

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
December 7, 2012, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C213
Minutes**

In Attendance

Who	Role	E-mail address
Matt Carton	ACAC Chair, Teacher Coordinator, AC House Leader	mattcarton@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
Susanna Moore	Parent rep	susannamoore@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	Parent rep	jthorner@berkeley.edu
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Evan Layefsky	Student rep	evlayefsky@gmail.com
Anne Busacca-Ryan	AC teacher	annebusaccaryan@berkeley.net
Jessie Luxford	AC teacher & Support Coordinator	jessieluxford@berkeley.net
Heidi Ramirez-Weber	Teacher - ELD Team Lead	heidiramirez-weber@berkeley.net
Jenny Roebuck	AC teacher	jennyroebuck@berkeley.net
Erica Gratton	AC tutor	gratton.eric@gmail.com
Randi Boorstein	AC Parent, Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Claudia Currie-Gleacon	AC parent	
Peter Geraghty	AC parent	peterjgeraghty@gmail.com
Angela Harris	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	
John Lavine	AC parent, BSEP liaison	johnclavine@gmail.com
Sara Webber	AC parent	sarawebber@sbcglobal.net
Laurie Zimet	AC Parent	

Teacher Aid Funding for Academic Support Classes

AC Vice Principal Vernon Walton requested funding for tutor Erica Gratton, who has been helping with AC classes for the past two years. Last year she volunteered every day from 2:30 to 5:30, and is available to students via email. She has also

helped to develop the Bridge program, which address the achievement gap. She is a student at San Francisco State University.

The ACAC thanks Erica for her past support and voted unanimously to provide up to \$2,800 to pay her this year.

AP US History Scholars Proposal

Social study teachers Jenny Roebuck and Anne Busacca-Ryan have been tutoring 20 students who have Ds and Fs in history. They meet for 1 ½ hours after school on Wednesdays. The lesson plans for these sessions are based on what they have not understood in class, and focus on reading and understanding source documents. They learn how to write thesis sentences and how to use academic language to describe documents. These sessions have built their confidence and they are now participating more in class. If they attend all sessions they get a 5% grade boost.

The teachers have been buying pizza for these sessions. They requested from ACAC \$4,500 - \$3,000 to pay for their time and \$1,500 for food.

Discussion: Next year perhaps some of the funds made available for general after school tutoring could be used for this kind of targeted tutoring – which works better for struggling students than drop-in tutoring. Randy Boorstein will talk to Wyn Skeels (the teacher who coordinates after school tutoring) about this. Other sources of funding should be considered as well.

Use of \$3,000 in ACAC funds to pay for the teachers' time unanimously approved. Use of \$1,500 for food declined. Ben Sanoff commented that it's always hard to find money for food.

Matching Funds for Annual EL Field Trip

EL (English Learners) lead teacher Heidi Ramirez-Weber requested \$1,000 towards the annual EL field trip budget of \$4,000. This decision is pending a review by the development group, which might fund it instead.

AC Commencement Planning

Action: Evan Layefsky will survey AC seniors about their wishes for an AC commencement.

Report on BSEP meetings of 11/19 and 12/3

John Levine is our AC parent liaison on the BSEP (Berkeley Schools Excellence Program) committee. BSEP is the special tax money that goes to Berkeley schools. Some of it (about \$700,000 per year) goes directly to BHS, with oversight by the BHS BSEP committee. They have started the process of reviewing and evaluating all

programs that currently receive BSEP funds. They would like to solicit new as well as continuing proposals – the deadline to apply is late February. John is evaluating the AC Support Coordinator position.

Action: Need to discuss renewing the Support Coordinator position and possibly applying for a new AC Coordinator position at the January ACAC meeting.

Report on College & Career Center's College Fair Planning Meeting

Jeremy Thorner reported that there will be a College Fair on Sunday April 21. It is targeted at Junior students and their parents. In the morning college admissions officers will present case studies on what they look for in college applications. In the afternoon students and parents can talk with the college admissions officers in the jacket gym. There will be a mailing as well as announcements via the etree and in English classes about the college fair.

Report on PTSA Meeting of 11/29

Francesca Verdier reported that parents from AC, AHA, IB and Green Academy discussed the potential role the PTSA could play, given that parents tend to be more active in their own learning community parent groups than at the school wide PTSA. Ideas generated were to exchange information and plan common activities. The next PTSA meeting is Monday, Jan 14, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, place TBD.

Unfinished Business

We did not have time to discuss college trips or the AC Coordinator position.
Action: These will be on the January ACAC agenda.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday January 11 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C213.

Approval of November 2012 ACAC and Fall Meeting Minutes

Matt Carton approved the minutes of the November 2012 ACAC and Fall meetings.