

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
March 20, 2012, 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
Alex Angel	Teacher rep, Liaison to School Site Council	alexangell@berkeley.net
Philippe Henri	Teacher rep	phenri@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
Julian Ludewigt	Student rep	juludewigt@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	AC Parent Leadership Committee, ACAC Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Randi Boorstein	AC Parent Leadership Committee, Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Evan Layefsky	Student – AC Mentor	evlayefsky@gmail.com
Cooper Walton	Student – AC Mentor	minicooper23@gmail.com
Beth Gerstein	Guest - parent	beth-gerstein@comcast.net

Public Comments

(1) AC parent Susan Payne had emailed in a question about AC organizing college tours:

I have seen that several other schools within BHS offer their students trips to colleges – college visits, where the organization and execution of the trip is arranged by BHS and not individually by parents. As in my case, not all parents will be able to

visit colleges with their students on their own, and I wonder if this is something AC could arrange to do. This year, I have heard of trips arranged by both BIHS and AHA, plus one other (perhaps CAS but I don't 100% remember).

- Do you know who at AC might be able to arrange this?
- If it's not someone at AC specifically, how are these trips arranged and how can my daughter attend one?
- Is there a more centralized BHS committee that arranges these, and can they add AC to the program?

Skyler Barton from the College Career Center reported that AHA Counselor Teri Goodman organizes the trips for AHA. Angela Price (also from the College Career Center) reported that these trips are organized by the guidance counselors and lead teachers of each school. The main guidance counselors for AC are Brenda Kittagawa, and Anthony Smith.

Matt Carton said that IB Coordinator Ross Parker does this for BIHS.

This would require a lot of planning and participation by parents (trips require one adult per 10 kids). The group thought it would be a good idea to try to make this happen next year.

Action items:

- Francesca Verdier to put AC College Tours on the April ACAC agenda
- Matt Carton to ask AC counselors to attend

(2) Matt Carton reported that BHS would receive a good WASC report. The WASC committee will report their findings – areas of strength and areas that need growth – on March 21 in the BHS library. (WASC is the accreditation commission.)

AC Mentoring

Evan Layefsy, an AC Mentor Leader, reported that this program trains student mentors to go into freshman classes once a month and conduct team building and communications exercises. To build group synergy they are also designing t-shirts with an AHA student.

Evan also passed out a description of an upcoming activity that helps students realize they are connected in their experiences and to build awareness of each other.

Matt Carton recommended that mentors show incoming students around during the AC back-to-school picnic.

Writing Tutors

Barbara Anscher reported that 12 parents were trained to be writing tutors. Their services were offered to all 9th and 10th grade English teachers. Only one requested assistance, but the timing didn't work out. So these tutors have not been used. It seems that this program is not viable. There is much better success with Writer Coach Connection, a program that trains and provides tutors as well as classroom materials, and does all the necessary coordination. Barbara and Matt would like to pilot using Writer Coach Connection for Matt's freshman class next year, or maybe even use it for more freshman classes.

Randi Boorstein recommended applying to the Development Group for funds for this.

Action item:

- Matt and Barbara to decide how far to go with Writer Coach Connection and propose a budget for this.

UC History Readers

Alex Angell reported that the UC readers read the first and final drafts of student's history research papers in 9th and 10th grades. Olga Volodina is helping to coordinate. They will be used from the last week of April through the first week of June. They have all the resumes and will hire 5. The hope is that all 9th and 10th grade history teachers will use them this year.

Alex would like to use UC readers for AP US history – this would cost about \$4,000 - \$5,000. Expenditure approved unanimously.

Matt would like to use them for AP Lit. This was also unanimously approved.

Maybe next year someone could volunteer to apply for BSEP funds for this.

Action Item:

- Alex and Matt to assess costs and sent email to ACAC with final amounts.

AC Spring Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday May 23rd from 7-8:30pm in the BHS Library. There will be parent elections on ACAC, programmatic presentations by teachers and administrators, and sign-ups for parent volunteering. We can also present the new AC website and the History department curriculum. What feedback do we want to solicit from parents?

How about presenting information on course selection? This would be better earlier in the year – in March when students sign up for courses. IBHS has course info nights – separate ones for 9th, 10th and 11th grade parents. AC should have a course selection night next year.

Will fine tune the agenda at the April ACAC meeting.

Action item:

- Matt to find out who wants to present what.

ACAC Finances

Olga Volodina presented the monthly inflow of donations to ACAC. We have received \$38,198.81 since January (compared with %33,203.05 for all of last year).

Action item:

- Francesca to put ACAC Budget on the April agenda for 20 minutes at the start.

AC Bullets for BHS Website

Ben Sanoff could not make the meeting due to WASC obligations. Matt Carton to send the bullets.

New AC Website Update

Postponed to April meeting.

Need for AC e-tree and ACAC-BHS Email List

Majority opinion was to keep it and a vehicle for AC identity and communication. Also changing our ACAC-BHS@yahoogroups.com list to allow attachments was unanimously approved (Francesca implemented this after the meeting).

Other Items

Matt reported that the chrome books and cart will arrive after the spring break. The calculators are here and can be given to students who need them via the textbook room.

Matt would like parents to know that it's important for their children to take the California Standards Tests – since it is used to compute the Academic Performance Index (API). In years prior to 2010 the participation rate was too low for BHS to receive an API.

Action item:

- Matt to draft an etree message urging the AC community to take the CST in order to improve our API score.

Next ACAC Meeting

Tuesday April 17, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in BHS room C213.

Approval of February 2012 ACAC minutes

Minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.