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

Official Minutes
September 17, 2025

Director Mike Chang called the Closed Session to order at 5:36pm and Open Session order at 7:15pm.

Roll Call
Board of Education:
Mike Chang, President – Present
Jennifer Corn, Vice President – Present
Jennifer Shanoski,Director/Clerk – Present
Ana Vasudeo, Director -- Present
Armana Aradom, Student Director - 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 Calies, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Division
Lyz Chairez, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:
Corn/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Vice President reported on the evening's closed session as well as for special closed sessions held on August 4 and June 26 2025:

3.1	Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956 (a))
	3.1.1 BUSD Case No. 202526-06 Motion to approve staff recommendation: Vasudeo/Corn and unanimously approved 4-0
3.2	Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Code § 54956.9(d)(4): (three (3) cases)

	Staff provided information and the Board gave direction; no action was taken.
3.3	Collective Bargaining - Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Samantha Tobias-Espinosa) Board received an update and gave direction; no action was taken.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS
Superintendent Ford Morthel provided her remarks for the evening.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY
The Board heard public testimony from in-person and online participants regarding::

- Support for a resolution urging CalSTRS (and CalPERS) to adopt an ethical investment policy and divest from companies profiting from war and human rights violations.
- After school care access, staffing shortages, and communication concerns
- Transportation changes and access
- Safety concerns related to Cragmont School
- Support for CTE programs, including the BSTEP Fire and EMS pathway.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS
The Board received a report from AASF

UNION COMMENTS
BCCE and BFT leadership addressed the Board.

BOARD MEMBER
Board Directors provided their individual remarks.

CONSENT CALENDAR
There was a request to pull Consent Item 12.9 (Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Amergis Educational Staffing and Berkeley Unified School District) for discussion and separate action .
Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended:
Corn/Vasuedeo and unanimously approved 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION (Time Certain: 8pm)

Public Hearing for and Approval of Resolution 26-004 – K–12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Sufficiency

Public hearing opened and closed with no speakers.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-004:
Shanoski/Vasudeo and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Teaching and Learning Update

Staff presented the Fall Teaching and Learning Update, highlighting programs that support the District's mission. The presentation focused on Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), Gardening and Cooking, and Career Technical Education (CTE).

Approval of 2024–25 Unaudited Actuals

Staff presented the unaudited actuals, including fund balance, budget variances, special education cost trends, and reserve compliance.

Motion to approve the 2024-25 Unaudited Actuals:
Shanoski/Corn and unanimously approved.

Approval of GANN Limit Resolution

Motion to approve Resolution 26-005:
Vasudeo/Corn and unanimously approved 5-0

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Emerge Educational Staffing *(Item 12.9 pulled from Consent)*

The Board expressed concern about reliance on contractors and emphasized the importance of prioritizing internal hiring and long-term workforce stability.

Staff explained the need for temporary staffing to meet student service and compliance requirements and noted ongoing efforts to recruit and retain district employees. Following discussion, the Board approved an amended contract not to exceed $125,000, with the understanding that staff would return to the Board if additional funding is needed.

Motion to approve amended contract not to exceed $125,000:
Shanoski/Corn and unanimously approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:
9:52pm