

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting  
September 7, 2012, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C213  
Minutes**

**In Attendance**

<b>Who</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
<b>Matt Carton</b>	ACAC Chair, Teacher Coordinator, AC House Leader	mattcarton@berkeley.net
<b>Ben Sanoff</b>	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bensanoff@berkeley.net
<b>David Borrelli</b>	English Teacher	davidborrelli@berkeley.net
<b>Vernon Walton</b>	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
<b>Barbara Anscher</b>	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
<b>Susanna Moore</b>	Parent rep	susannamoore@gmail.com
<b>Francesca Verdier</b>	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
<b>Olga Volodina</b>	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
<b>Randi Boorstein</b>	AC Parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
<b>Chuck Fanning</b>	AC Parent	
<b>Peter Geraghty</b>	AC Parent	
<b>Zaretta Hammond</b>	AC Parent	zlhammond@aol.com
<b>Lisa Hubbell</b>	AC Parent	
<b>Heather Loucks</b>	AC Parent	
<b>Daniel Marcus</b>	AC Parent	danielmarcus@yahoo.com
<b>Laurie Zimet</b>	AC Parent	
<b>Laurette Gennis</b>	Guest	

## **Funding for Field Trip to see Elektra at ACT in San Francisco**

English teacher David Borrelli requested funds for his 163 students to attend Elektra at ACT in San Francisco in November. This breaks down to \$1,255.10 for BART transportation (\$7.70 round trip per student) and \$2,445 for the play (\$15 per student). 38 of the 163 students have free or reduced lunches.

ACAC had budgeted \$3,000 for classroom support for the 2012/13 school year. This proposal goes over this budget. Unanimous decision of those present to apply \$2,000 to this trip. We did not have a quorum however, (since there were no students at the meeting) so we will need to get at least one student vote by email.

## **Invoices for AC Graduation and AP Teacher Training**

Vernon Walton stated that the BUSD district had not approved payment for the AC Graduation room rental (although it did pay for other small schools – this needs to be looked into as an equity issue) for the past two years. ACAC will pay – about \$1,600. Vernon to send invoices to Olga Volodina.

Vernon also requested ACAC funds to pay for two AP training conferences for new AP teachers – about \$1,500. This was approved last June so Vernon will send invoices to Olga for reimbursement.

## **Writer Coach Connection (WCC) Updates**

ACAC would like to fund WCC for all freshman English classes, but doesn't have the required \$40,000 budget for this. Also, WCC has indicated that they may not be able to recruit enough volunteers. ACAC has, however, approved \$20,000 for this if a matching \$20,000 can be found elsewhere. A proposal to the Development Group for the additional \$20,000 was discussed at their September 4 meeting. The recommendation from both BHS principal Pasqual Scuderi and the Development Group was to instead do a pilot program and measure its impact, conducting a pilot program in 2 9<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. But is this equitable? Also, there is already a lot of data to support the success of this program, both in the BHS small schools, and at the middle school level.

Pasqual would like effectiveness data associated with WCC – specifically the impact WCC has (or doesn't have) on improving scores of Freshmen's proficiency in English as measured by the California Standards Test (CST). **Action item:** Vernon Walton to collect this information to compare freshman classes that have had WCC with those that haven't

We did not have enough time to discuss this issue thoroughly. **Action item:** Francesca to set up another meeting in September to discuss more in depth and to prepare for another proposal to the Development Group in October.

## **New AC Website**

The new AC website is at <http://bhsac.com/>. It replaces <http://www.bhsacademicchoice.com/> (which is still live). Please compare these two sites and send an email to Ben ([bensanoff@berkeley.net](mailto:bensanoff@berkeley.net)) and Francesca ([francesca.verdier@gmail.com](mailto:francesca.verdier@gmail.com)) with your suggestions for additions/improvements. Ben reported that he will get AC students and teachers involved in adding content to the new site. One goal is to show what is happening in AC classrooms.

## **Review of Academic Choice Team Bylaws**

Today's goal was to review the proposed changes that were postponed from the June 2012 ACAC meeting.

### **Proposal to change:**

#### IV. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Also, parent members will elect the Parent Coordinator and four members of the Parent Leadership Committee for the following school year. These five elected members will serve as parent/guardian representatives of the Academic Choice Advisory Council.

#### Proposed change:

Also, parent members will elect five AC parents as parent/guardian representatives of the Academic Choice Advisory Council. If sufficient votes are not obtained at the Spring meeting a further vote will be taken at the Fall meeting.

#### Resolution:

Passed unanimously.

### **Proposal to change:**

#### IV. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7. A vote of the membership requires a quorum of 30 members at a properly called membership meeting.

#### Proposed change:

7. A vote of the membership requires a quorum of 20 members at a properly called membership meeting.

#### Resolution:

To be reviewed again after the Fall meeting.

### **Proposal to change:**

## VI. ACADEMIC CHOICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. The ACAC will elect, from its members, a Chairperson (or co-chairs), a Secretary and a Treasurer.

### Proposed change:

3. The ACAC will elect, from its members, a Chairperson (or co-chairs), a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Parent Coordinator, and a Student Support Coordinator.

### Resolution:

Passed unanimously.

The bylaws concerning student members will be reviewed at a later date. **Action item:** Matt Carton and Benn Sanoff need to propose how students participate on the ACAC in time for a proposal that can be voted on at the Fall AC meeting (scheduled for Nov. 14).

### **Summary of ACAC Fiscal Activity**

Olga Volodina handed out a spreadsheet of the current state of affairs for the ACAC budget. At this time ACAC has a balance of \$52,909.86 with a proposed budget for the 2012/13 school year of \$50,750.

### **AC Team Fall Meeting**

The proposed date is Wed Nov 14 from 7-9 PM. **Action item:** Vernon to check that the library is free at this time and to reserve it if free. If not free to let ACAC know. Also, Vernon will request a Spanish translator from the Parent Resource center. We will discuss the topics for the Fall meeting at the October ACAC meeting.

### **Goals for ACAC This Year**

The topic to discuss "Reflect on what worked well and less well last year, what was not worth the time we put in, what was worth the time, were there important topics we did not address? What are our goals for this year?" was postponed to the October meeting.

### **Cal Tutors for World History Courses**

Ben Sanoff reported the success of using Cal tutors in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade World History classes – they met with students who needed encouragement to take the AP World History exams. BFEP paid for this last year; Ben may be requesting funds from ACAC this year.

### **Next ACAC Meeting**

Friday October 5 2012, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C213.

**Approval of June 2012 ACAC minutes**

Matt Carton approved the minutes of the June 2012 ACAC meeting.