

## **Berkeley Unified School District LCAP Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Official Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Google Meet)

### 1. Call to Order and Agenda Overview

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Participants were requested to record their full names and represented school sites in the chat for the purpose of establishing a quorum. 10 parents attended and quorum was not present.

#### Agenda Items:

- LCAP Annual Planning Survey status update.
- District budget overview and enrollment trends.
- Impact of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) on district revenue.
- Programmatic presentations: AVID and Bridge.
- PAC discussion regarding recommendations to the Board of Education.

### 2. LCAP Annual Planning Survey Update

Dr. Sweeney provided a status report on the 2026 LCAP Annual Planning Survey.

- Total Participation to Date: 2,378 respondents.
  - Student Submissions: 1,839 (Grades 6–12).
  - Community Submissions: 539 (Staff, families, and community members).
- Objective: Data collected will measure progress toward the four primary LCAP goals and assist in refining the "BUSD Graduate Profile."
- Action Item: Members were urged to disseminate the survey link within their school communities prior to the Monday, March 9 deadline.

### 3. Board Update: March 15 Statutory Notices

Jill Hoogendyk addressed the issuance of preliminary "Reduction in Force" (RIF) notices, a recurring legal requirement discussed at recent Board meetings.

- Legal Mandate: California law requires districts to issue preliminary layoff or reassignment notices by March 15 if funding for certain positions remains unconfirmed.

- Context: These notices are preliminary and do not constitute final termination of employment.
- Affected Funding Sources: Positions primarily impacted are those supported by "soft" or variable funds, including PTA contributions, expiring grants, and BSEP site-discretionary funds.
- Recommendation: PAC members were encouraged to attend the Student Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting on March 11 for more granular budget data.

#### 4. Attendance, Enrollment, and Fiscal Impact

A presentation was delivered regarding the correlation between student attendance and state funding.

- Funding Mechanism: District revenue is generated through Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Unlike enrollment-based models, BUSD loses state funding for every day a student is absent, regardless of whether the absence is "excused" (e.g., illness).
- Chronic Absenteeism: Defined as missing 10% or more of the school year (approximately 18 days). The committee discussed the fiscal and academic strain caused by current absenteeism rates.

#### 5. Demographic and Enrollment Trends

The committee reviewed long-term enrollment projections influenced by three primary factors:

1. Pandemic Impact: A 4% decrease in enrollment since 2020.
2. External Factors: Regional housing costs and a statewide decline in birth rates (approximately 1.5% annual decline).
3. Mitigation: The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) across nearly all elementary sites has served as a stabilizer for overall enrollment numbers.

#### 6. Superintendent's Budget Decision Framework

The "Decision Triangle" was introduced as the guiding rubric for future fiscal allocations:

- Equity: Does the investment prioritize historically underserved student populations?
- Impact: Is there measurable data (CAASPP, STAR, etc.) demonstrating improved student outcomes?
- Sustainability: Can the program be scaled and maintained with stable, recurring revenue?
- Core Philosophy: "Equity without sustainability is harm; sustainability without equity maintains the status quo."

#### 7. Program Presentation: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

Presenter: Crystal Paschel, District AVID Coordinator

- Scope: Operates in all middle schools, supporting 139 students in the "academic middle" with college-readiness strategies.
- Key Findings: AVID students show significant growth in STAR reading scores. However, math proficiency remains an area for targeted improvement.
- BHS Challenge: AVID is currently absent from Berkeley High School due to the "Universal 9th Grade" structure and master scheduling constraints. Reintroduction at the secondary level remains a priority for further study.

#### 8. Program Presentation: Bridge

Presenter: Jessie Luxford, Bridge Program Coordinator

- Scope: A 16-year college-access program at Berkeley High School providing wraparound academic and social-emotional support.
- Success Metrics: The most recent cohort achieved a 96% four-year college acceptance rate.
- Capacity Issues: The program currently operates at maximum capacity with a waitlist.
- Funding Concerns: Relies on a complex "braided" funding model (City of Berkeley grants, LCAP, and one-time funds), leading to annual budgetary uncertainty.

#### 9. Summary of Committee Discussion

- Members expressed a need for more sustainable funding models for high-impact programs like Bridge and AVID to avoid the "March 15 anxiety" for staff.
- There was a consensus on the need for increased community education regarding the financial impact of student absences (ADA).

#### 10. Adjournment and Next Steps

- Next PAC Meeting: Confirmed for March 19, 2026 from 7-8pm following a Joint Advisory Meeting
- Complete LCAP survey
- Recommendation Development: The PAC will begin drafting its formal recommendation to the Board of Education, due in late May.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Minutes submitted for record by the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee.*