

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES, SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 29, 2002
District Administrative Offices
Board Meeting Room
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

ADOPTED MINUTES
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CALL TO ORDER

President Shirley Issel called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6 p.m.

BOARD ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Shirley Issel
Vice President Joaquin J. Rivera
Director Terry S. Doran
Director Ted Schultz
Director John T. Selawsky
Student Director Sarena M. Chandler*

Administration Superintendent Michele Lawrence, Secretary

Prior to Closed Session, as necessary, staff/employee comments are taken per Government Code Section 54957

No one addressed the Board at this time.

Recess to Closed Session (Government Code Sections 3549.1(d), 54956.9(a) and 54957) and Education Code Section 48918(c)

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation
- b) Consideration of Student Expulsion
- c) Collective Bargaining
- d) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- e) Public Employment and Appointments
- f) Liability Claims
- g) Property Acquisition

*The Student Director does not attend Closed Session.

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. and reconvened in Public Session at 7:43 p.m.

BOARD ROLL CALL President Shirley Issel
 Vice President Joaquin J. Rivera
 Director Terry S. Doran
 Director Ted Schultz
 Director John T. Selawsky
 Student Director Sarena Chandler

All Board Members were present.

Report Closed Session Action

President Issel said that the Board discussed the following items in Closed Session:

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation
- c) Collective Bargaining
- d) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- e) Public Employment and Appointments
- f) Liability Claims

Approve Agenda

Motion: Directors Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:

That the agenda is approved as amended. The amendments are that items 2.1-C: Acceptance of Personnel Report and 4.1-A are revised. That item 4.1-C: Award of Jefferson School's Modernization Contract, is pulled.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Nine people addressed the Board on various topics.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lawrence said that no decisions have been made regarding the Independent Study Program. She reported that the Independent Study Program has a deficit of \$50,000-\$100,000 and currently is not making money. She announced that the position of Principal of the Berkeley Alternative High School has been restored. Superintendent Lawrence gave an update regarding the Berkeley High School principalship. She reiterated that the teacher layoffs were done strictly by seniority and according to the Education Code.

UNION REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Mr. Barry Fike, President, Berkeley Federation of Teachers, addressed the Board regarding teacher layoffs.

Ms. Stephanie Allan, Local 39, discussed the reduction in hours and service of some classified employees in the Food Services Department.

ADVISORY COUNCILS' REPORTS

Mr. Derick Miller, President, PTA Council, addressed the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Student Director Chandler gave an update regarding activities at Berkeley High School.

Director Doran congratulated the Berkeley High School baseball team on their semifinal win.

Director Selawsky thanked everyone, including the Board Members, for all of their time and effort during this school year.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion: Directors Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:

That the Consent Items are approved as amended.

- 2.1-C: Acceptance of Personnel Report (as revised)
- 3.1-C: Out-of-State Travel Request
- 3.2-C: 2001-2002 Career Technical Education Professional Development Application
- 3.3-C: Submission for California Department of Education LEAF Grant
- 4.1-C: Award of Jefferson School's Modernization Contract

This item was pulled.

ACTION ITEMS

General Services

1.1-A
BSEP Public Information Budget for FY 2003

Ms. Nancy Riddle, Co-Chair, BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee, thanked the Berkeley community for the BSEP Measure and reviewed the purpose of BSEP and explained the planning, communication and oversight role of the Planning and Oversight Committee. She then introduced Ms. Mary Reiter, Mr. Harry Wiener and Mr. Dan Lindeheim, representatives from the BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee. These representatives explained the BSEP Educational Materials Fund and made recommendations regarding the Public Information and Class Size Reduction Funds. Mr. Lindheim requested that, when the ADA (average daily attendance) information becomes available regarding interdistrict transfers, that the Board look at the impact this has on BSEP.

There was extensive discussion between the Board and BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee representatives regarding changing the name of the Public Information Officer to Community Relations Officer. Ms. Riddle explained that the name change would reinforce the concept that the Public Information Officer focuses on families and communication between the District and the community. Superintendent Lawrence indicated that it would not be a good idea to change the title of the Public Information Officer to Community Relations Officer because it would set the hiring of a new Public Information Officer back about two months while the name change went through the Merit Commission process.

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

General Services (continued)

1.1-A

BSEP Public Information Budget for FY 2003 (continued)

Director Schultz suggested that since there is not sufficient money for materials for the Public Information office, the amount of funding for public information be increased when the BSEP Measure is rewritten.

Director Doran inquired about equity among the schools regarding the allocation of BSEP funds for educational materials.

Motion: Directors Schultz/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:

Approval of this item.

1.2-A

BSEP Educational Materials Fund Budget for FY 2003

Motion: Directors Schultz/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:

Approval of BSEP Educational Materials Fund Budget for FY 2003.

AGENDA REORDER

Educational Services

3.1-I

Writers' Room Project in our High School and Middle Schools

President Shirley Issel made opening remarks and then deferred to Dr. Mary Lee Cole, Director, Writers' Room, and three panel members: Mr. Mike Hassett, Executive Vice Principal, Berkeley High School; Ms. Kristen Collins, a teacher at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School; Ms. LuNell Anderson, Writers' Room Coordinator and teacher; and, two students—Breyon Austin and Amanda Wake. Dr. Cole and the panel members said the Writers' Room Project at Berkeley High School and King Middle School pairs trained community volunteers with students for half-hour conferences to help them revise English writing assignments.

Education Services (continued)

3.1-I

Writers' Room Project in our High School and Middle Schools (continued)

Dr. Cole said the Writers' Room Project has rigorously trained 120 community volunteers—editors, artists, business owners, therapists, teachers, parents, and accountants, to come into the classrooms each week and individually coach students. Dr. Cole announced that a pilot Writers' Room is scheduled to begin at Longfellow and Willard middle schools next year.

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from Board members and the Superintendent.

AGENDA REORDER

Business and Operations

4.1-A

Certification of the Third Budget Report

Mr. Jerry Kurr, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, gave an overview of the Third Interim Report. He discussed the Interim Report Process; Current Conditions; Interim Report Certification; the required reserve; FCMAT Adjustments; Contributions to Restricted Programs; Multi-Year Project Variables; Other Funds; Child Development; Adult Fund; Cafeteria Fund; Deferred Maintenance Fund; Bond fund; Self-Insurance Fund; Restricted programs. Mr. Kurr said the next steps are the conversion and training procedures for the implementation of the QSS System. The QSS System is on track for Human Resources, Financial, Purchasing, Accounts Payable and Payroll systems, by July 1, 2002. By June 26, 2002, a recovery plan adopted by the Board will prevent further compounding of past fiscal practices and provide adequate reserves.

Director Doran requested that an investigation of the Food Services Department be conducted.

Motion: Directors Rivera/Selawsky and approved 5-0-0-(1)-0 on voice vote:

Approval of a Negative Certification of the Third Interim Report, certifying that the District will be unable to meet their financial obligations for the two subsequent years without significant expenditure reduction and revenue enhancement. That Column D is approved as the operating budget for the District.

ADJOURNMENT

President Issel declared the Special Meeting of May 29, 2002, adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Secretary, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

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ACTION ITEMS (continued)

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BSEP Public Information Budget for FY 2003 (continued)

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Director Schultz suggested that since there is not sufficient money for materials for the Public Information Office, the amount of funding for public information be increased when the BSEP Measure is rewritten.

Motion: Directors Schultz/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:
Approval of this item.

1.2-A

BSEP Educational Materials Fund Budget for FY 2003

Motion: Directors Schultz/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote:
Approval of BSEP Educational Materials Fund Budget for FY 2003.

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APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

Secretary, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District

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