



ACAC (Academic Choice Advisory Council) Meeting Minutes – 05/06/10

In Attendance

Name	Titles	eMail Address
Jim Slemph	BHS Principal	jim_slemph@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Maggie Heredia-Peltz	BHS Vice Principal, AC Administrator	mhp@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Sherene Randle	ACAC, AC Co-Lead Teacher, English	Sherene_Randle@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Amanda Green	ACAC, AC Co-Lead Teacher, English	agreen@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Evy Kavaler	Teacher, Science Department Lead	ekavaler@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Alex Angell	Parent, and AC Teacher of History	alex_angell@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Karen Meryash	Parent, ACAC Student Support, Events	kspivey@ix.netcom.com
Kate Spohr	Parent, ACAC Parent Coordinator, Website	kspohr@berkeley.edu
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Roia Ferrazares	Parent, ACAC Treasurer	roia@sbcglobal.net

LEAD TEACHERS

Next year's lead teacher will be Jose Colon. A co-lead may be recruited soon. ACAC Parent leadership and the all 4 lead teachers will meet to aid transition. AC is forming alliances with BIHS, ELL, and World Languages to work together on the revised SSC.

STUDENT ELECTIONS

Chris Young has done a tremendous job setting up the structure and printing election materials. AC History teachers have done a tremendous job inspiring candidates, supporting the electoral process, and taking their classes to vote, modeling civic duty, the convention is tomorrow. 14 candidates are on the ballot for BSEP. 5 of them are from AC. 17 candidates are on the ballot for SGC. 6 of them are from AC. There are no current applications for the 7 AC House of Schools reps, but those may be pulled from the above candidates, leadership, and further outreach through history teachers, etree, etc.

PARENT ELECTIONS

With many parent leaders graduating, and the revised structure of the SSC calling for 7 parent reps, we need to increase promotion of parent leadership positions. This will be done through the etree, and at the AC General Meeting on May 26th.

LOTTERY / MASTER SCHEDULE

The lottery will be run next Wednesday 5/12. The master schedule has been delayed for various reasons. (bell schedule, budget shotrfalls, etc) The benefit is that the master schedule and FTE allotments will be based on actual student numbers. Small schools have been asked to increase their 9th grade numbers, some have refused. BIHS has increased its percentage of 1st choice designations on preference forms. AC and BIHS will be within 100 students in the 9th grade class.

In the meantime, a mock schedule will be organized by lead teachers to tentatively assign courses, allowing teachers to continue with curriculum alignment.

“WELCOME TO AC” LETTER

BHS administration will mail a packet to all new AC families next week. This mailing will include a welcome letter which will include information about the AC General Meeting, joining the etree, student support, communication preferenced, and the AC summer BBQ. Kate will follow up and send Maggie/Amanda information to include in the letter.

AC BBQ

The first day of school will be Sept. 1st. The summer AC BBQ will be on Sunday August 29th. The new Parent Leadership team will work out the logistics.

BUDGET CUTS

With budget cuts, furlough days are being discussed. 2 all-day PD days in the Fall are in jeopardy. Teachers prefer these furlough days to fall around Thanksgiving. Fewer person hours will be available for facilities management so scheduling meetings and events may be more difficult. More bad news to come.

BHS REDESIGN

In November, the school board approved the possible changing of the BHS bell schedule to accommodate an advisory program.

ADVISORY

The current proposal is to have advisory next year for 38 minutes on Friday mornings, 8 times (approx. once per month.) A late start schedule would follow: shorter periods 1-6. Each credentialed staff member would lead a class of approx. 23 students of one grade level, pulled mostly from students in their current class roles.

BELL SCHEDULE

A proposed bell schedule would put lunch after 4th period, with a 14 minute nutrition break between 2nd and 3rd periods. AC teachers have already expressed their non-approval of this plan. After AC teachers had to leave for another meeting, Principal Slemp led a discussion with parent leadership regarding concerns over the proposed bell schedule.

Truancy-the campus **will** be closed.

Lack of structure, tardiness-the bells **will** ring.

Budget-Federal money for the universal breakfast program **will** be extended to cover the costs of the nutrition break.

Security-current security officers know they will be on alert and must step up security.

Community impact-on late start days, the community adjusts their lunch schedules. They will learn to do the same for BHS's later lunch.

Dispurement-currently 3 extra food carts are planned to be dispersed, more can be ordered if there is demand, food staff is excited about serving more students.

Time- 14 minutes, 6 of them passing minutes, leaves 8 minutes for all students to get to a cart, wait in line, receive their snack, and eat it. This seems impossible. Mr. Slemp acknowledged that this will need to be evaluated.

Student health impact- It is acknowledged that if students do not have a snack between 2 and 3, they may be unable to function fully during 4th period. There is a high potential to have a large negative impact on a large percentage of students. So it is of utmost importance that students participate in the snack break.

Advantages- Some SLCs may choose to block courses in the 2nd -3rd periods.

Disadvantages- Many SLCs may wish not to block 2-3. All SLCs must leave room in student schedules for PE and world languages, which are single period classes. Student health, as above.

Commentary-SLCs could block 1-2 and 5-6 without a change in bell schedule. 3 and 4 could also be linked with lunch in the middle. There seems to be much more risk for damage than potential for gain by changing the bell schedule as proposed.

EVENTS, MEETINGS

May 10, Revisions to SSC Bylaws, BHS Library 4pm
May 26, AC General Meeting, BHS Library 7-8:30pm

Next ACAC Meeting Scheduled for 6/03/10 7:30am Conf. Rm B. (is this correct?)