Talking Points for School Board P&O Committee Comment - November 2

Good Evening Members of the Board, Superintendent, District Staff, and members of the

Community,
My name is and I am a member of the Planning and Oversight Committee for the Berkeley Schools Excellence Project, also known as BSEP.
We are separated by just 6 days from a truly momentous general election. While the nation's attention has been drawn to a Presidential election campaign that defies description, we are also voting for Senator, Mayor, city council members, school board directors, as well as 11 city measures, and 17 state propositionsand then
Buried deep in the ballot is a special tax measure for Berkeley Public Schools, Measure E1, the BSEP measure. Voters need to be aware to look below the top of the ballot for items that will affect the quality of life in our state and city, and be sure to find E1, which affects the quality of public schools right here in Berkeley.
We would like to take one last opportunity to remind everyone of why the School Board passed a resolution to place Measure E1 on the November 8 ballot. The funds raised through BSEP are essential to our schools. It is a grim certainty that our district would look very different without the funds that Measure E1 would provide, which comprise approximately 20% of the on this year's ballot, state funding for schools in California ranks among the bottom 10% nationwide.
Thankfully, since 1096 the votors of Borkelov have strongly supported BSED as a way to partly
Thankfully, since 1986 the voters of Berkeley have strongly supported BSEP as a way to <u>partly</u> make up for the lack of state funding and provide more and better educational opportunities to Berkeley students. With local funding, Berkeley schools per-student funds place us somewhere near the middle nation-wide, though still nowhere near states where education funding is a top priority.
As you know, we had an extensive public process to engage parents, students, teachers, staff

and community members in discussing how local funding can best support our students. The BSEP measure, now called Measure E1, builds on programs that are currently successful while

allowing for the flexibility to focus funds where they are most needed in the future.

Measure E1 funds will provide support for lower class sizes, which in turn underpins differentiated instruction to help meet the district's equity goals. E1 funds are intended to foster educational excellence and enrich student learning by providing school libraries at every site, as