

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
December 6, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C317
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	ACAC Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Matt Laurel	AC Lead English Teacher	matthewlaurel@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	AC Teacher Coordinator	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@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
John Becker	AHA English Teacher	johnbecker@berkeley.net
Matt Meyer	BIHS Team Lead	mattmeyer@berkeley.net
Denise Kidder	AC parent	denisekidder@gmail.com
Rene Kvideehl	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	
Johanna Reneke	AC parent	j.reneke@gmail.com

Public Comments and Questions

Francesca Verdier had received an email from a parent who reported a rumor that AC would be shutting down. This likely came from Principal Pasquale Scuderi's vision of a redesigned program that would combine AC and BIHS into three BIHS houses. However, this is only in the pre-proposal stage, would need to be voted on by the school board, and at the earliest would affect incoming 2015/16 freshmen. Tim Zolezzi will keep us informed.

Quality Education Agenda Discussion

BHS teachers Matt Meyer and John Becker, who represent the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, led a discussion on a draft vision for what public education could be nationwide. The discussion started with the question "What is good about BUSD and working well?" The response raised most often by the group was that BUSD has many excellent teachers, and that having a good teacher is the single most important

thing for a child's education. Efforts should be made to help beginning teachers excel, parent and student teacher evaluations should have a role, and administration should do something when teachers are below par.

This vision is being coordinated nationwide, and currently lists the following vision goals:

- Support equity in education
- Support the 2020 vision and partner with parents
- Meet the academic needs of all of our students
- Educate the whole child
- Respect and Develop the professionals
- Fully fund education

Anyone with further comments/suggestions on this vision should contact Matt Meyer (mattmeyer@berkeley.net) and John Becker (johnbecker@berkeley.net).

College Night Discussion

The College Night is a panel of kids back from school on winter break to answer questions and provide insights about their college experience. No college kids have been selected yet. However, Olga Volodina has three willing participants. The group discussed whether this event was redundant with the College and Career Center event. The ACAC event is at night and open to all grades. The CCC event is during school hours and open only to sophomores. The group decided to move forward with the AC event. The teachers will confer and determine the date, time and location of the ACAC event and email the group with that information. It was suggested to promote the event directly to juniors through their English classes and via an email campaign to parents.

Fundraising update

So far \$17,000.00 in donations has been raised. There were three responses to the Thanksgiving email that resulted in a total donation of \$1,700.00. Further email donation requests were suggested listing how donated funds are being used. December is usually a good month for donations.

Request for funding

Lacking a quorum (there were no students) this topic got deferred till January.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday January 10, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.