

**5/1/15 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting**  
**May 1, 2015, 7:30-8:35 AM Berkeley High School Conference Room D**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

| <b>Who</b>        | <b>Role</b>                             | <b>E-mail address</b>          |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Tim Zolezzi       | AC Co-Chair and AC Lead History Teacher | timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net    |
| Jane Adams        | AC Parent                               | jane006@pacbell.net            |
| Sam Arriola       | AC Webmaster                            | sarriola@gmail.com             |
| Catherine Ference | AC Parent                               | candsfer@gmail.com             |
| Rahki Rao         | ACAC Treasurer                          | rakhirao@gmail.com             |
| Johanna Reneke    | ACAC Parent Rep at Large                | j.reneke@gmail.com             |
| Christine Staples | AC Parent                               | Christineannestaples@gmail.com |
| Donna Storey      | ACAC Secretary                          | donnageorgestorey@gmail.com    |
| Jeremy Thorner    | ACAC Student Support Coordinator        | jthorner@berkeley.edu          |
| Deborah Thompson  | AC Parent                               |                                |

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report and Fundraising**

ACAC Treasurer Rakhi Rao presented the latest Statement of Activities from April 1. Currently the ACAC has a balance of \$8269.

Donna Storey asked that we establish our budget priorities for 2015-2016 at the June ACAC meeting. Mr. Zolezzi said that the only absolutely necessary expenditures were for the Welcome Back Picnic in August and the graduation stoles and picnic in June.

The summer fundraising letter campaign was discussed. Ms. Rao said it is important to have a pre-stamped return envelope in the mailing. Mr. Zolezzi suggested we humanize the letter with photos and provide an overview with a pie chart for the money we would like to spend next year. Ideally we will send out the letters by August

15 to catch families while they are still excited about the new school year. It is also important to make it clear that ACAC is different from the Berkeley High Development Group, which provides funds for the entire school. Since the BHSDG will not support staff positions, we should make it clear that ACAC is supporting the people who do the job.

Catherine Ference said that the Fall General Meeting is the best time to ask for donations from parents and that it would be better to introduce the topic near the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end when parents are ready to leave. She offered to give the ACAC financial support talk at the Fall 2015 General Meeting.

### **AC Student Support Coordinator Position**

Mr. Zolezzi reported on the current situation for Mr. Borrelli's AC Student Support Coordinator position. Two years ago Ben Sanoff created a .6FTE position with funds from a University of California Chancellor's Grant, money from Principal Scuderi and money from the ACAC. The grant expired, the school did not continue to fund the project, and the ACAC no longer has adequate funds. Current principal Kristin Glenchur has given Mr. Borrelli funds to develop curriculum over this summer.

The AC team leads would like the ACAC to contribute \$10,000 or .2FTE for the position for next year. We do not have the funds to cover it at the current time, but will try to fundraise to pay for the position. Christine Staples suggested he approach the Berkeley Public Education Foundation as a source of funding. Mr. Zolezzi said he would look into it.

### **General AC Spring Parent Feedback Night on April 21, 2015**

The AC Spring General Meeting was held on April 21 at 6:30 in the College Career Center. Mr. Zolezzi asked parents who attended for their opinions of the event. Ms. Staples said that the most valuable part for her was talking with teachers after the official program was over and getting their opinions. She suggested that we build this into the ACAC meetings. Mr. Zolezzi said that there is a public comment and discussion portion at every meeting and we should encourage parents to come.

Ms. Storey asked if there was going to be a way for parents who couldn't attend the meeting to give their feedback online. Mr. Zolezzi said he would discuss this with the AC webmaster, Sam Arriola. Mr. Arriola will look into creating a SurveyMonkey survey for parents to use to provide feedback.

Ms. Ference said she would have preferred to have more information about the AP program choices before she was asked to give feedback. She suggested passing out a handout outlining the options. She also said that typing comments into the Google Doc was not particularly successful.

### **Plans for AC Welcome Back Picnic in August**

Ms. Storey asked that we think about setting a date for the AC Welcome Back Picnic in August. It was decided that Sunday August 30 would be a good date. Since VP Nube was not present, Ms. Storey offered to contact him. He later informed her that Principal Glenchur had decided to hold a school-wide Welcome Back event on Saturday, August

29 from 11-1. After a general assembly in the Community Theatre, the parents would separate into small learning communities for a pot-luck lunch.

Ms. Ference offered to send out information about the picnic to the middle school e-trees.

### **Proposal to Use BHSDG Model for ACAC Funding Requests**

Mr. Zolezzi said he and VP Nube will present a finalized AC-specific application form at our June meeting.

### **Revitalization of AC E-tree**

Ms. Ference has volunteered to take over the AC e-tree and try to build a feeling of community. She asked if it would be a good idea to use MailChimp instead of the listserv-style method of the BHS e-tree. MailChimp allows you to use graphics and will create a more appealing message.

Ms. Ference said we'll need to encourage people to sign up. Ms. Storey suggested the AC e-tree be mentioned in the summer fundraiser mailing. Mr. Zolezzi said he could have students sign up in class at the beginning of the year and send a link to their parents.

Ms. Staples thought that a monthly bulletin with teacher profiles, reports on new developments in AC, and news about music since many music students are in AC would help get attention for the AC e-tree. Fundraising appeals could also be included. Mr. Thorner added that having teacher bios on the website would be a good addition.

### **Requests for Funding for AC Teachers' Programs**

Mr. Zolezzi asked the ACAC to consider funding two events for teachers. The first is an end-of-the-school-year breakfast for AC teachers. The cost would be \$100.

The other program would be for an off-site retreat for AC teachers. Currently AC is the only small learning community that does not hold a retreat for its teachers before the school year begins. Next year there will be two to three new AC teachers. The estimated cost is \$1200. Mr. Thorner offered to try to book a conference room at UC Berkeley for the teachers. Ms. Staples said that Iceland has a free conference room.

### **Next ACAC Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Friday, June 5, 2015, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS Conference Room B in the D Building.