

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA. 94704-1180

ADOPTED MINUTES

Roll Call

Members Present:

Joaquin J. Rivera, President
John Selawsky, Vice President
Karen Hemphill, Director
Shirley Issel, Director
Nancy Riddle, Director
Mateo Aceves** - Student Director

Administration: Superintendent Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Lisa Udell, Assistant Superintendent of HR

Excused Absences: Eric D. Smith, Deputy Superintendent
Neil Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Educational
Services

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 49819(c)

President Rivera called the meeting to order at approximately 7:39pm.

Report on Closed Session Actions:

Student Case No. 0607-30-110190 - 4/1 to expel student for two semesters until January 2008 with a suspended expulsion for second semester

Issel/Riddle with Vice President Selawsky voting no

Student Case No. 0506-12-080490 –admit student back into school district after serving expulsion

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

The Board also discussed collective bargaining and employee discipline/dismissal with nothing to report

Approve Agenda:

Selawsky: requested that Items 3.2-C and 4.4-C be pulled for quick questions
Riddle: will recuse on Item 4.4-C

Selawsky/Issel to approve agenda of February 21, 2007

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Mary Louise Newling and a student panel were on hand to talk about the Independent Study Program. Three of the students shared why they chose to participate in the program. Superintendent Lawrence thanked Ms. Newling for all the good work she is doing at the site.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

One parent spoke on various issues.

Union

None

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent had nothing to report.

Board Members' Reports

Student Director Aceves commented on the ceremony for Denise Brown saying it was "a powerful ceremony." He noted that three BHS teams are in the NCSC finals.

Director Riddle recently attended an ACOE board meeting and shared some highlights. She also attended the BSEP planning meeting where they are updating the bylaws.

Director Hemphill said that the ceremony for Denise Brown was "moving and she again offered condolences to the family.

Director Issel recently toured three of the preschools in the District. She shared interesting tidbits from a recent conference she attended on using brain research to raise student achievement.

Vice President Selawsky met with the LGBT support group last week. They will meet monthly throughout the school years. He also reported that he attended a music committee meeting and was excited to meet many art providers in our community.

President Rivera commented that the Surplus Site Committee has finished its recommendation for the Hillside property, and six members have agreed to remain on the committee as we look at additional questions. The Board is taking applications to fill five openings and encourages applicants to go to our website and complete an application, or contact Mark Coplan, Public Information Officer. The Board is also taking applications for the Facilities and Construction Committees.

CONSENT ITEMS

Aceves/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Item 3.2-C - Approval of Memoranda of Understanding Between Berkeley Unified School District and organizations supporting our McKinney Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program

Director Selawsky thanked the staff for their work with various agencies. He questioned what will happen at the end of the three-year grant; does it roll over or do we not have that information. Superintendent Lawrence replied that we do not have an answer about its sustainability; it depends upon state legislation. Selawsky said he would like to have programs that are limited in duration tracked so we can be prepared to lobby our state reps. He also suggested that we compile a list of priority programs that may be endangered and brainstorm on how we can maintain funding. Hemphill asked about the number of students qualified to receive these services. Superintendent Lawrence said the numbers of students vary and that she find out and get back to the Board. Hemphill also wanted to know how the program would be assessed and evaluated. Lawrence replied that she did not have that information but would find out. Hemphill suggested we develop plan B and establish priorities.

Selawsky/Hemphill and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.4-C – Approval to Advertise to Solicit Bids for the Roof at Willard Middle School

Director Selawsky expressed his hope that the District would consider possible solarization of the roof at Washington school and that it would extend to all our school sites. He asked that when we are looking at roof work if we can assess what it would take to solarize that school site. Superintendent Lawrence asked Lew Jones if he could get a standard size and weight that could be used as a rough estimate.

Selawsky/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION ITEM

Item 1.1-A – CSBA Delegate Assembly

President Rivera recommends that the Board vote for the four incumbents; a recommendation dittoed by Director Riddle.

Rivera/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 2.1-I – Employee Evaluation

Lisa Udell reported that data from last year is unavailable and they are still working to identify those staff not evaluated.

President Rivera noted the dismal percentage of evaluations submitted to HR

Item 3.1-I – Mental Health Partnership

Dr. Lisa Warhuus, Manager, Office of Integrated Resources; Harvey Tureck, Manager, City of Berkeley Health and Human Services; Tracey Schear, Executive Director, Berkeley Alliance; and Kate Graves, City of Berkeley, were on hand to discuss this partnership. There was a lengthy discussion about the

mission of the partnership, the three initial steps used to set the grant in motion, and a discussion of the eleven priorities and five cornerstones. Selawsky said he was not clear about the interaction or overlapping of the different agencies and how they all work. Superintendent Lawrence described the ineffective process the district has been using for several years whereby students were assessed and then classified as special ed students. This grant and collaboration with various agencies gives us the opportunity to approach mental health needs differently. Director Issel shared how great it has been working with the team. The plan is comprehensive and reflects what we need to do, and that is highly aligned with federal and state best practices. President Rivera said this is quite exciting even though he is unsure about how all the pieces fit together. The grant requires an interagency agreement be developed which is in the draft stage. It should be ready in March for Board review and approval.

Item 3.2-I – Monthly Average Daily Attendance Reports
Received for information

Item 3.3-I – School Accountability Report Cards
Received for information

Item 3.4-I – AR 6159 – Individualized Education Program
Received for information

Item 3.5-I – AR 6159.1 – Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Ed
Received for information

Item 3.6-I – Pre-Enrollment for 2007-08
Received for information

Item 4.1-I – Maintenance and BB update
Selawsky asked where we stand on the goals outlined in the Committee Comments section. Lew Jones said that they may not be able to accomplish the four goals they are struggling with. As far as workers comp and accident claims, they are working with HR to get data. They are working with Eric Smith on the fund layouts and can make good progress. They still have to work on contracting. The deferred maintenance items may be too ambitious to complete this year. Selawsky commended Lew and the District for their efforts in reducing waste. Director Issel asked about property management. Lew said they are working with the high school on reorganization. The supervisory position needs to be filled before they can start transitioning to property management duties. Director Riddle noted there are new committee appointments to the maintenance committee and a citizen that has attended the last three meetings and is interested in serving. She will pass this information on to the Superintendent.

Item 4.2-I – Facilities Plan Update

Director Selawsky asked about recommendations from the Surplus Committee and the steps and timelines. Lew Jones responded that it would be coming back to the Board on March 28.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rivera adjourned the meeting at 9:54 pm.

Joaquin Rivera
Board President

Michele Lawrence
Secretary