

6/5/15 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
June 5, 2015, 7:30-8:35 AM Berkeley High School Conference Room B

Minutes

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	AC Co-Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Amanda Green	AC Co-Chair and AC Lead English Teacher for 2015-2016	amandagreen@berkeley.net
David Borrelli		davidborrelli@berkeley.net
Daniel Nube	AC Vice Principal	danielnube@berkeley.net
Hannalina Kalonji	ACAC Student Representative	hannalinakalonji@students.berkeley.net
Finn Collum	ACAC Student Representative	finncollom@students.berkeley.net
Tanir Ami	AC Parent	tanir_ami@yahoo.com
Sam Arriola	AC Webmaster	sarriola@gmail.com
Catherine Ference	AC Parent	candsfer@gmail.com
Rene Kvidahl	AC Parent	
Rahki Rao	ACAC Treasurer	rakhirao@gmail.com
Johanna Reneke	ACAC Parent Rep at Large	j.reneke@gmail.com
Christine Staples	AC Parent	Christineannestaples@gmail.com
Donna Storey	ACAC Secretary	donnageorgestorey@gmail.com
Deborah Thompson	AC Parent	
Jeremy Thorner	ACAC Student Support Coordinator	jthorner@berkeley.edu

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

New AC Lead English Teacher for 2015-2016

Tim Zolezzi introduced Amanda Green, the new AC Lead English Teacher for the 2015-2016 school year. Matt Laurel will be on leave next year. Ms. Green has been teaching at Berkeley High for twelve years.

Treasurer's Report and Fundraising

ACAC Treasurer Rakhi Rao presented the latest Statement of Activities from June 1. She asked the AC teachers and administrator to put in a check request for Jessie Luxford's Bridge Program expenses for the 2013-2014 school year.

ACAC parents hope to do more fundraising in the next school year to support AC programs. Catherine Ference suggested parents work on a year-long plan beyond the summer fundraiser mailing. Ms. Green asked to be included in the fundraising emails and discussions.

Report on Funding for AC Academic Support Coordinator Position

Mr. Borrelli reported that he has not yet gotten funding for the AC Academic Support Coordinator position. This situation is of concern because all AC juniors are required to take at least one AP class and they may not have the necessary support.

He shared a copy of the letter he wrote to apply for the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) which describes his plans for next year including raising money for professional development, ensuring equitable placement of high-needs students in AP course sections, raise funds to subsidize some students to take the AP test in May, identify "Key Skills and Knowledge" for each 11th grade AP class and evaluate how to build these skills into the 10th grade curriculum, use the AP English language model to implement common formative and summative assessments in AP US History, AP Environmental Science, and AP Government, and involve current students and AC student leadership in demystifying AP classes for 10th graders. Mr. Borrelli said that these measures will enable AC to be more thoughtful in pursuing their goal of desegregating AP classes.

Christine Staples asked an additional question about the discrepancy between the policy described in the course catalog—that all AC juniors must take AP Language and Composition—and the actual requirement that students can choose among any AP course offered at Berkeley High. Daniel Nube said that those responsible for the catalog did not get the information in time to make a change but the new policy was communicated to the students when they registered.

Mr. Borrelli asked the ACAC to contribute \$10,000 or half of the .2FTE for the position for next year. We do not have the funds to cover it at the current time, but will try to fundraise to pay for the position. Mr. Borrelli will try to find other funds to cover the

rest.

Action: Vote on funding \$10,000 for the AC Academic Support Coordinator Position—14 ayes, 1 abstention. The request was approved.

AC Student Representatives' Report

Hannalina Kalonji reported that the AC graduation ceremony was a success and the stoles ordered by the ACAC were appreciated by the students. For next year she suggested that more entrees are needed for the potluck and that we might consider ordering about 30 pizzas. West Coast Pizza offers extra-large pies for \$8, so that might be a consideration. Jeremy Thorner said that the announcement for the ceremony came late and it would be better to let families know earlier.

Finn Collum said that he will take over Ms. Kalonji's role as the senior-class AC Student Representative. Avi Peltz will join us as the junior-class representative. The students plan to pursue the T-shirt fundraising project next year.

AC Teachers' Retreat Funding Request

Mr. Zolezzi repeated his request for funds for an AC teacher retreat on August 28. Mr. Thorner secured a room on the UC Berkeley campus for the retreat. Mr. Zolezzi wanted to ask for \$150 to pay each teacher who attends for her/his time as well as funds for lunch. Since \$2000 is already budgeted for teacher development, Mr. Zolezzi asked for an additional \$500 to fund the retreat.

Action: Vote on \$500 of extra funding for an AC teacher retreat at beginning of the 2015-2016—passed unanimously. The request was approved.

New Grant Request Form for the ACAC

Mr. Zolezzi presented a Grant Request Rubric Draft for the consideration of the ACAC. In contrast to the earlier protocol where anyone requesting funds gave an oral presentation to the council, then waited while we voted in their presence, next year we are considering using a written application submitted in advance with a vote occurring outside of the presence of the requesting party. Mr. Zolezzi's draft asks BHS staff members requesting funds for the stated objective of the program, the measurable outcomes, and the number of students served. The ACAC would evaluate the request on whether it creates a culture of high expectations, increases access and utilization of social and emotional support for all students, promotes equity and diversifies delivery of instruction. Mr. Zolezzi asked that we email any feedback to him about the rubric. We will consider amending the ACAC by-laws to require the use of this rubric next fall.

Plans for Revitalizing AC Etree

Sam Arriola created a sample of the newsletter that will sent out periodically as part of the revitalization of the AC etree. Many members in attendance agreed that visuals make the newsletter appealing. Ms. Green suggested we make it a requirement of an AC grant that the recipient send photographs of students in the program that was funded for the newsletter.

Welcome Picnic for New Families on August 29

Berkeley High School will hold a welcome picnic for all new families on Saturday, August 29 from 11am to 1pm. At 11am all families will gather in the Community Theater for a fifteen-minute presentation from the new principal, then they will participate in a potluck lunch with their small learning community. Johanna Reneke and Catherine Ference volunteered to coordinate the AC potluck. Mr. Zolezzi will notify them of the assigned location of the AC picnic when it is available.

New AC Administrator in 2015-2016

Vice Principal Nube will be leaving Berkeley High to take a position as the principal at a middle school. The new AC vice principal will be announced before the beginning of the new school year.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday, September 4, 2015, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS Conference Room B in the D Building.