

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

Official Minutes  
June 2, 2021

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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 of President Alper, item 11.20, Approval of Budget for Temporary Construction, COVID Control Point for BHS, was pulled from the agenda.

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Brown/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 6-0.

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54596.9(a)

OAH Case No. 2021040315

Motion to approve taff recommendation:

Alper/Brown and approved 5-0.

BUSD Case No. 202021-24

Motion to approve staff recommendation:  
Sinai/Brown and approved 5-0.

BUSD Case No. 202021-25

Motion to approve staff recommendation:  
Alper/Vasudeo and approved 5-0.

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

BCCE

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

BFT

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

Superintendent Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

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

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

A total of 14 people addressed the Board:

Six public comments in opposition to anticipated large classroom sizes in 4th grade and in advocacy for a third additional 4th grade class at Sylvia Mendez

One comment encouraging BUSD to look to school districts who have successfully reopened as models for BUSD's reopening.

Four comments in support of the Latinx resolution on the agenda.

One comment in opposition to the proposed block schedule proposed for BHS

One comment on BUSD's policy re vaccination requirements as a condition for return to in-person instruction

One comment opposed to in-person instruction.

**UNION COMMENTS**

BCCE President Frank Hernandez addressed the Board on behalf of BCCE members.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

The District's DELAC committee presented the Board with its proposal for BUSD's use of federal funds.

Weldon Bradstreet addressed the Board on behalf of the Planning & Oversight committee with a recommendation on what to consider as the district hires a successor for outgoing Director Natasha Beery.

BHS PTSA addressed the Board in advocacy for the expansion of the BRIDGE program

Carla Scheniremnam addressed the Board on behalf of the Construction Bond Oversight Committee.

#### BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board Members and the Superintendent provided individual comments. They all thanked outgoing Student Director Miles Miller for his leadership while serving on the Board this school year.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Brown/Sinai and approved 5-0-1:

Ty Alper, President – *Yes*

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – *Yes*

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – *Yes*

Laura Babitt, Director – *Abstained*

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- *Yes*

Miles Miller, Student Director, BHS – *Yes*

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on BUSD School Reopening: Independent Study Program and Berkeley High School Bell Schedule, Fall 2021 (30 min)

Dr. Stephens presented an update on plans for next year's distance learning. BTA/BIS Principal Heidi Weber walked the Board through some of the features of the BIS program and introduced potential models for the BIS virtual academy starting next school year. BHS leadership provided an overview of the new block schedule development process. Questions and discussion followed.

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Update (30 min)

Dr. Stephens presented an overview of high level priorities expressed by the Board, and reflective of stakeholder feedback across LCAP's four goals.

Assistant Superintendent Follansbee provided an update on the budget, supplemental funding, board approved items and other budget transfers.

President Alper moved to extend open session to 11:30pm; motion was seconded by Director Vasudeo. Motion carried on a unanimous 6-0 vote.

#### Update on BUSD's Workforce Housing (20 min)

Executive Director of Facilities John Calise provided an update on plans for the construction of BUSD employee housing at the Berkeley Adult School campus.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Resolution 21-040 in Support of the Achievement and Success of All Latinx Students in Berkeley Unified School District

The board expressed its support for and excitement to endorse this resolution.

Motion to approve resolution 21-040 :  
Vasideo/Brown and unanimously approved 6-0.

#### EXTENDED COMMENT:

A total of six people addressed the Board:

One comment against proposed block schedule for BHS

One comment thanking Director Babitt for her advocacy and asking that in person Board meetings be resumed.

One comment in support of data informed program funded.

One comment in support of the proposed amended TWI enrollment policy.

One comment in support of the Latinx resolution passed tonight.

One comment asking that families who need to stay in distance learning be thoughtfully considered.

#### ADJOURNMENT

11:30PM