

Summary of BHS Bylaws proposed changes and rationale

Historical Background, Continuing Issues:

Many years ago, Berkeley High School was the only BUSD site to elect **not** to combine its BSEP Site Fund Committee and the state-mandated SSC. At the time, there were other funding streams coming into the school sites, and the size of the high school made managing BSEP site fund allocation, school plan monitoring, and managing these other state and federal funds a bigger job than one committee could reasonably handle. As other state and federal site funds have disappeared, the SSC at BHS has struggled with purpose, and having enough work to fill the year. Most members serve for a single term and do not return. As more potential committee members are drawn to the BSEP Site Fund committee, because it has funding to evaluate and direct, it is an ongoing struggle to recruit enough SSC members, leading to serious issues with meeting quorum requirements to take state-mandated SSC action and approve the school plan and budget. It is also problematic that the SSC is expected to approve a budget evaluated and created by the BSEP Site Fund Committee, without participating in its development.

Proposed Changes Summary:

After presenting the rationale behind the revisions and a first draft of proposed changes to the Board Policy Subcommittee on October 24, 2019, Board members Leyva-Cutler and Alper made suggestions about the format and substance of the changes that they felt would be most effective in addressing the above issues. The result is the redline draft provided here, to be reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee for a second time on February 13, 2020. The main changes are:

- Shifting the default at BHS to fielding the SSC only, with an option that the SSC can vote to create an ad-hoc BSEP Site Fund committee in any year in which the anticipated workload might exceed its single capacity. (For example in a WASC year.)
- Amending the committee composition requirements to be in line with state-mandated parity goals and with the Board-approved goals in the K-8 SSC Bylaws, Appendix A.*
- Descriptions of a "Program Evaluation Committee" were changed to reflect that this group exists only in an ad-hoc capacity (and in reality hasn't functioned at BHS for many years).
- Adding a description of the P&O representative role, which wasn't present before, using language from the Board-approved K-8 SSC Bylaws.
- Re-formatting of the Recommendation and Assurances page to reflect the new committee composition.
- Small grammatical and formatting corrections for consistency throughout the document.

The timing of the student committee member elections has been a barrier to enacting these revisions. Student positions are elected in March of the year *before* the year in which they will serve on site committees. To implement these revisions in time to allow the 2020-21 school year to field a single BHS SSC group, the Board must approve the revised bylaws at the February 19, 2020 meeting. Students campaign in advance for seats elected in the week of March 23-27.

*Note that an SSC at any site may exceed the minimum number of committee members, as long as parity is maintained. In this way, current BSEP Site Fund Committee members may run for seats on the SSC, and if there are sufficient nominees for all fields, the overall membership numbers for each group may be increased.