

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

Official Minutes
October 20, 2021
The Board Meeting was held virtually.

Vice President Ka'dijah Brown called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – Present

Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – Present

Laura Babitt, Director – Present

Ana Vasudeo, Director -- Present

Anjuna Mascarenhas-Swan, Student Director, BHS – Present

Administration:

Brent Stephens, Ed., D, Superintendent

Ruben Aurelio, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

Pauline Follansbee, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Samantha Tobias-Espinosa, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Rosalina Barrios, Recorder

OPEN SESSION

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Babitt/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 5-0

5. REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown reported out on closed session:

3.1 Superintendent Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board received an update and provided direction. No action was taken.

3.2 Unrepresented Employees (on-schedule, one-time, benefits)

The Board received an update and provided direction. No action was taken.

3.3 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(b): (One case)

The Board received an update and provided direction. No action was taken.

7. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 18 people addressed the Board:

Seven commenters addressing the prevalent issues with students and staff safety at Berkeley High. Suggesting more funding to hire additional safety officers or fill vacant positions and provide staff guidance/training interventions on student incidents. BHS is currently understaffed and not sustainable. Increase staffing and FTE. Cameras should be installed and ensure all intercoms are functioning. Recommending a long term action plan.

Two commenters are suggesting more funding and attention to Climate Literacy Resolution. Encouraging adding transportation language to the resolution and implementing a robust District wide safer route program.

One comment suggesting Board meetings to resume back in person.

One comment on Berkeley High School Master Schedule for 22-23: needs to be reviewed carefully by analyzing the data and having the process accessible for parents to see.

One comment on staff shortage. A solution to increase FTE for staffing to properly serve students and keep schools safe.

One commenter shared concerns through video on procedures to remove students that are harassing staff and students. The teacher had to take time off for safety and mental health.

One Comment and two students comments on Title IX staff FTE and case management capabilities of searchable database reports. Explanation on the green dot funding (student). What information is provided to staff and students when an incident occurs. Concerns on connecting with the Title IX officer directly and confidentially. What does the Title IX budget include for the 2021-22 SY.

Four Comments on student concerns regarding communication with the Title IX office. Students find it difficult to fill out forms and need more clarification on updated information. How to contact staff, and what services are being offered. Commenter stated how does the District plan on re-engaging students and building their trust?

One comment stating more funding from the State to provide better health care and living wage.

8. UNION COMMENTS

None

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

10. BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

The Superintendent and members of the Board provided individual comments

11. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:
Brown/Vasudeo and approved 5-0

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

12.1 Update on Sexual Harassment Prevention Efforts: BHS Consent Education and Green Dot

Claudia Gonzalez provided an update on the BHS committee progress to date to develop goals and objectives for BHS consent Education and Green Dot

12.2 Update on Berkeley High School Master Schedule for 22-23: Community Engagement Plan

Juan Raygoza and Harrison Blatt provided a Berkeley High proposal timeline for redesigning the bell schedule for the 2022-23 School Year.

12.3 First Reading of Climate Literacy Resolution, 22-010

Director Babbit provided a presentation to the Climate Literacy Resolution to educate and empower students. Associate Superintendent Ruben Aurelio presented the fiscal impact, specific clauses and five main points on the Climate Literacy Resolution.

None

13. PUBLIC HEARING

13.1 Public Hearing to Award Contract Under Government Code 4217

Vice President Brown opened hearing at 9:36pm closed at 9:38pm

No one came forward.

13.2 Syserco for Various Projects: Infrastructure, Software and Hardware Upgrades, Multiple Locations (Funded project through On Bill Financing & Fund 21/Measure G)

Vice President Brown opened hearing at 9:38pm closed at 9:39pm

No one came forward.

Motion to approve contract:
Sinai/Vasudeo unanimously approved 5-0

Ka'Dijah Brown, Vice President – **Yes**
Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – **Yes**
Laura Babitt, Director – **Yes**
Ana Vasudeo, Director -- **Yes**
Anjuna Mascarenhas-Swan, Student Director, BHS – **Yes**

14. INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received three items for information purposes. No action was taken.

14.1 Diversity and Retention of Teachers Report

14.2 2021-22 Enrollment Update

14.3 2021-22 Student Admissions Update

15. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 3 people addressed the Board:

One commenter shared appreciation for the community involved in the Climate Literacy Resolution, including Superintendent Stephens, Board President Ty Alper, retired teacher Martha Kane, teachers, parents, volunteers and for Laura Babbitt's guidance and support.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

9:49PM