

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

Official Minutes
August 21, 2019

Vice President Beatriz Leyva-Cutler called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. She reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:36pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Judy Appel, President – Present

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President – Present

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk – Present

Ka’Dijah Brown, Director – Present

Julie Sinai, Director -- Present

Estella Hemp, Student Director, BHS – Present

Administration:

Brent Stephens, Ed. D, Superintendent

Neil Smith, Interim 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 agenda:

Alper/Appel and unanimously approved 6-0

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Leyva-Cutler reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(a))

OA# Case No. 2019050357

Motion to approve settlement for this matter:

Alper/Brown and approved 5-0

OAH Case No. 2019040934

Motion to approve settlement for this matter:
Alper/Sinai and approved 5-0.

Claim No. 16-087238

Motion to approve settlement for this matter:
Alper/Brown and approved 5-0.

Claim No. 120200195

Motion to approve settlement for this matter:
Sinai/Appel and approved 5-0.

Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(b)) – One (1) Potential Case

Motion to approve settlement for this matter:
Appel/Leyva-Cutler and approved 5-0

Public Employee Appointment (Government Code Section 54957)

Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

Motion to approve appointment of Baje Thiara as Associate Superintendent, Ed Services:
Sinai/Brown and approved 5-0.

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Motion to approve the appointment of Samantha Tobias-Espinosa as Assistant Superintendent,
Human Resources:
Apel/Alper and approved 5-0

Special Education Program Supervisor, District Office

Motion to approve the appointment of Lena Sweeney as the Special Education Program
Supervisor:
Sinai/Brown and approved 5-0.

Special Education Program Supervisor, Berkeley High School

Motion to approve the appointment of Eileen Jacobs:
Alper/Appel and approved 5-0.

Dean of Attendance, Berkeley High School

Motion to approve the appointment of Aman Watson as Dean of Attendance, BHS:
Alper/Leyva-Cutler and approved 5-0.

Vice Principal, King Middle School

Motion to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Cornwell as Vice Principal of King Middle School :
Sinai/Appel and approved 5-0.

Collective Bargaining Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Roy Combs)

Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT)

The Board received update and gave direction; no action was taken.

RECOGNITION

Teacher Jacqueline Omania honored as a recipient of the President's Award

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of three people addressed the Board:

Three comments in support of Ms. Omania's work and in gratitude to the Superintendent and the Board for recognizing her achievements.

UNION COMMENTS

BCCE President Linette Robinson shared feeling hopeful with the news transition in administration and requested that a thorough evaluation goes into the compensation for classified staff.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Rob Collier, PTA Council President offered the committee's cooperation and partnership to the Board to address the issues that are coming ahead. He welcomed President Appel back to the Board remarking that her leadership and determination are appreciated. He also welcomed Superintendent Stephens.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Student Director Estella Hemp thanked her peers for electing her and looks forward to this year.

Vice President Beatriz Leyva-Cutler welcomed President Appel, Superintendent Stephens, and Student Director Estella Hemp.

Director Ka'Dijah Brown welcomed President Appel back sharing how inspired she was by her resilience.

President Judy Appel thanked all of her colleagues for their support and encouragement. She thanked Leyva-Cutler for stepping up in her absence and for leading amazing work.

Director Julie Sinai welcomed Director Appel back. She also welcomed Student Director Estella Hemp to the Board. She announced that plans for exploration of possible workforce housing sites are moving forward. With respect to public education funding, she reported that there is an initiative to bring \$1 billion generated from corporate tax. She will come back in September with senate bill number to request the Board's endorsement.

Director Ty Alper welcomed Estella Hemp as the new Student Director; he thanked Neil Smith for stepping in to support of the District.; and welcomed President Appel remarking that she'd been greatly missed.

Superintendent Stephens welcomed President Appel, Student Director Hemp and the entire community into a new school year. He thanked all of the educators and union partners with whom he met over the summer. He went on to read aloud a statement communicating to the public of a new federal rule, asserting that it would not impede with immigrant families' access to programs from which they are benefitting, including public education. He reaffirmed that BUSD stands in support of all students and their families.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Hemp/Alper and unanimously approved 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS

Action to Confirm Board Officer(s) for Remainder of Calendar Year 2019 – Action (5 min)

Appel resigned from her role as Board President and moved to appoint Leyva-Cutler as President and Alper as Vice-President for this calendar year; Brown seconded motion. Motion carried on a 6-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

8:15pm.