

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 2007
District Administrative Offices
2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA. 94704-1180

ADOPTED MINUTES

Roll Call: 5:30 pm

Members Present:

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

Administration:

Superintendent Michele Lawrence, Secretary
Lisa Udell, Assistant Superintendent of HR
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 7:48 pm.

Report on Closed Session Actions:

Student Case No. 0607-54-040695

Issel/Selawsky and voted unanimously to expel student for current and next semester

Student Case No. 0607-53-090292

Issel/Riddle and on a vote of 4-1 with Director Hemphill voting no to deny request for continuance of expulsion hearing

Student Case No. 0607-58-050893

Riddle/Selawsky and voted unanimously to expel student for current and next semester

The Board also authorized the Superintendent to offer employment contracts to the following:

Don Vu, Principal, Cragmont Elementary School
Maggie Riddle, Principal, Jefferson
Quiauna Whitfield, Principal, Longfellow

LeSonya McClain, Principal, Early Childhood
Vernon Walton, Vice Principal, Berkeley High School

The Board also discussed collective bargaining with nothing to report.

Approve Agenda

Superintendent Lawrence had minor changes to the Personnel Report: Acevedo and Bye are resignations, not retirements, and Linda Carr is on leave of absence without pay.

Riddle/Selawsky and approved unanimously on voice vote

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Principal Rebecca Cheung, Academic Counselor, Dwayne Byndloss and Student Family Support Coordinator Sun Lee addressed the Board on the needs of the whole child: a focus on mental and physical health.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were seven members of the community representing DELAC. Their main objective was to ensure that Carla Basom's replacement as DELAC representation would be bilingual.

One parent spoke about the heavy backpack her 7th grader is required to haul and ask that lockers be installed at Longfellow. Another student from Longfellow also reiterated her request.

There were three speakers commenting on the Washington Solar panel project.

Union

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lawrence noted that retirees and long-term employees were honored in a celebration on May 22. She also attended an event for first year teachers.

Board Members' Reports

Director Riddle attended the Alameda County School Board Association meeting last week where a part of the discussion was on narrowing the achievement gap. There was also a discussion about confirming residency using an equity based model. She and Vice President Selawsky attended the junior and senior military assemblies at the high school last week noting that students were made well aware of their rights and their options.

Director Hemphill had nothing to report.

Director Issel attended the 100 year anniversary at Emerson. She also attended the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth conference in Asilomar with Lisa Warhuus and Tracy Shear where they presented at a workshop.

Vice President Selawsky visited LeConte and BAM this past week and spent productive time with the principals and staff. He extended a happy birthday to former Executive Assistant to the Board, Queen Graham.

President Rivera thanked John and Nancy for attending the high school assemblies. He thanked Lisa Udell and her HR staff for organizing the recognition event. He spent last week in Sacramento at CSBA's Delegate Assembly where the focus was the adequacy report.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Consent calendar was approved as revised.

Hemphill/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

ACTION ITEMS

Item 3.1-A – Measure A: Visual and Performing Arts

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.1-A – Issuance of General Obligations Bonds for Approved Measure A Project

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

Item 4.2-A – Application for PG&E Solar Grant at Washington Elementary School

Selawsky/Issel and motion to approve application failed to pass

Rivera/Issel and approved unanimously on voice vote to table item until the June 6, 2007 Board meeting

CONFERENCE ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 3.1-I – Monthly Attendance and Enrollment Report

Item 4.1-I – May Revise

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

Approve Minutes of May 9, 2007

Selawsky/Riddle and approved unanimously on voice vote

MEETING ADJOURNED by President Rivera at 9:54 p.m.

Joaquin J. Rivera
Board President

Michele Lawrence
Secretary