

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

Official Minutes
November 3, 2021
The Board Meeting was held virtually.

President Ty Alper called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. He reported that the Board convened to Closed Session at 6:35pm.

Roll Call

Board of Education:

Ty Alper, 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

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda:

Sinai/Vasudeo and unanimously approved 5-0

6. REPORT CLOSED SESSION

Vice President Brown, reported out on closed session:

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

3.1.1 BUSD 2021-22-03

Motion to approve staff recommendation:

Sinai/Vasudeo and approved 4-0

3.1.2 BUSD 2021-22-04

Motion to approve staff recommendation:
Babitt/Vasudeo and approved 4-0

8.. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A total of 19 people addressed the Board:

Seventeen comments in support of the Climate Literacy Resolution urging it to be implemented for all BUSD students. To implement a fully funded curriculum to make the effort successful and educate students on the transportation element for safer routes.

One comment on staff safety concerns at Berkeley High. What action has been taken and what will be done to resolve the issue?

One comment to please revise the vaccine policy to allow testing for extracurricular activities.

8. UNION COMMENTS

BFT President Matt Meyer addressed the Board on behalf of BFT members and stated BFT is proud of the Climate Literacy Resolution vision and believes students should be educated as part of the solution. BFT has concerns that the potential 6.6 million budget cuts for the next fiscal year will reduce the ability to serve students at the site level. The union will fight for more money from the State.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

10. BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Board Members and the Superintendent provided individual comments.

11. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

Mascarenas Swan/Vasudeo and approved 5-0

Ty Alper, President - Yes

Julie Sinai - Director/Clerk - Yes

Laura Babitt, Director - Yes

Ana Vasudeo, Director - Yes

Anjuna Mascarenas Swan, Student Director, BHS - Yes

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

12.1 Heard an update on Berkeley High School U9 Consent Education Curriculum and Coaching Boys Into Men (30 minutes)

BHS teacher Hasmig Minassian presented an overview on consent education in the Universal 9th grade classrooms.

Gabriel Lopez presented an overview of Berkeley Athletics Consent and Empowerment (BACE) and fka Coaching Boys into Men, a curriculum designed by features of our violence.

12.2 Update on BUSD Title IX Compliance (20 minutes)

Megan Farrell and Mary Keating provided an update on Title IX with an overview of formal complaints received, along with some training initiatives.

12.3 Update on the Development of TK-12 Ethnic Studies Program (20 minutes)

Ethnic studies.

Coordinator of Professional Development Adelita Martinez provided an overview of Ethnic Studies curriculum. Adelita shared student video feedback on why Ethnic Studies matters to them.

BHS U9 Ethnic Studies and Social Living teachers Dana Moran and Hasmig Minassian provided a detailed Berkeley High School Ethnic Studies Timeline. Presented their analysis and gave an update on Ethnic Studies data from spring of 2021.

Ethnic Studies TSA Joemi Ito-Gates provided a 2021-2022 update on ethnic studies. Joemi has provided teaching guides to families and monthly newsletters with further resources.

13. ACTION ITEMS

13.1 Approval of Climate Literacy Resolution No 22-018

Director Babitt presented an overall update of the community support to pass the Approval of Climate Literacy Resolution. Director Babbitt collected 75 signatures from several educators and staff members in support to pass the approval of Climate Literacy Resolution.

President Ty Alper, acknowledged the resolution was well done and thoughtful and that it should be pushed to the top of our priorities. However, has concerns in committing to funding outside the budget process. President Alper suggested not making budget allocations at this time.

Director Sinai, supports the resolution and thanked Director Babitt, Martha Kane and everyone advocating for the resolution. Director Sinai suggested funding through grant programs, Berkeley school fund and Berkeley High development group. Director Sinai believes in understanding the fiscal impact and strategizing on how to fund the resolution.

Director Vasudeo thanked Director Babbitt and is in support of the resolution. Director Vasudeo suggested using a pre-existing curriculum and using it for implementing climate literacy.

Director Babbitt gave a yearly overview of the resolution cost. Fundraising and grants are currently written out. The committee can have a projected cost by June 15, 2023 for implementation of the curriculum.

Dr. Stephens answered all of the Board members' questions and concerns.

The Board will commit to allocate 65K of the general fund to the curriculum working group with a 18 month timeline. The Board will expect the working group to provide a budget projection for implementing the Climate Literacy Resolution.

Motion to approve Climate Literacy Resolution No 22-018:
Babbitt/Alper unanimously approved 4-0

Ty Alper, President – **Yes**
Julie Sinai, Director/Clerk – **Yes**
Laura Babitt, Director – **Yes**
Ana Vasudeo, Director -- **Yes**

14. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 5 people addressed the Board:

One comment has concerns on political talk coming from BHS school teachers and leaders to students.

Three comments showed appreciation and are in support of the Climate Literacy Resolution. The governor has provided funding for climate change and suggested seeking out those resources.

One comment from a BCCE member has concerns on the HR 10 day policy for 10 month employees. Urging clarification from the HR department.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:09PM