

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 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 7:41pm.

Report on Closed Session Actions:

The Board discussed pending litigation.

The Board also considered three expulsions:

Student Case No. 0607-37-050794

Hemphill/Issel and on a vote of 4:1 voted to accept the recommendation for a two semester suspended expulsion. President Rivera voted no.

Student Case No. 0607-38-081694

Selawsky/Hemphill and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for a two semester suspended expulsion

Student Case No. 0607-40-072795

Selawsky/Riddle and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation for a one semester suspended expulsion

The Board also discussed public employee discipline/dismissal/release/evaluation

The Board considered the following claims

Selawsky/Issel and voted unanimously to approve non-re-employment of two temporary teachers

Selawsky/Riddle and the Board voted unanimously to approve a four-day suspension for a classified employee

Issel/Selawsky and the Board voted unanimously to terminate a classified employee

Issel/Selawsky and voted unanimously to reject claim No. 07-10

Issel/Hemphill and voted unanimously to reject claim No. 07-11

Selawsky/Riddle and voted unanimously to reject claim No. 07-12

The Board considered two workers comp settlements:

Selawsky/Issel and voted unanimously to accept settlement on case no. 2003024755

Selawsky/Issel and voted unanimously to accept settlement on case no. 2004027261

Approve Agenda:

Items 4.2-C and 4.2-A have been pulled from the agenda and will be brought back at a future board meeting

Item 4.1-C: Contracts/Purchase Orders – Director Riddle recused herself from discussion of this item

Item 3.6-C: Summer School Program – Director Hemphill asked that this item be pulled from Consent

Issel/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Principal Cheryl Wilson and teacher Julie Venuto from LeConte Elementary discussed building coalitions to meet the needs of all students

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Marilyn Sagna spoke about her needs not being met by the District.

PTA Council President Wanda Stuart announced a Friday film festival promoting diversity. There will be three films shown about race at Longfellow beginning March 23. The start time is 6:30 and dinner, door prizes, and childcare will be provided.

Two speakers asked the District to honor the Cesar Chavez holiday by closing schools.

A parent addressed the Board about her daughter's stolen musical instrument.

Union

Tim Donnelly representing BCCE visited the Classification Study issue, and the District's failure to make the study available within a reasonable time.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lawrence thanked the preschool teachers for their clean up and organizational efforts at their sites.

Board Members' Reports

Student Director Aceves announced that next week is a week of volunteer service at Berkeley High.

Director Riddle commented that she would be paying close attention to the adequacy study which represents bi partisan views in the interest of public education. She had news on the realignment of our athletic league. It turns out the District will not be aligning with the Hayward league. The Board should receive correspondence soon that contains further information. She has been working with the Measure A committee to redraft the bylaws.

Director Hemphill encouraged everyone to attend the PTA council's film series. She congratulated the Longfellow 6th grade basketball team for making it to the league conference championship.

Director Issel attended the Special Ed Task Force meeting at Willard last week, as well as the Youth Court Advisory Board and the Parent Outreach meeting. All these groups are engaged in their work and are functioning well.

Vice President Selawsky passed

President Rivera had nothing to report.

CONSENT ITEMS

Item 3.6-C – Summer School Program

Director Hemphill questioned whether the dollar amount contained in the proposal was sufficient to cover every student qualified to attend summer school. Neil Smith explained that the district is moving toward alternative, non-traditional summer programs so that every kid is supported that needs help.

Director Hemphill asked how parents are notified that students will be attending summer school and the importance of attending. Assistant Superintendent Smith replied that at the secondary level, notices are sent home if the student is failing in math or English. Hemphill asked if vision screening is included along with health and dental checkups. Superintendent Lawrence advised that UC Berkeley has volunteered to conduct vision screening and that the District might be able to tap that resource for our preschoolers.

Issel/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION ITEMS

Item 4.1-A – Second Interim

Eric Smith and Gaye Gerdts presented the Second Interim to the Board. The Interim Report represents one of the four milestones in our budget cycle: adoption, first and second interim and unaudited actuals. The Second Interim is a snapshot as of January 31 and must be presented to the Board by March 15.

The budget has to demonstrate to ACOE and State Department of Education that we can meet both our current and subsequent two year fiscal obligations to receive positive certification.

Aceves/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote to accept the positive certification of the second interim certifying that the District will be able to meet its current and subsequent two year fiscal obligations

Item 3.1-A – Plan for Math

Director Riddle moved to accept the plan and concept, but not the funding source. She feels this item should be reviewed by the oversight committee before approval.

Riddle/Hemphill and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

CONFERENCE ITEM

Item 3.1-CF – BAM – Elimination of 6th Grade

Selawsky/Issel and accepted for First Reading

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 4.1-I – Facilities Update

Vice President Selawsky asked about the boiler replacement at BAM. Lew Jones advised that an appropriate boiler would have to be designed. Selawsky asked when the transformers would be removed from East Campus. Lew Jones replied that they would be moved before the end of the week. Director Hemphill inquired about the status of solar panels at our school sites. Lew Jones is still working on getting specs from the City.

Item 4.2-I – BB Financial Plan Update

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

Minutes of February 7, 2007

Riddle/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

Minutes of February 21, 2007

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote as amended

ADJOURNMENT

President Rivera adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Joaquin J. Rivera
Board President

Michele Lawrence
Secretary