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

Official Minutes
September 16, 2026

President Ka'Dijah Brown called the meeting to order and convened in closed session at 5:32 p.m. President Brown reconvened the meeting in open session at 7:18 p.m. and welcomed BTA Student Director Avante Alexander to his first Board meeting.

Roll Call
Board of Education:
Ka'Dijah Brown, President – *Present*
Jen Corn, Vice President – *Present*
Jennifer Shanoski, Director/Clerk – *Present*
Mike Chang, Director – *Present*
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Director – *Present*
Hannah Sinead Slattery-Weisberg, Student Director, BHS – *Present*
Avante Alexander, Student Director, BTA – *Present*

Administration:
Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent
Jill Hoogendyk, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Pauline Follansbee, IAssistant Superintendent, Business Services
Samantha Tobias-Espinosa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
John Calise, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Division
Lyz Chairez, Recorder

OPEN SESSION
Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Motion to approve agenda as amended:
Chang/Corn and unanimously approved 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT
Vice President Corn reported out on closed session, noting that it began at 5:32pm with all board members present.

3.1	Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956 (a))
	3.1.1 OAH Case No. 2026070108 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Corn/Leyva-Cutler and Approved unanimously 5-0
3.2	Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)) (one potential case) Board received an update; no action
3.3	Consideration of Student Expulsion (Education Code Section 48918(c) Motion in acceptance of the expulsion: Leyva-Cutler/Chang and approved unanimously 5-0. Motion to suspend the expulsion: Corn/Brown and unanimously approved 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS
Superintendent Ford Morthel's remarks included highlights of Latinx Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, along with updates on the lead paint concern at John Muir Elementary School and the California Department of Education decision requiring corrective action and additional anti-discrimination training.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY
A total of 6 speakers provided Public Comment regarding student expression and curriculum, technology and data privacy, classified hiring, school facilities, and student placement.

Special Presentation
Gardening and Cooking Program staff Benjamin Goff and Stephanie Allen recognized Superintendent Ford Morthel for her support of the Cans to Carrots fundraiser and presented her with the "Carrot Champion" award.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS
A representative of the Superintendent's African American Success Advisory Committee (AASAC) provided an update on the committee's work, the fifth annual Black to School event, family outreach and engagement, and continued implementation of the African American Success Framework.

UNION COMMENTS
none

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
Student Directors and Board Directors made individual remarks.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Corn/Shanoski and unanimously approved 5-0.

DISCUSSION:
Fall Teaching and Learning Update
Educational Services staff presented the annual Fall Teaching and Learning Update, highlighting work underway in early learning, literacy, and mathematics to support focal students and advance the District's 3x5 target.

The update included early childhood programming and family engagement, literacy instruction and interventions, writing and professional learning, and the TK–5 math curriculum adoption and pilot process.

Board discussion followed around family and afterschool engagement, transitions across grade levels, supports for focal students, math instruction and curriculum adoption, community engagement, and writing instruction. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEARING
Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials
President Brown opened the public hearing at 9:35 pm. There were no public comments, and the hearing was closed.

ACTION
Approval of Resolution No. 27-003 for Materials/Textbooks Sufficiency
The Board considered the annual resolution confirming sufficient K-12 textbooks and instructional materials, in accordance with state requirements.

Motion to approve Resolution 27-003:
Chang/Shanoski and approved unanimously 5-0

Approval of 2025–26 Unaudited Actuals and 2026–27 Budget Update
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Pauline Follansbee and Fiscal Services staff presented the District's 2025–26 Unaudited Actuals and 2026–27 budget update, including year-end revenues and expenditures, fund balances, reserves, and the District's overall financial position.

Board discussion followed around budget variances, reserves, staffing and expenditures, and state funding.

Motion to approve the Unaudited Actuals for 2025-25 and the 2026-27 Budget Update: Shanoski/Corn and approved unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Gann Limit Resolution
Staff presented the annual Gann Limit calculation and resolution establishing the District's appropriations limit.

Motion to approve:
Shanoski/Chang and approved unanimously 5-0.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Three speakers provided extended public comment on District events, mathematics curriculum and instruction, and the California Department of Education decision.

EXTENDED BOARD COMMENTS

President Brown highlighted the recent Biotech Partners showcase at Berkeley High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

10:18PM