

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting  
April 11, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C317  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Who</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
<b>Tim Zolezzi</b>	ACAC Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
<b>Ben Sanoff</b>	ACAC Teacher Coordinator	bensanoff@berkeley.net
<b>Vernon Walton</b>	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
<b>Barbara Anscher</b>	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
<b>Donna Storey</b>	Parent rep, future Secretary	donnageorgestorey@gmail.com
<b>Jeremy Thorner</b>	Parent rep	jthorner@berkeley.edu
<b>Rakhi Rao</b>	Parent rep, future Treasurer	rakhiprao@gmail.com
<b>Johanna Reneke</b>	Parent rep	j.reneke@gmail.com
<b>Francesca Verdier</b>	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
<b>Olga Volodina</b>	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
<b>Randi Boorstein</b>	AC parent, Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
<b>Quinn Gaebler</b>	AC student rep	quinngaebler@students.berkeley.net
<b>Rene Kvidahl</b>	AC parent	
<b>Heather Loucks</b>	AC parent	
<b>Sharon Tyson</b>	AC parent	frankel4@pacbell.net

**Public Comments: East Bay Express Article “Berkeley's Unequal Punishment of Teachers”**

An AC parent asked if AC should respond to the East Bay Express Article “Berkeley's Unequal Punishment of Teachers” (<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/berkeley-s-unequal-punishment-of-teachers/Content?oid=3879777>), since an AC teacher and AC vice principal Vernon Walton were mentioned in the article. The consensus was that AC should not respond publicly since this involves personnel matters. Parents who wish to voice a complaint can follow the BUSD complaint procedures:

<http://www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/student-services/complaint-procedures/>.

### **AC Commencement**

AC senior Quinn Gaebler reported that the AC students would like to have a picnic at Tilden park, either renting the Brazil room or a picnic site. In the latter case they would like to rent a tent and chairs as well. The picnic will be a potluck, but AC will provide pizza (or similar food) to make sure there is some food. The students requested a \$2,500 budget for this, which was unanimously approved. AC commencement will be June 4.

### **ACAC Budget for the 2014/2015 School Year**

Olga Volodina proposed a draft budget for the 2014/2105 school year. See the attachment following the minutes.

### **Math Tutoring Requirement Update**

Donna Storey has been meeting with the math department to discuss improvements to the required tutoring process. The math department has provided a list of tutoring opportunities and will develop a tutoring training fact sheet. It would be good if tutoring were in math only (not general tutoring) and the number of hours required could be reduced and made the same for all honors level math classes. Most parents present recommended that tutoring be voluntary, not required. Tim Zolezzi will try to have a math teacher at the next ACAC meeting for further discussions.

### **Long Term Teacher Absences**

Jeremy Thorner brought up the issue of what policies BHS has to find quality substitutes when teachers are absent for long periods of time. This led to a more general discussion of what parents should do when they are unhappy with their child's teacher. Vernon Walton said the first thing to do is to meet with the teacher and try to resolve the issue – and have written documentation (e.g. email) about the meeting. If no resolution then communicate with the school administration – also in writing. If parents report issues this can help with teacher assessment and evaluation – parent feedback provides leverage, especially when the feedback is from multiple parents speaking with a united voice. Parents can also use the BUSD complaint process: <http://www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/student-services/complaint-procedures/>.

Vernon reported that substitutes in math and science are the hardest to find. He will discuss with BHS administration putting better procedures in place.

Perhaps the use of student and parent teacher evaluations could be a topic for next year's ACAC.

### Need for AC e-tree Coordinator for 2014/2015

.AC parent Rebecca Herman has been moderating the AC e-tree for several years, but is graduating along with her senior child. We need a new volunteer for 2014/2015. Rene Kvidahl will see if her husband is interested.

**Action:** Francesca to follow up.

### Keeping BHS Website Up-To-Date

If you notice out-of-date information, please contact Matt Albinson, [mattalbinson@berkeley.net](mailto:mattalbinson@berkeley.net). He is prompt with updates.

### Next ACAC Meeting

Friday May 2, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.

#### ACADEMIC CHOICE Budget for the Year 2014-15

	Budget for 2014-15	2013-14 YTD	2012-13 Actual	2011-2012 Actual	2010-2011 Actual	2009-2010 Actual	2008-2009 Actual	2007-2008 Actual
<b>Opening Balance</b>	50,000.00	0.00	62,381.13	42,119.69	39,506.26	14,975.54	25,250.73	
<b>Donations</b>								
Individual & Business Contributions		34,505.00	30,200.04	39,467.95	29,846.99	41,903.00	47,451.54	
AC commencement: sashes contributions				370.00	1,082.00			
BHS DG Grants/AP Tutoring/Reader's Project			300.00	3,728.10		20,423.00		
PayPal fees		(164.59)	(13.80)	(114.35)	(55.94)	(122.01)	25.00	
Designated funds			1,535.21				800.00	
<b>Total donations</b>		<b>34,340.41</b>	<b>32,021.45</b>	<b>44,333.05</b>	<b>33,203.05</b>	<b>62,203.99</b>	<b>48,276.54</b>	<b>45,873.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Program:								
Classroom Support/Tutoring/	(3,000.00)	(354.65)	(1,218.90)	(446.43)	(753.41)	(717.89)	(5,296.40)	(8,439.00)
Readers project/AP history	(6,000.00)	0.00	(6,178.50)	(7,830.00)	(1,815.00)	(5,842.50)	(2,466.00)	(2,459.00)
AP History grading	(2,000.00)			(1,088.25)				
AP language tutoring			(2,797.50)	(830.00)				
AP US History/Contribution to Writer Training			(3,500.00)	(625.00)		(2,000.00)		
AC Bridge Support/Students at Risk							(5,700.00)	(9,021.00)
Social Living	(500.00)					(1,071.55)	(3,079.31)	(5,940.00)
Staff Development	(2,000.00)	(215.00)	(1,325.00)		(1,000.00)	(139.46)	(7,579.97)	
Special Projects/Chromebook cart				(4,061.63)		(23,535.51)		
Graphing Calculators/Computers				(3,000.27)			(30,804.95)	(4,969.00)
Contribution for AC AP coordinator	(20,000.00)							
Contribution for Support&Resource coordinator	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)		(20,000.00)			
<b>Supporting services:</b>								
AC Administration	(1,000.00)	(665.33)	(885.02)	(845.96)	(1,679.24)	(1,606.44)	(1,563.16)	(2,212.00)
Website management for AC			0.00	(1,400.00)	(210.85)			
AC Events	(500.00)		0.00		(445.84)	(2,005.00)	(2,061.94)	(1,291.00)
Teacher Appreciation	(500.00)		0.00	(500.00)	(445.28)	(754.92)		
AC Commencement	(8,000.00)	(668.95)	(5,841.89)	(3,444.07)	(3,740.00)			
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(53,500.00)</b>	<b>(11,903.93)</b>	<b>(31,746.81)</b>	<b>(24,071.61)</b>	<b>(30,089.62)</b>	<b>(37,673.27)</b>	<b>(58,551.73)</b>	<b>(34,331.00)</b>
<i>Ratio of program expenses to total expenses</i>		<i>88.79%</i>	<i>78.81%</i>	<i>65.66%</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>94%</i>	<i>90%</i>