

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

Official Minutes
March 10, 2021

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. He 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 President Alper consent item 12.8, Ratification of Amended Memorandum of Understanding with Lifelong Medical Care Kids' Village was pulled for action, and items 12.4 (Approval of Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees) and 12.19 (Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes) were pulled altogether.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Alper /Brown and unanimously approved 6-0.

REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation – (Services provided to student) - Ed. Code § 54956.9, subd. (e)(2)

Case No. 202021-23

Motion to approve staff recommendation:

Vasudeo/Babitt and approved on a 3-1-0 vote:

Ty Alper, President – *Recused*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)

Principal, BHS

Motion to approve the appointment of Juan Raygoza as the principal at Berkeley High:

Alper/Vasudeo and approved on a 4-0 vote:

Ty Alper, President – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Assistant Principal, BHS

Motion to approve the appointment of Kiernan Rok as Assistant Principal at BHS:

Slnai/Vasudeo and approved on a 4-0 vote:

Ty Alper, President – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Dean of Students, BHS

Motion to approve the appointment of Claudia Gonzales as the Dean of Students at BHS:

Slnai/Vasudeo and approved on a 4-0 vote:

Ty Alper, President – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Principal, Willard

Motion to approve the appointment of Christopher Albeck as the Principal at Willard Elementary:

Alper/Vasudeo and approved 3-1-0:
Slnai/Vasudeo and approved on a 4-0 vote:
Ty Alper, President – *Yes*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*
Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Abstained*
Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*
Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Assistant Principal, Willard

Motion to approve the appointment of Bryan Grau as Assistant Principal at Willard Elementary:

Alper/Vasudeo and approved 4-0:
Slnai/Vasudeo and approved on a 4-0 vote:
Ty Alper, President – *Yes*
Ka’Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Absent*
Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*
Laura Babitt, Director – *Yes*
Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

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

Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT)

The Board heard an update and gave direction. no action was taken.

Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE)

The Board heard an update and gave direction. no action was taken.

Union of Berkeley Administrators (UBA)

The Board heard an update and gave direction. no action was taken.

Local 21

The Board heard an update and gave direction. no action was taken.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 18 people addressed the Board:

Two comments in support of the resolution marking the commemoration period of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta

Four comments urging that all students and staff be vaccinated before returning to the classroom; and in opposition to proposed reopening plan.

Three comments in support of reopening elementary schools, and in support to begin plans now to reopen middle school and high school

One comment on administrative appointment announced tonight

One comment in advocacy of a full time OFEE staff at every school site.

One comment expressing concerns for families that opt out from returning to the classroom

Two comments asking for native spanish speaking teachers

One comment in concern for families who are returning to elementary schools.

Three comment in concern for special education students

UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer commented on reopening plans.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Robert Collier addressed the Board on behalf of the PTA

Terry Pastika provided a report to the Board on behalf of the Planning & Oversight Committee.

BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board members and the Superintendent provided their comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar (without items 12.4, 12.8, and 12.19: Brown/Miller and approved unanimously 6-0.

ACTION:

Ratification of Amended Memorandum of Understanding with Lifelong Medical Care Kids' Village; Supplemental Student Support Due to COVID-19:

Motion to approve MOU with Lifelong Medical Care Kids' Village:

Alper/Brown and approved 5-0-1:

Ty Alper, President – Yes

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – Yes

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – Recused

Laura Babitt, Director – Yes

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- Yes

Miles Miller, Student Director, BHS- Yes

Student Presentation

BHS Students presented the tools and resources they have developed to support students during distance learning and as they transition back into in person instruction.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on BUSD's Plan for School Reopening (30 min)

Superintendent Stephens provided an update on plans to reopen BUSD schools. He noted that BUSD is on track with its reopening timeline and families have an opportunity to choose between remaining in distance learning or returning to in person instruction. Negotiations with labor partners continue as they look into a hybrid mode for secondary schools. Questions and discussion followed.

2021-22 Brief Budget Update: State and Federal One-Time COVID-19 Relief Funds (10 min)

Assistant Superintendent Pauline Follansbee provided a brief update on one-time state funding made available to school districts in response to COVID-19. Questions and discussion followed.

ACTION ITEMS

Section 504 Legally-Required Compliance Revision to Policy (5 min)

Vote to Waive a Second Reading

Motion to approve waiving a second reading:

Alper/Brown and unanimously approved 6-0

Approve Legally-Required Compliance Revisions to Section 504 Policy

Motion to approve revised 504 policy:

Alper/Sinai and ua approved 6-0

Motion to extend meeting to 11:15pm:

Alper/Brown and unanimously approved 6-0

Approve Certification of Second Interim Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2021 (20 min)

Assistant Superintendent Pauline Follansbee presented the Second Interim Budget, which featured a budget summary, variance report, and financial projections through the end of the year. Questions and discussion followed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 7 people addressed the Board:

One comment expressing concerns about the proposed reopening plan

One comment in support of reopening, but with concern about rushing to reopen now rather than waiting until after spring break.

One comments thanking BUSD and teachers for their work in preparation to reopen schools

One comment clarifying earlier remarks made during the first public comment period.

One comment in support of fully funding TWI

One comment urging the community to not engage in divisive rhetoric.

ADJOURNMENT

11:15PM