

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

Official Minutes
February 17, 2021

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. She reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Ty Alper, President – Present

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – Present

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – Present

Laura Babitt, Director – Present

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- Present

Miles Miller, Student Director, BHS – Present

Administration:

Brent Stephens, Ed., D, Superintendent

Baje Thiara, 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

At the request of President Alper item 12.2, approval of Board of Education meeting minutes, was pulled altogether.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Brown/Sinai and unanimously approved 6-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation – (Student accessibility) - Ed. Code § 54956.9, subd. (e)(2)

BUSD Case No. 202021-22

The Board provided direction on this matter; no action was taken.

Collective Bargaining- Government Code Section 54957.6(a) (District Negotiator: Samantah Tobias-Espinosa)

Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT)

The Board provided direction; no action was taken.

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

The Board heard an update; no action was taken.

RECOGNITION OF BPSF

The Berkeley Public School Fund was recognized for its support of BUSD students and families during the pandemic.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 21 people addressed the Board:

Two comments in favor of resuming in person instruction.

Two comments requesting that school reopening happen now.

One comment suggesting that teachers should live at walking distance from workplace

One comment on BuSD's plan to address learning loss

One comment asking the board to consider changing return date to after spring break

One comment asking that BUSD reconsider the building of a multi-level parking garage

One comment asking that BUSD commit to fully reopening middle and highschool before the fall

Four comments in support for workforce housing

One comment in support of reopening schools when it is safe to do so.

Two comment asking for a full 5 day for K-12 in the fall

Three comment asking if there are other possible areas on which to construct workforce housing

One comment asking that schools reopen as soon as BUSD is legally allowed to do so.

One comment expressing concern on process and community involvement in planning workforce housing at BAS.

UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer provided comments on behalf of BFT.

BCCE Vice President Veronica Hunstberry provided comments on behalf of BCCE.

Terry Patsika provided a report to the Board on behalf of the Planning and Oversight Committee.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board members and the Superintendent provided their comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

At the request of Director Babitt, Item 12.2, Approval of Job Description for Payroll and Benefits Manager was pulled for action.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar without item 12.2:
Babitt/Brown and approved unanimously 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on BUSD's School Reopening Plan

Superintendent Stephens presented an update on BUSD's phased reopening plan. He reported that BUSD has entered into an agreement with BFT that will inform the planning process. Questions and discussion followed.

2021-22 Budget Update and Discussion of Priorities

Assistant Superintendent Pauline Follansbee presented the budget development process that included timeline, stakeholder engagement plan, and identified funding based on the Governor's budget. Questions and discussion followed.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Staff Recommendation of Berkeley Adult School Parking Lot as the Location for BUSD Workforce Housing

Staff is recommending that BAS be approved as construction site for workforce housing.

Motion to approve:

Alper/Sinai and unanimously approved 6-0

Approval of Job Description for Payroll and Benefits Manager

President Alper moved to approve the Payroll and Benefits Manager job description; Director Sinai seconded motion. Motion failed on a 2-4 vote:

Ty Alper, President – Yes

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – No

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – Yes

Laura Babitt, Director – No

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- No

Miles Miller, Student Director, BHS – No

President Aper moved to extend the meeting to 11:09pm: Director Sinai seconded motion, and motion passed on a unanimous 6-0 vote.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 11 people addressed the Board:

Three comments on workforce housing

Five comments in support of a full reopening

One comment in opposition to BAS as location for construction.

One comment asking to include francisco st when talking to virginia st as an egyptnce

One comment about how social distancing is factored into reopening plans.

ADJOURNMENT

11:09 PM