

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Berkeley Unified School District
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley CA 94704

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Roll Call 6:00pm

Members Present:

Karen Hemphill, President
Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Vice President
John T. Selawsky, Director /Clerk
Shirley Issel, Director
Nancy Riddle, Director
Valeria Gonzalez, Student Director

Administration: Superintendent William Huyett, Secretary
Javetta Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent
Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Lisa van Thillo, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

President Hemphill called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm

Report Closed Session Actions

Student Case No. 0910-24-050892

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously to uphold recommendation for suspended expulsion for this semester. Alcohol and drug counseling is mandated.

Student Case No. 0910-26-073093

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously to uphold recommendation for suspended expulsion for this semester and the following semester

The Board also discussed personnel matters:

Issel/Selawsky and approved possible reassignment of certificated employee

Issel/Selawsky and approved to accept recommendation for non-re-election of certificated teacher

Superintendent Huyett announced BHS Principal Jim Slempe's retirement. Mr. Slempe will be leaving at the end of this school year.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Riddle recused on Items 5.1-C and 5.2-C and Vice President Leyva-Cutler pulled Item 3.1-C for discussion

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously as revised

Recognition

Dru Howard and Beth Gerstein from Berkeley Arts Magnet were recognized for organizing a series of films and discussion on the topic of race

Teaching and Learning

Susan Hodge, Emerson Principal and staff discussed intervention

Public Testimony

- Several Boca youth requested monetary support for a trip to Washington DC on March 21 in support of comprehensive immigration reform
- Judy Appel commented on what the adoption of the Welcoming Schools curriculum means to her family
- Priscilla Myrick remarked on the summer school plan for eighth graders
- John Levy, student at Berkeley Adult and former adult school teacher discussed the state of Berkeley Adult School
- Robert Collier, co-chair, Berkeley Pools Committee asked the Board for its support and endorsement, individually and collectively
- Jennie Strauss lent her support for the Welcoming Schools curriculum
- Margo Reed of the Berkeley PTA Council came to add her endorsement for the Welcoming Schools curriculum
- Kriss Worthington, a Berkeley City Councilmember thanked the Board for its adoption of the Welcoming Schools Guide

Union Report

Paula Phillips represents most classified staff in the District. She asked that District staff meet more frequently with BCCE.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Riddle/Selawsky and approved unanimously to approve consent calendar as revised

ACTION ITEM

8:37 pm - Public Hearing - there were no comments from the public
Item 2.1-A - BFT and BUSD Joint Proposal

Close Public Hearing: 8:38 PM

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 3.2-I – Report on Special Education

Executive Director of Special Education, Kay Altizer, presented a six-month status report that included existing due process and other legal issues, compliance complaints, verification review corrective actions, non-public school services and establishment of good departmental management systems

Board Members' Reports

Director Issel, Superintendent Huyett and President Hemphill attended the Berkeley Scholars event this week. This ten-year old program identifies high potential African American and Latino students while in elementary schools and follows them throughout their school career to support their getting in UC Berkeley. African American students' PSAT scores were outstanding.

Director Selawsky congratulated Principal Slep on his retirement and noted his valuable contribution that resulted in the high school receiving a six-year accreditation from WASC. He also noted his success in bringing the IB program to BHS. He announced that March is Arts Education month, adding that the middle school art exhibit will run the entire month of March. He also announced that there is a March 21 performing arts showcase at the Berkeley Community theatre from 1 to 3 pm.

Director Riddle thanked all who participated in DEAR Day (Drop Everything and Read). She remarked that California is not one of the "Race to the Top" recipients. The District did not apply for these funds for a variety of reasons. She also wished Principal Slep a happy retirement.

Vice President Leyva- Cutler acknowledged the BOCA students who spoke during public testimony about their interest in attending an immigration rally in Washington DC. She encouraged everyone to consider donating funds for their trip. She also said that there is a Resolution commemorating a month long tribute to Cesar Chavez that will be on the next agenda. Finally, she noted Principal Slep's contribution to Berkeley High and to the community.

President Hemphill announced that there will be a live auction on March 14 at 5:00 pm. This auction benefits the Berkeley High School Development Group. On Friday, March 12, VUKANI MAWETHU People Arise!, an African choir that sings freedom songs will perform at the BHS Little Theatre.

Superintendents' Report

Superintendent Huyett also remarked on the inspiring Cal Scholars event. He advised that ACSA is having their annual lobbying event next Monday in Sacramento. This event urges lawmakers not to cut school resources. He talked about the 2020 recommendation that will come forward on March 24. This is a joint meeting between the City and the District. He touched briefly on the budget reductions that will also be reviewed on March 24. The District is facing about \$2.7 million in cuts.

Item 3.1-C – Summer School Plan

Riddle/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously to accept Summer School Plan

Item 4.1-A – Certification of Second Interim Report

Riddle/Leyva-Cutler and approved unanimously to accept Second Interim

Information Items

Item 3.1-I – School Accountability Report Cards

Item 4.1-I – Staff Proposed Budget Reductions

Item 5.1-I – BB Financial Update Report

All items received as information

President HEMPHILL adjourned the meeting at 11:12 pm

John T. Selawsky, Clerk
Board of Education

