Absent

Administration:

Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent  
Jill Hoogendyk, 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 the regular meeting agenda for September 20, 2023:

At the request of President Babitt Item 12.3 (Approval of Addendum of BUSD’s Latinx Resolution) was pulled from Consent for separate Action and Item 13.2 (Vote 16 Updates) was pulled altogether

Motion to approve agenda as amended:  
Brown/Chang and unanimously approved 6-0

### REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Vasudeo reported out on closed session:

3.1	Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code 54957)  Motion to approve staff recommendation: Vasudeo/Chang and approved 3-0-2: Laura Babitt, President - Abstained Ana Vasudeo, Vice President - Yes Ka'Dijah Brown, Director - Abstained Jennifer Shanoski, Director - Yes Mike Chang, Director - Yes
3.2	Collective Bargaining - Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Samantha Tobias-Espinosa)  The board heard an update on this matter; no action was taken.

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of seven people addressed the Board:

One comment on BUSD's literacy plan.

One comment expressing discontentment with BUSD employee

One comment asking BUSD to reinstate the 5-day covid leave separate from sick leave.

One comment requesting that the District to ensure that it does not schedule any events that conflict with Jewish observed holidays.

One comment on the remodeling process at Longfellow and in opposition to installing artificial grass, noting that a Bill banning artificial grass passed and is set to go to Senate with a 2026 implementation timeline. It would be a waste of money to install it only to have to remove it by that time.

One comment on climate change and in opposition to artificial turf being installed at Longfellow.

One comment around safety and following up on commitments to install safety features at sites i.e. buzzards, cameras, locks, etc., hiring a district wide safety coordinator and a defined timeline for establishing a district taskforce.

One comment on district level complaints and procedures.

## SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Enikia Ford Morthel provided comments highlighting the month of September as Latinx Heritage Month. She announced the district events that will be taking place in honor of the Latinx community as well as the various opportunities BUSD will provide for the public to engage, interact and actively be made aware of all that is happening throughout the district. (Click [here](#) to listen to her comments in their entirety beginning at the 7 min mark)

## COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

## UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyers addressed the Board.

## BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board directors provided individual comments.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar without item 12.3:  
Brown/Shanoski and unanimously approved 6-0.

## DISCUSSION

Teaching and Learning Update: Professional Learning in BUSD Overview: Literacy, Science, Ethnic Studies and Constructing Meaning (45 min)

Associate Superintendent Jill Hoogendyk and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Chris Albeck introduced the C&I team. Their presentation highlighted the various learning experiences offered in BUSD with a focus on Literacy, Science, Ethnic Studies and Constructing Meaning. The goal is to ensure that all offerings are aligned with research and across all schools and systems. Each team member spoke to the curriculum selection process, and shared their plan to support educators in the implementation process.

Questions and discussion followed.

Director Shanoski requested that the upcoming data presentation highlight changes before and after curriculum implementation and include the manner in which we assess impact on student learning.

## PRESENTATION

### MHSAA Needs Assessment Update (20 min)

Director of Student Services Dr. Phillip Shelley and Mental Health Services Coordinator Rosina Karen presented findings, recommendations and data trends collected during a mental health seminar held last week, all which is being used to inform a comprehensive, districtwide strategy to put in place mental health supports across BUSD. Their presentation provided a timeline overview as well as plans for community partnerships.

## ACTION

### Addendum to Latinx Resolution

Director Chang proposed the following minor changes to the addendum:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District's Office of Family Engagement and Equity commits to make every effort to provide Spanish bilingual Family Engagement and Equity Specialists at schools, prioritizing to prioritize schools that have 15% or more students who are Spanish-speaking (per the California Dept of Education translation threshold) and have and support Two-Way Immersion programs or Newcomer Programs. Additionally, BUSD commits to having effective bilingual support at the District office to work on district-wide family engagement initiatives and otherwise support the district's Spanish-speaking community. The Office of Family Engagement and Equity will work with BUSD staff and BUSD Latinx families to improve and promote Latinx family engagement at BUSD schools as well as the capacity of BUSD staff to engage Latinx families in a culturally responsive manner.

Motion to adopt addendum with proposed changes:

Shanoski/Liao and unanimously approved 6-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT:

9:36pm