

BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 13, 2010
Malcolm X School Library
1731 Prince St., Berkeley

P&O Committee Members Present:

Lea Baechler-Brabo, <i>Cragmont</i>	Juliet Bashore, <i>Rosa Parks</i>	Catherine Fischer, <i>Malcolm X</i>
Toni Garrett, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Fiona Hamer, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Elisabeth Hensley, <i>Jefferson (co-Rep)</i>	Esther Hirsh, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Nancy Hoeffler, <i>Willard (co-Chair)</i>
Julie Holcomb, <i>King</i>	Diana Kuderna, <i>Longfellow</i>	Catherine Lazio, <i>Willard</i>
Dan Lindheim, <i>BHS (co-Chair)</i>	Jenny Lipow, <i>LeConte</i>	Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>
Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Abigail Surasky, <i>Washington (Alt)</i>	Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i>
Leah Wilson, <i>Arts Magnet (co-Rep)</i>		

P&O Committee Members Absent:

Carol Brownstein, <i>BHS (Alt)</i>	Edwin Cooper, <i>John Muir</i>	John Dorsey, <i>B-Tech</i>
Larry Gordon, <i>King</i>	Chris Martin, <i>LeConte (Alt)</i>	Andrew O'Shea, <i>Washington</i>
John Paulding, <i>Thousand Oaks</i>	Karen Pertschuk, <i>Willard (Alt)</i>	Holly Potter, <i>Jefferson (co-Rep)</i>
Jackie Schalit, <i>Arts Magnet (co-Rep)</i>	Representative, <i>Pre-K</i>	Representative, <i>Longfellow</i>
Representative, <i>Ind. Study</i>		

BSEP Staff:

Monica Thyberg, <i>Manager</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord.</i>	Mark Coplan, <i>Public Info Officer</i>
Liz O'Connell-Gates, <i>Staff Support</i>		

Visitors, School Board Directors, District Advisory Committee Liaisons, Staff and Guests:

Cathy Campbell, <i>President, BFT</i>	Nancy Riddle, <i>School Board</i>	Becca Todd, <i>Library Coordinator</i>
Neil Smith, <i>Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services</i>		

1. Call to Order / Introductions, Nancy Hoeffler, co-Chair

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Hoeffler at 7:22 p.m.

Representatives introduced themselves and reported that:

- Berkeley High's School Governance Council had just voted down the BHS BSEP Committee's recommended Plan for FY 2010-11.
- All teachers and classified staff on Washington's School Governance Council had suddenly resigned from the SGC.
- King's "Unity" party drew 300 people.
- Arts Magnet's auction raised \$20,000.
- Willard held a successful fundraiser at the Gaia Building.
- Public Information Officer Mark Coplan distributed the April edition of the BUSD A+ News and invited members to subscribe to the electronic *Berkeley School News*.
- Berkeley High's marvelous production of the musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* would conclude the weekend of April 16-17.

2. Establish the Quorum / Approve the Agenda

The quorum was established with 18 voting representatives present.

MOTION CARRIED (Holcomb/Glimme): To approved the agenda. The motion was approved by acclamation.

3. Public Commentary

There was no public commentary.

4. Commentary from Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) President, Cathy Campbell

Campbell announced that, as part of the César Chávez commemoration period, BFT would screen the documentary *The Fight in the Fields*, on April 15th.

Campbell distributed a handout publicizing a rally for education to take place Wednesday, April 21st. BFT is hoping to send at least 500 people to the rally. She added that if state revenues should increase, and if education received its fair share, BUSD's \$2.7 million budget cuts would not be necessary. (The Governor's "May Revise" budget will be released on May 15th.)

Campbell then distributed an excerpt from the April 8, 2008 P&O minutes, stating her need to clarify comments she had made. At that time she had argued for increasing support for BHS Teacher Leaders using BSEP Professional Development monies. Campbell said that the original minutes inaccurately suggest that she was only requesting extra support for the BHS Small Schools. Her corrected document explicitly states her true request for support for all five BHS Departments, four Small Schools, and two Programs (Academic Choice and Berkeley International High School). Campbell said she felt obliged to correct the minutes at this time because the old minutes were being published to portray her and BFT in an inaccurate light. Campbell noted that that support for BHS Teacher Leaders had ultimately been funded by a federal grant.

5. Chairperson's Report, Nancy Hoeffler

Hoeffler deferred her comments in favor of moving to the next item on the agenda.

6. Statement of P&O Committee positions on aspects of Class Size Reduction

- a. Class size averages and variances at BHS, *Nancy Hoeffler*

Hoeffler distributed the statement "Requesting clarification of BUSD Policy regarding distribution of class sizes around the average at Berkeley High School, and requesting a plan for monitoring compliance with that policy" that had been drafted by Dan Lindheim and discussed at the April 7th P&O meeting, which she thought the Committee had seemed ready to agree on.

Discussion and wordsmithing of the statement ensued. In the absence of consensus, and to allow time for presentation of three BSEP Program Plans for 2010-11, the item was tabled until later in the evening.

6. Recommendation for the Annual Plan for expenditure of the BSEP Professional Development Funds in FY 2010-11, Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Smith distributed the proposed BSEP Professional Development Plan, saying that he would review:

1. Professional Development highlights for 2010-11
2. New vs. continuing programs
3. BSEP Professional Development (PD) in the context of the total BUSD PD budget.

Smith explained that teachers and administrators chose the district-wide Professional Development programs based on their effect on instruction through measured student performance data and through teacher/administrator feedback. Among the 13 proposed positions and initiatives, he highlighted the following:

- Literacy Coach .40 FTE @ Middle School. (*to support the first year of a English – Language Art-ELA- curriculum adoption*)
- Math Coach K-8 1.0 FTE (*reduced from 2.0 FTE in FY 2010*)
- TSA for New Teacher Support @ BHS .20 FTE (*new*)
- Instructional Technology Coach full time. (*new in FY 11*)
- Instructional Technology Coach 1.0 FTE (*new position*)
- Support for Culturally Responsive Schools .80 FTE (*new position*)
- Stipends for 30 Curriculum Lead Teachers (*math Lead Teachers are resuming in FY 11*)
- Summer Workshop on K-5 Reading. (Columbia University Teachers' College) (*new*)

Smith noted that the he hoped to be able to fund the following programs from BSEP Professional Development Carryover monies:

- Specialized Workshops for Secondary Teachers
- Tools of the Mind Support for pre-K Teachers
- Substitutes for Middle School Writing Scoring
- GATE Workshop in Differentiated Instruction
- Culturally Responsive Teaching Consultants
- Mentors for Voluntary PAR Referrals
- K-12 Math Consultant
- Math Workshop for K-8 Teachers

Smith added that beyond the BSEP PD funding, he was projecting an additional \$575,000 for Professional Development in targeted areas: supporting instruction for English language learners (\$130,000), support for first and second year teachers (Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment program-BTSA), and others.

Discussion and Q&A followed, with the following points made:

- Smith stated that if more funds were needed for the Peer Assistant Review Program (PAR), they would come from federal Title II monies.
- The proposal is for two Teacher Leaders (1 Math, 1 ELA) at each K-8 site (4 @ King)
- Sharon Friedman, Professional Development Coordinator, and Christina Faulkner, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, supervise PD personnel.

- Federal Title II funds, to ensure that all teachers are “Highly Qualified,” would provide classroom management training.
- Principals had ranked Literacy Coaches as their top PD priority.
- Noting that Superintendent Huyett had spoken of increasing the accountability of principals in evaluating teachers, teachers should feel safe to refer themselves to PAR.

Smith concluded by distributing a sample bar graph of BUSD 2nd-5th graders on English Language Arts state standards tests (2003-09), showing dramatic improvement in 2008 and 2009, when the Lucy Calkins Writing Program was initiated.

7. Recommendation for the Annual Plan for expenditures of the BSEP funds for Program Evaluation in FY 2010-11, Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

Nitschke explained that BUSD had had no evaluation department for many years prior to 2005. Creating such a department had been a goal of prior Superintendent Michelle Lawrence. Measure B of 2004 provided a small budget for evaluation and assessment, and Measure A of 2006 includes Program Evaluation as part of the “9%” budget (with Professional Development and Technology). BUSD’s Evaluation Department is now called Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment (BEA). Since Bea Director Rebecca Cheung is on maternity leave, Nitschke was presenting the Plan.

Nitschke distributed the proposed Program Evaluation Plan, which includes:

- Director of Evaluation and Assessment – 1.0 FTE
- Teachers on Special Assignment (1.1 FTE) to provide technical support in data analysis and technical assistance with DataWise, BUSD’s student assessment data software.
- Data Technician (1.0 FTE) and Clerical Support (.50 FTE)
- DataWise and other software.

Nitschke noted that the BEA uses data to achieve four major goals:

- Improve teaching and learning;
- Aide School Governance Councils in making decisions about resources’
- Assist the Board, staff, and public to make informed decisions about instructional programs;
- Administer state-mandated assessments.

Neil Smith distributed a sample document produced by BEA, explaining that each September BEA provides a snapshot of each incoming student for their new teacher, showing how they had performed on the previous year’s District and State assessments (tests), and identifying English Language Learners and students with learning differences. In addition, all teachers receive a fall report showing how the students they taught the previous year had performed on the CST tests. Later in the fall, BEA develops a PowerPoint presentation on each school’s student achievement for the School Governance Councils, showing principals and teachers how their students performed on standardized tests and how their school’s performance compared to other schools.

8. Recommendation for the Annual Plan for expenditure of BSEP funds for Technology in 2010-11, Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

Nitschke then distributed the proposed BSEP Technology Plan for 2010-11, explaining that this budget funds school computer technician staff, the Director of Technology, school technology supplies and equipment, computer repairs, and software licenses. He noted that the budget's hardware and software allocation was about \$15 per student.

Nitschke went on to say that the Board was contemplating two ballot measures:

- Measure BB Property Tax Renewal (*expires 2012-13 & needs 2/3 vote*)
- Facilities Bond.

The first item involves asking voters to renew Measure BB which supports the District's maintenance department, bringing in roughly \$5,000,000 annually. He explained that the state Education Code requires districts to pay 3% of their budgets to maintain their facilities, and if this tax were not renewed, that \$5,000,000 would have to come out of the General Fund.

The Board is considering putting the renewal of Measure BB on the ballot together with a new Facilities Bond. Nitschke explained that technology infrastructure can be included in a Prop 39 type of school bond (needs 55% vote). Given that virtually all of BUSD's technology was bought in during the dotcom boom of 1999-00, Nitschke said that this would be a good time to make upgrades. He added that federal funds might also be forthcoming if the government decided to invest more in school technology.

Nitschke closed by saying that his department was working to enhance the secondary schools' technology, and added that BUSD Library Coordinator Becca Todd had been amazingly tech-savvy and worked closely with the Technology Department.

Discussion included out the following points:

- Bond monies fund equipment but not staff. Will there be sufficient staff to maintain equipment? Technical staff at BHS is already hard-pressed to keep up with the task of repairing donated computers.
- The School District has a surplus of donated pianos, which are like white elephants!
- Is BUSD's donation policy able to prevent the donation of equipment that actually causes an imposition?

9. Other Subcommittee Reports

a. "9%" Subcommittee Juliet Bashore, P&O Rep, Rosa Parks

Bashore distributed an alternative proposal for the Program Evaluation portion of BSEP/Measure A in FY 11. Bashore praised BEA's efforts but suggested that BUSD consider a cost effective model used by Santa Cruz schools that involved more frequent use of data and site-based data support provided by interns. The item will be on the April 25th P&O agenda.

b. VAPA Sub Committee Report, Fiona Hamer, P&O Rep, Berkeley High

Hamer urged P&O members to attend future of the VAPA Subcommittee, which is awaiting the results of a survey on the effectiveness of the district-wide music program.

c. Facilities, Safety & Maintenance Oversight Committee (FSMOC) Report

Jenny Lipow, P&O Rep to FSMOC, LeConte

Lipow reported that the recent telephone survey of likely voters, conducted as preparation for the Measure BB renewal (and the possible bond), was very encouraging, showing strong support for Berkeley schools although only 16% of those surveyed had kids in the schools. Lipow said the renewal should be on everyone's radar because if it did not pass, money would have to come from the District's General Fund, resulting in a huge cut in educational funding. Lipow concluded that Berkeley's generous approach to school building maintenance showed we behave as a community in a way we that would like to behave as individuals.

d. School Governance Council Subcommittee

Abigail Surasky, P&O Alternate, Washington

Surasky announced that the SGC Subcommittee would meet April 21st to discuss the need for SGC operating rules. All P&O Reps are welcome to attend.

10. Statements of P&O Committee positions on aspects of Class Size Reduction

Nancy Hoeffler

a. Class size averages and variances at BHS

The committee returned to the earlier discussion.

MOTION CARRIED (Glimme/Baechler-Brabo): to approve the statement as originally written. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas, 2 nays, 1 abstention.

Julie Holcomb agreed to read the statement at the next evening's Board meeting.

b. Definition and guidelines for Expanded Course Offerings

The draft response to Superintendent's Huyett's previous request for a P&O definition of "Expanded Course Offerings" was distributed and discussed. It was agreed that the goal was to arrive at a definition that would clarify the Measure's language and would ultimately be incorporated into the Bylaws.

MOTION CARRIED (Hirsch/Paxson): to approve the statement to the Board entitled "Recommendation for Guidelines in allocating teachers for 'Expanded Course Offerings' from the Class Size Reduction funds for BSEP/Measure A of 2006. The motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

c. Support for Superintendent's recommendation for CSR expenditures in FY 11

Chairperson Hoeffler asked the Committee's approval to read a statement at the following evening's Board meeting, expressing the P&O Committee's unanimous support for the Superintendent's CSR recommendation for FY 2010-11.

MOTION CARRIED (Glimme/Holcomb): to approve the statement of support for the Superintendent's CSR recommendation for FY 11, to be made by Nancy Hoeffler at the April 14th Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Meeting adjourned: 9:40.

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