

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Special Meeting
January 31, 2007
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704-1180

ADOPTED MINUTES

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

President Joaquin Rivera
Director Shirley Issel
Director Nancy Riddle
Director Karen Hemphill
Student Director Mateo Aceves

Excused Absences

Vice President John T. Selawsky
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 49819(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 Appointment
- f. Liability Claims
- g. Property Acquisition

President Rivera called the meeting to order at 7: 31 pm

Report on Closed Session Actions:

The Board discussed collective bargaining – no action was taken
The Board considered readmission of a student to BHS from a suspended expulsion

Issel/Rivera and approved unanimously to readmit student

The Board also considered student expulsions:

Student Case No. #0607-24-110190:

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to accept the recommendation for a suspended expulsion until the end of the year

The cases listed below will be reconsidered at the February 7, 2007 Board meeting

Student Case No. #0607-21-011692

Student Case No. #0607-20-050191

Approve Agenda of January 31, 2007

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

Public Testimony

There was no public testimony

REPORTS

Board Members

Student Director Aceves announced that Berkeley High School has hired a new football coach, Alonzo Carter, formerly a coach at McClymonds High School and considered the number one high school football coach in the state.

Director Riddle recently attended the Alameda County Schools Boards Association meeting where they discussed a proposal to move Berkeley High to the Hayward Athletic League. She also attended the P&O Committee meeting last week where new co-chairs, Julie Holcomb and Dan Lindheim assumed their seats. They are working on bylaws for Measure B. Today, she attended a court hearing in the Pacific Legal Foundation's lawsuit against the District where a demurrer was heard. No ruling was issued.

Director Hemphill had nothing to report. She thanked all the principals and teachers who were present for the data presentation.

Director Issel attended the Berkeley Arts in Education Committee meeting, the Parent Advisory Committee meeting, student court, and the first meeting of the Finance Group where they discussed financing for ULSS. Each committee is doing fine. She noted that the Parent Advisory meetings are well attended and the Latino community is amply represented.

President Rivera had nothing to report

INFORMATION ITEM

Item 3.1-I – Data Presentation

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Neil Smith, and Aaron Glimme showed a Powerpoint presentation to the Board. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the data assessment and thanked Jay Nitschke, Seth Corrigan, and Aaron Glimme who worked hard to put this presentation together. Their aim was to make the data comprehensible to the public while providing enough information to measure progress, and to draw attention to the areas of concern. The importance of data was outlined: evaluating the effectiveness of institutions and programs; it can target areas that need resources; can inform instruction and measure progress toward the achievement of goals.

Aaron Glimme discussed BHS data: SAT Verbal and Math, Advanced Placement and CAHSEE

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about socioeconomic issues, demographics. Director Hemphill requested further information that might help put the data presented in context. Director Riddle asked when the curriculum for the middle school math program might be revamped. Neil Smith replied that he was meeting with principals soon and they should have further information before March. Director Issel commented that she was pleased we are looking at data and making evaluation of our strengths and weaknesses and making plans based on that information. Director Hemphill questioned how the data we collect can be translated into district wide policies, competitive rate of A=G, GPA's of students. Smith feels that the office of evaluation in the process of being established will be the best way for us to use data effectively.

President Rivera thanked the administrators for their presentation. He would like to see more cohort analysis in the future. He also remarked that major work needs to be done at the middle schools level and wants to know if we are embarking on that task. He added that we need to take a holistic approach to our middle school problems since it is not only poor math scores but rather a systemic issue.

Meeting Adjournment

President Rivera adjourned the meeting at 9:13 pm.

ATTEST:

Joaquin Rivera, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Board of Education