



**ACAC (Academic Choice Advisory Council) Meeting Minutes – 11/21/08**

**In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>eMail Address</b>
Maggie Heredia-Peltz	BHS Vice Principal, AC Administrator	<a href="mailto:mph@berkeley.k12.ca.us">mph@berkeley.k12.ca.us</a>
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Janet Delaney	Parent, ACAC Events	<a href="mailto:janet@janetdelaney.com">janet@janetdelaney.com</a>
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David Bye	Teacher, AP English, Short Story	<a href="mailto:mrdbye@aol.com">mrdbye@aol.com</a>
Ann Callegari	Parent	<a href="mailto:ann_callegari@berkeley.k12.ca.us">ann_callegari@berkeley.k12.ca.us</a>

**SPECIAL MEETING:  
COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE DESIGN TEAM PROPOSAL**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Principal Slemp presented the plan to the school board on 11/19/08  
 The board asked tough questions, Karen Hemphill possibly the most critical.  
 Board’s primary concerns:  
 Reduction in subject specific minutes by 22%, (actually 26%)  
 Un-structured time for 700-800 students each period.

They want to see a very specific structure of where the students will be,  
 what they will be doing, who will be supervising...

**ACAC CONCERNS**

At-Risk students may be less successful in longer periods  
 Student Support-the current plan took years to put together.

Teachers are available after school.

It is unclear who will provide student support in the new plan.

SSCA periods: Who, What, Where...

Reduced instructional minutes.

Technical problems of scheduling, which is difficult enough as it is.

**POSITIVE POINTS**

The current day is not sustainable, students are drowning,  
they are overwhelmed, overworked, stressed and less able to focus.  
Berkeley Middle Schools have a modified block schedule already.  
The transition was difficult, but now it is well liked and successful.  
Sherene Randle is helping to write the advisory curriculum,  
it is sure to be academic and rigorous.

### **COMMUNICATION**

We want to communicate clearly with the parent community:  
Summarize the plan in neutral language.  
Explain the process, the forum dates, how to get informed.  
Funnel their questions to the forums.  
2 parent forums Monday 11/24 7-8:30pm in the BHS Library,  
and Tuesday 12/02 7-8:30pm at St. Joseph The Worker Church.  
12/09 School Governance Council day-long meeting,  
Public comment period from 8-8:30am.  
School Board Meeting on 12/??/08

Pre-recorded messages are planned to the parent body about the forums,  
in Spanish to Latino families.  
A limited phone tree will be called.  
At St. Joseph's, the plan will be presented in English by Principal Jim Slemp  
and in Spanish by Vice Principal Maggie Heredia-Peltz.

*Next ACAC Meeting Scheduled for 12/05/08*