

BSEP/Measure A PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 27, 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>	Carol Brownstein, <i>BHS (Alt)</i>
Catherine Fischer, <i>Malcolm X</i>	Toni Garrett, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Aaron Glimme, <i>Berkeley High</i>
Larry Gordon, <i>King</i>	Fiona Hamer, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Nancy Hoeffler, <i>Willard (co-Chair)</i>
Julie Holcomb, <i>King</i>	Diana Kuderna, <i>Longfellow</i>	Dan Lindheim, <i>BHS (co-Chair)</i>
Chris Martin, <i>LeConte (Alt)</i>	Jay Nitschke, <i>King (Alt)</i>	Andrew O'Shea, <i>Washington</i>
Dawn Paxson, <i>Emerson</i>	Holly Potter, <i>Jefferson (co-Rep)</i>	Jackie Schalit, <i>Arts Magnet (co-Rep)</i>
Abigail Surasky, <i>Washington (Alt)</i>	Leah Wilson, <i>Arts Magnet (co-Rep)</i>	

P&O Committee Members Absent:

Edwin Cooper, <i>John Muir</i>	John Dorsey, <i>B-Tech</i>	Elisabeth Hensley, <i>Jefferson (co-Rep)</i>
Esther Hirsh, <i>Berkeley High</i>	Catherine Lazio, <i>Willard</i>	Jenny Lipow, <i>LeConte</i>
John Paulding, <i>Thousand Oaks</i> Representative, <i>Pre-K</i>	Karen Pertschuk, <i>Willard (Alt)</i> Representative, <i>Longfellow</i>	Greg Wiberg, <i>Oxford</i> Representative, <i>Ind. Study</i>

BSEP Staff:

Monica Thyberg, <i>Manager</i>	Mary Hurlbert, <i>Admin. Coord.</i>	Liz O'Connell-Gates, <i>Staff Support</i>
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Visitors, School Board Directors, District Advisory Committee Liaisons, Staff and Guests:

Jean Day, <i>Friends of BUSD Libraries</i>	Suzanne McCulloch, <i>VAPA</i>	Nancy Riddle, <i>School Board</i>
Neil Smith, <i>Ass't. Superintendent, Ed Services</i>	Becca Todd, <i>District Library Coordinator</i>	

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order by co-Chairperson Dan Lindheim at 7:22 p.m. Abigail Surasky gave a brief update on the condition of LeConte P&O Representative Jenny Lipow, who was seriously ill.

Representatives introduced themselves and reported that:

- The Berkeley High School Governance Council had put forth an alternative proposal for the use of BHS BSEP funds in 2010-11. The differences between the BSEP Committee's proposal and the SGC's alternative center on funding for the Student Court, the Media Tech position, Read 180 materials for struggling readers, and school-wide Instructional Materials. (The half-time I.B. Coordinator will be funded from non-BSEP funds.)
- BAM is using focus groups to complete their Site Plan.
- The shortage of intervention funds for Rosa Parks' struggling kids resulted in an emotional Site Plan meeting.
- Willard is looking forward to the school's May Fair.
- Cragmont's SGC is going back to the drawing board to find consensus regarding its Site Plan and budget.

- Washington’s SGC met last night (with a quorum this time) to review budget and Plan. Money is tight and they are interested in joining forces with other schools with similar needs for grant-writing.
- Longfellow’s Plan was completed, but lacks funds for treasured after-school programs.
- Superintendent Huyett was praised for his handling of a BHS meeting regarding new principal selection.
- The LeConte community is rallying around Jenny Lipow’s family. The SGC is working on its site plan.
- Malcolm X’ long-time principal, Cheryl Chinn, has announced her retirement. The school needs guidance to be sure the level of clerical support is in line with the growing enrollment.
- Jefferson has received a *California Distinguished School* award. Their Site Plan is complete, despite a funding shortfall. Jefferson’s enrollment will increase next year, which may result in increased BSEP funding.
- Emerson’s Site Plan is complete; they are reviewing survey results regarding homework, etc. Emerson’s PTA has been the go-to source for funds.
- At its May 14th Spring Luncheon the Berkeley Public Education will honor three teachers: Literacy Coach Tom Prince, King Drama Teacher Richard Silberg, and Cragmont Two-Way Immersion Teacher Jabari Anderson.
- King’s size has enabled its PTA to raise substantial funds over the past five years. They will use PTA and BSEP monies to increase their Zone Technician to full-time next year, to support both the equipment and the teaching staff.
- Neil Smith acknowledged the financial challenges facing school sites this year. He also praised the Le Conte community for rallying around Jenny Lipow’s family in their time of need.

2. Establish the Quorum / Approve the Agenda

The quorum was established with 14 voting representatives present. The agenda was approved by acclamation.

3. Report from the Chairperson, *Dan Lindheim*

Lindheim reported that the Oakland City Council was considering relinquishing its parcel tax because they can’t afford the “match” from their General Fund. Oakland is required to fund 739 police officers from the General Fund before it can hire 63 additional officers with parcel tax monies. The problem stemmed from the reality that the City of Oakland could not afford to fund the 739 officers from the General Fund. Lindheim noted that he remembered that during the last BSEP campaign, former BUSD Superintendent Michelle Lawrence would say “It’s great that you are putting all this money in the parcel tax, but we don’t have any money in the General Fund.” Lindheim said that he now understood her comment, pointing out that as General Fund resources decline, parcel tax dollars might have to pick up the slack and warning that if things got sufficiently out of kilter here, BUSD might face a similar situation.

4. Report from the Program Manager, *Monica Thyberg*

In response to a comment that schools increasingly had to turn to the PTA for funds, Thyberg recalled that “No More Popcorn Sales!” was BSEP’s very first slogan. Thyberg also:

- Reported that she had been assigned the task of writing the BHS SGC Bylaws, on behalf of the Board Policy Subcommittee. (She was also, in the same capacity, guiding the two BHS committees to follow the appropriate process in their 2010-11 BHS BSEP Site Plan proposals; she noted that if they could not agree, the Board would make the final decision.)
- Reminded the P&O that their job was to oversee the site plan process (ensure that sites had functioning, fairly elected, conflict-of-interest-free SGCs) rather than the Site Plan content.
- Pointed out that BSEP's zero COLA for FY 2011 meant less money and more stress for school sites.
- Noted that while increased school enrollment had boosted the General Fund, it resulted in BSEP dollars having to be spread thinner.
- Stated that the administration was recommending that in all cases BSEP reserves be maintained to ensure sufficient funds for the life of the measure.

5. Report from the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee, Nancy Hoeffler
Hoeffler said the SBAC continued its task of trimming \$2.7 million from the 2010-11 budget. The Committee had approved staff-proposed cuts non-personnel. She acknowledged that the hard part would come in May when cuts to personnel, and possible lay-offs, would be discussed. She noted that although the BFT contract was officially "closed," three people, including her, had proposed that the BFT consider taking a 1% pay cut just as many other districts were doing to share the economic pain. Hoeffler indicated that pressure from the BFT membership could technically re-open the contract, especially if this action was instrumental in preserving jobs. She noted that she held out little hope for this happening and seeing the instigation of furlough days during non-instructional time as the most likely resolution.

Lindheim added that union members were usually heavily represented at the SBAC meetings and any discussion of pay cuts or furlough days elicited a very strong negative response from union leadership.

6. Recommendation for the expenditure of BSEP/Measure A Funds in FY 2011
Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services.

a. Professional Development

Smith distributed his revised Professional Development recommendation. He noted that there had been one change, the addition of a .40 FTE (out of 1.0 FTE) Teacher on Special Assignment to coordinate the K-8 Universal Learning Support System (ULSS) program. He said that a fresh programmatic review with teachers (regular and Special Ed), principals, and psychologists had pointed to the need for such a position, which would be co-funded by Title I and Title III.

MOTION CARRIED (Fischer/Glimme): To adopt the Recommendation for the Expenditure of BSEP Professional Development funds in 2010-11. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Technology, Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

Nitschke distributed the revised Technology recommendation, saying that except for the addition of modest funds for summer and illness tech support, the recommendation was the same as was presented two weeks ago.

MOTION CARRIED: (Kuderna/Glimme): To adopt the Recommendation for the Expenditure of BSEP Technology funds in 2010-11. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Recommendation for expenditure of Fund 6 Carryover Funds for Instructional Materials, Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Smith explained that although the previous BSEP Measure had had a fund for instructional material, or personnel who could help deliver those materials, the 2006 Measure A did not. Smith added that although no new revenue had been added to this fund since the expiration of Measure B of 1994 in 2006, \$334,000 remained in the account. He distributed his recommendation, proposing to use a portion of this money to fund the following four initiatives:

- **Teacher’s College Reading Program from Columbia University**
This program would be launched with a 4-day August training workshop for at least 150 K-5 teachers. Rather than relying on one textbook, this program, developed by Lucy Calkins, uses a large classroom library. Smith added that plans were in the works to ensure the program’s implementation and sustainability.
- **Welcoming Schools curriculum materials**
These materials are designed to promote an all-inclusive climate and to address diversity issues, especially those affecting lesbian, gay, transgender, bi-sexual children and their parents.
- **Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) middle school libraries**
AVID seeks to increase the number of students who enroll in a four-year college, targeting promising students whose parents have not attended college. Statistics showed 75% of AVID participants went on to graduate from a 4-year college. Smith said the program provides teacher training, and would enroll 20-25 students at each middle school next year.
- **Summer Bridge Program**
This program focuses on entering 9th graders at BHS, focusing on students who need extra support to succeed. Middle school counselors would nominate kids who had struggled in school but had also shown promise. Smith explained that the hope was that this extra support would motivate kids to envision success (and achieve it).

Discussion of aspects of AVD and the Summer Bridge Program ensued.

8. Recommendation for Expenditure of the BSEP/Measure A funds for the Visual and Performing Arts Programs (VAPA) in FY 2010-11

Fiona Hamer, BHS P&O Rep & Suzanne McCulloch, Supervisor, VAPA Program

Hamer said that, given VAPA’s substantial budget, the Subcommittee, which had been poorly attended to date, warranted more attention and members. After distributing the document, McCulloch reviewed the recommendation, which includes:

MUSIC PROGRAM

Music Program Staffing..... \$735,000

Musical Instruments and Instructional Materials.....	119,500
Mileage Reimbursement for Music Teachers.....	6,000
Music Professional Development.....	5,000

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

Professional Development & Workshops at 8 Arts Anchor Schools.....	\$91,500
Performing Arts Teachers for the Middle Schools.....	30,000

VAPA Instructional Materials

Providing middle school drama production materials.....	\$6,000
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ARTS OUTREACH

Making Learning Visible: Arts Bus & Performing Arts Showcase.....	\$5,800
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COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Berkeley Symphony, Cal Performances & Cazadero Performing Arts Camp.
\$10,600.

McCulloch noted the following highlights of the VAPA programs in 2010-11:

- BSEP funds would continue the 4-8 grade instrumental and choral music program and would also continue support for arts instruction and professional development in arts integration in the K-8 schools.
- BUSD is one of the few California districts that loans instruments to music students.
- Arts Anchor funding is available to schools where the staff is willing to undertake professional development in arts integration. The goal is to grow the number of arts anchor schools from 8 this year to 10 in 2010-11.
- BUSD’s student showcases include January visits by BHS students to middle schools, presenting samples of dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music/visual arts. Following that is “March IS Art Education Month,” which culminates in a grand concert by BUSD music students before a 2,000+ audience at the Berkeley Community Theatre.
- VAPA organizes partnerships with the Berkeley Symphony, Cal Performances & Cazadero Performing Arts Camp.

Discussion ensued, focused on the value of including a broad variety of genres in the VAPA dance and music programs, as supported by the work of Professor Mary Stone Hanley.

9. Recommendation for Expenditure of the BSEP/Measure A funds for the Library Program in FY 2010-11

Jean Day, BHS Parent & Becca Todd, District Library Coordinator

Jean Day acknowledged Berkeley voters’ generosity in making our libraries “stacked, stocked, and accessible.” After distributing the document, she reviewed highlights of the 2009-10 BUSD Library Program, which included:

- a. Cyber savvy lessons about internet safety, privacy, copyright, piracy, plagiarism, social networking, and prevention of cyber bullying.
- b. A “Book Bag Program” at all three pre-school sites.

- c. Author visits such as Annie Barrows (*Ivy and Bean*), Cory Doctorow, (*For the Win*), Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl (*Beautiful Creatures*).
- d. Identifying and publicizing titles that correlate to Everyday Math, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Recommended Literature, Welcoming Schools, and Writing Prompts.
- e. The addition of over 300 Spanish and bilingual books to the two-way immersion and bilingual school libraries in addition to the regular allocation.
- f. Students at John Muir, Willard, and Washington wrote poetry for Mrs. Dalloway's "Poem in your Pocket" program.

Saying that the recommended budget of \$1,661,400, was essentially the same as in 2009-10, Becca Todd reviewed the budgets for: Library Staffing, School Library Collections, Family Literacy, Information Literacy & Universal Access, Technology Hardware, Professional Development, and Central Library Office Expenses.

Todd noted that:

- To better prepare the kids for BHS, there had been an increased focus on the research process at the three middle schools.
- Library staff will soon submit a grant to fund additional materials at schools like Washington, which has a high number of EL students but is not a two-way immersion school.
- Two free worthy sources online included: Storyline Online by the screen actors guild <http://www.storylineonline.net> and International Children's Digital Library (ICDI) <http://en.childrenslibrary.org>.

10. Alternative Recommendation for expenditure of BSEP/Measure A funds for the Evaluation Program (BEA) in FY 2010-11, Juliet Bashore, Rosa Parks P&O Representative, R

Bashore began by distributing her recommendation for the expenditure of the \$474,500 BSEP Evaluation budget.

She highlighted the following points in her recommendations:

- She recommended reducing the cost of contracted services to \$50,000.
- She recommended reducing the Reserve for Personnel Variance to \$13,200.
- She noted that members of the Berkeley Alliance team had commented at the April 14, 2010 School Board meeting that without a Universal Data System they could not track student progress, evaluate interventions, or transfer data during student transition years.
- The key change she recommended was the addition of program evaluation staff at sites @ a cost of \$27,300. (Staffing would be up to the sites but teachers, acting as team leaders, and interns, doing data entry people, could be paid stipends.)

Discussion followed, with concern expressed that Bashore's recommended budget might prove insufficient to achieve optimum success. Bashore said that using interns, as the Santa Cruz schools had done, would give BUSD a bigger bang for its buck. Thyberg clarified that all monies for the Berkeley Evaluation Assessment department came solely from BSEP. She said monies used for any other purpose than BEA could

detract from the department's efforts and had to be used wisely. She added that sites may also use their site budgets to hire extra data evaluation services.

11. Additional Items for Discussion:

Lea Baechler-Brabo encouraged P&O members to watch key snippets of BUSD Board meetings on Vimeo.com. She added that the Public Information Subcommittee meeting would be scheduled shortly, and that the Public Info budget recommendation would soon be presented to the P&O. She welcomed feedback from the P&O as to how Public Information budget expenditures should be prioritized.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:35 p.m.