

BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 27, 2015

BUSD Offices –Technology Room 126
2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

There was a brief review allowed for the October 2015 Steering Committee minutes.

MOTION CARRIED (Simon-Weisberg/Lamar): To approve the meeting minutes of the October 8, 2015 P&O Steering Committee Meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Co-Chair Simon noted that to assist with efforts to end meetings on time, the minutes will be sent ahead of time for members to review. Minutes can then be approved or amended as quickly as possible before the committee moves on to business.

6. Public Comment

Josh Daniels, School Board member and a liaison to the P&O Committee introduced himself and noted that the other liaison is Ty Alper. Their role is to listen and provide information when the occasion rises. He thanked the committee members and noted that this year was an important year to be on the committee because of the renewal of the BSEP Measure in November 2016. The District will spend this next year planning the next Measure and the School Board will vote on it next June. Once the School Board votes to put the Measure on the ballot, it becomes a campaign and outside the District's purview. Public dollars cannot be spent to campaign for or against anything. Daniels voiced his appreciation of the Committee's dedication and commitment to this process for all our kids. He encouraged the members of the committee to send questions about the Board, BSEP or anything else by email to boardofed@berkeley.net and to attend school board meetings, which can be live-streamed on TV or listened to on the radio. For more information go to the BUSD School Board's homepage: <http://www.berkeleyschools.net/school-board/>.

7. Presentation/Discussion: Class Size Report for 2015-16

Pasquale Scuderi, *BUSD Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*

Scuderi provided the following handout:

- ◁ *Berkeley Unified School District Class Size Information dated September 23, 2015 (10 pages of information presented in graph form.)*

Scuderi noted that the handout was the annual report on class size, where and how the District is meeting or not meeting class size averages. He reported that for the most part the class size goals were being met. Scuderi stated that 30% of the teaching staff comes from BSEP funds and the district-wide goals for class size are averages of 20:1 K-3, and 26:1 4th-5th, 28:1 6th-12th.

On "Elementary Class Size Average by Grade" (page 1), the goals are being met with the exception of slight overages at the First and Second grades. Those cohorts have been impacted by enrollment growth over the last couple of years, and the District's policy is not to move students after they have been assigned to a school. Scuderi explained the class size averages by Zone noting the following:

- ◁ Northwest Zone: Noted the high number in Jefferson's 4th grade class; one of the issues is whether or not to make 4th/5th combo classes. Some of the schools have elected to go with larger classes instead of combo classes.
- ◁ Central Zone: Cragmont has a 4:1 ratio in their SDC (Special Day Class). Schools with a higher 5th grade class size were again noted to be at schools that wanted to go with a larger class size rather than a combo class.
- ◁ Southeast Zone: (no specific comments made)

Scuderi noted that “Middle School Class Size Average by Subject (by school)” pages show the middle school class size averages and how they compare to 28:1 [with the exception of PE]. PE is staffed differently and the state allows 40:1 for PE. [Those numbers in PE are not that high.]

Berkeley High School class averages are shown two ways: 1) by SLC/Small Learning Communities and BTA/Berkeley Technology Academy and 2) by Department. The goal for BHS is 28:1, with the exception of PE.

Scuderi added another thing to keep in mind was that the high school enrollment goes down due to attrition, transience and other reasons. They continue to expect the 28:1 goal to be met as the year progresses.

Questions/Responses:

- ◁ What portion of the high school enrollment is AC/Academic Choice? About 1/3rd of the total enrollment [1180 out of approx. 3100/3200].
- ◁ Staples appreciated that Dan Lindheim talked at the workshop about why BUSD went with K-3 at 20 and 4th/5th at 26, and how that affects class sizes at the 4th and 5th grades. Beery further explained that if you have 3 classes of 20 kids each in the 3rd grade, or 60 kids, when you go into 4th grade you would end up with 2 classes of 30 kids each. In order to meet the District’s goal for class size, you would have to make a combo class or go with larger classes. The school site determines which approach to take. Scuderi added that opening another class for that grade is affected by facilities/the number of classrooms available, and also how that would impact classrooms for incoming kindergartners.
- ◁ Have any of the elementary school sites asked to move away from 20:1 on their own [in order to balance class sizes]? Scuderi noted that it comes up more when there are combo classes, where schools ask for 30:1, and that decisions are made on an ad hoc basis. Beery added that in terms of the Measure, it is the “district-wide” average, and there is no cap on an average or school. She also noted a clause in the measure that the class size averages need to be met only as long as the funds from the state remain as they were when this Measure was first written in 2006. Because of what happened in 2013-14 with the LCFF/Local Control Funding Formula, the State CSR target changed to 24:1 as a school-wide average. The reason BUSD went with 20:1 initially was that in 1992, the State offered a CSR fund for that target, and BSEP funds made it possible to qualify for the full state funding. The P&O Committee has looked previously at the decision not to change CSR numbers. It did take additional funds that the GF/General Fund has to contribute funds to meet the 20:1 class size. It is an open question for the next Measure. It was discussed at the workshop whether we should target class sizes with the State class size of 24:1, as this might help with the 20 to 26 jump in class sizes in elementary schools.
- ◁ Who makes the decision on class size targets, when it comes time to write it in the Measure? The School Board makes that decision. They would take P&O and multiple recommendations under advisement. The Board has to also look at budget models, the pedagogical side from teachers, facilities and enrollment and other concerns to make a decision on the wording of the Measure.

8. Distribution of BSEP Annual Plan Binder for 2015-16

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director* and Valerie Tay, *BSEP Program Specialist*
Beery provided the following handout:

- *BSEP Annual Plan for FY 2015-16 Binder (Please note a PDF of the BSEP Annual Plan and Site Plans will be posted online soon and the committee will be s beBSEP*

agree upon a statement and delegate an approved representative to speak to the Board. Committee members could also make public comments on behalf of themselves with regards to BSEP. The following members volunteered to draft a statement to the Board to be approved at the next P&O meeting in time to present at the next School Board meeting: Glimme, Perez, Staples, Hensley, Simon, Lamar, Harm. Beery suggested that committee statements align with topics that will be discussed at the Board meeting. Tay to send links to the educational priority papers (3 in all.) Hensley asked that the last statement be sent out to the committee or the volunteers writing the draft statement. Harm noted that the statement goes into the public record when it is read to the Board. Perez clarified that the workgroup would create a draft as a Google Doc and bring the draft to the next meeting for approval. It was decided that the emphasis be the role of the P&O, and that the committee is made up of parents and teachers that are committed to BSEP.

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exemptions. Nitschke said another problem