

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
November 1, 2011, 4:00 – 5:30 PM BHS room C213
Minutes**

In Attendance

Who	Role	E-mail address
Matt Carton	ACAC Chair, Teacher Coordinator, AC House Leader	mattcarton@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bsanoff@berkeley.net
Angela Dean	Teacher rep, Liaison to AC Professional Development	angeladean@berkeley.net
Philippe Henri	Teacher rep	phenri@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Lawrence Grown	Parent Coordinator	lawrence@metrolighting.com
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@yahoo.com
Mary Engle	Parent rep, Student Leadership, Teacher Liaison	maryengle@verizon.net
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	AC Parent Leadership Committee, ACAC Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Lenore Goldman	Parent alternate: Organizational Development	goldmanl@earthlink.net
Valerie Gutwirth	Guest - parent	valerie@gutwirth.com
Jeremy Thorner	Guest - parent	jthorner@berkeley.edu

Next ACAC Meetings

The next ACAC meeting will be Tuesday December 13 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM in BHS room C213. Francesca Verdier will be out of town, so Mary Engle volunteered to take notes at this meeting.

Action Item: Matt Carton to announce the dates of ACAC meetings January – May 2012.

Communications

.Please use the ACAC-BHS group at Yahoo: to post a message send an email to ACAC-BHS@yahoo.com.

Lawrence Grown and Francesca Verdier volunteered to manage the membership of this group.

Ben Sanoff brought up the topic of keeping the AC website up-to-date. He said that a new website has been developed for BHS based on WordPress, an easy to use publishing platform. Matthew Albinson, the Technology Coordinator, is in charge of this project. It is not clear who will be given editing privileges, but Ben proposed that AC develop a new subsite as part of the new BHS website.

Action Item: Ben Sanoff to see if any AC students are available to work on a new AC website.

Action Item: Jeremy Thorner to contact the current AC webmaster, Craig Harper, to see if he is interested in transitioning the current AC website to WordPress on the new BHS website.

Budget Report

Olga Volodina presented a summary of the ACAC budget from 2007/2008 to the present. Of note:

- Individual and business contributions have gone down from \$47,451.54 in 2008/2009 to \$29,291.05 last year. Donations to date for 2011/2012 have been \$16,999.08.
- In 2007/2008 ACAC contributed about \$6,000 to develop materials for the 9th/10th grade January Social Living unit (which includes health education). Are any ACAC funds needed for Social Living this year (note: Social Living also gets funding support from BUSD)? **Action Item:** Matt Carton to see if speaker fees will be necessary for this year's January unit. He will also announce the Social Living coordinator at the next ACAC meeting.
- \$500 allocated in this year's budget for providing food at AC teacher meetings and other teacher appreciation events. **Action Item:** Angela Dean to coordinate with Parent Staff Meeting Food Organizer Naomi Janowitz for Professional Development breakfasts. **Action Item:** Lawrence Grown and Matt Carton to coordinate a "Springtacular" teacher appreciation brunch in March for all AC teachers and families (this replaces the 9th/10th grade potluck).
- \$5,000 allocated for the AC Commencement. Unanimous approval to use \$4,000 of this for sashes, which will be given to all seniors this year (rather than asking them to pay).
- \$4,000 allocated for history readers. All freshmen and sophomores write history papers and each student gets assigned a UC Berkeley reader who makes suggestions on their draft and final papers. The usefulness of these readers have varied in the past; the successful ones have been for classes where the teacher has trained them in advance. Matt Carton said that with the new house structure there will be more accountability for the effectiveness of the readers and that all history classes will use them.

A number of categories don't have money allocated to them yet this year (classroom support, English writing tutors, staff development, technology investments, at risk student support). Olga would like some of these categories filled in before the November 16 AC general meeting. **Action Item:** Matt Carton to query the AC teachers for their funding needs and report back to Olga as well as at the next ACAC meeting.

The \$200 per teacher grant available from the Development Group was also discussed. Although the form needed for this is simple to fill out, it may be that many teachers find the process too cumbersome to bother trying. Matt, Ben and Angela may want to remind teachers of this money at a future staff meeting, and perhaps bring forms to the meeting.

Graphing Calculators

Angela Dean reported that there are about 700 AC students in math classes that require graphing calculators. Of these she estimates that about 60 are on the free/reduced lunch program. Used graphing calculators cost about \$50. A vote to allocate \$3,000 in ACAC funds to purchase 50 calculators for the remainder of this year was unanimously approved. Furthermore, it was decided that these calculators should be given (not lent) to students. At the next meeting we should see if someone volunteers to front the money to but the calculators.

Agenda for November 16 AC General Meeting

Lenore Goldman proposed that the meeting consist of three stages:

1. introductions and an interactive activity at each table
2. presentations from AC staff and ACAC
3. focus groups to generate ideas/actions for specific topics

There was not enough time to develop the agenda so a subcommittee will meet on Tuesday November 8 from 4 to 5 PM in C213 to establish the agenda: Matt Carton, Lawrence Grown, Angela Dean, Mary Engle, Francesca Verdier. Others are welcome to attend if they wish.