

BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Site Reports

At 7:15, Co-chair Simon called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees.

The attendees introduced themselves and some briefly reported on what had been happening in their SGCs. Washington School is focused on the parent survey and academic support

Music, Visual & Performing Arts – *Pete Gidlund, VAPA Program Supervisor*

Castillo inquired as to what plans there are to increase Spanish books for immersion programs. Todd reported that the District has applied for and received a grant for Spanish materials and are in discussions with the Oakland Public Libraries to piggy back onto their programs.

Lucerio mentioned that it seems like Spanish language books should be included in the budget. Todd noted that this

The large fund balance has enabled both an alignment of offerings and resources as well as pay increases. The years 2015-16 to 2016-17 saw a big bump in staffing costs. As has been mentioned earlier, benefits costs have increased greatly and as a result of the compensation study, wages also increased.

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Site Discretionary Funds – *Danielle Perez reporting for Valerie Tay, BSEP Program Specialist*

This report differs from others because the resource is so broad, as it covers all schools. There are no SMART goals for this resource.

The reported results regarding expenditures and fund balances at the various schools and programs were wide. It is important to remember that Berkeley High must maintain a 3% reserve for salary variances. The report details each site and the covered programs and shows their fund balances (which may include carry-over funds), expenditures, and revenues, by dollar and percent.

There was an increase in the per-student funding from \$230 to \$235/student. It is a requirement of the fund that the allocations are the same for every student. At BTA and Independent Study, it is difficult to determine exactly how many students there will be because, by the nature of their programs, enrollment fluctuates much more than at other schools. Therefore, the base funding of each program is based on an enrollment of 150 students, which is higher than their actual enrollment has been. BTA and IS do not have Family Engagement Coordinators, but their staff to student ration is very high.

BTA is a continuation schools for those who have had problems with attendance, for example. It offers student support and concentrates on student welfare. They do not have an SGC as it has been difficult to recruit members.

Castillo asked what conversations are being held regarding inequities between schools, pointing out that Longfellow probably has highest level of students in need.

One challenge is that Willard is bigger than before with one hundred more pupils, although staffing there is identical to Longfellow's. Scuderi noted that one could argue, therefore, that Longfellow has slightly more resources per student.

Beery requested that members send her questions that the Committee hasn't had time to cover, and she will answer at the next meeting.

Class-size Reduction – *Pascuale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*

Scuderi began by noting that BSEP adds funds to help meet class size goals.

To help meet budgetary challenges faced in 2016-17, the General Fund provided help fill in gaps in BSEP funds. Although the BSEP budget grew in some years, it flattened toward the end of Measure A while the GF received more from other funding sources. These funds are symbiotic, with one filling in when possible for shortfalls in another.

The actual BSEP contribution was lower than \$1.6 million, with the GF picking up the slack.

The General Fund made possible expanded course offerings, literacy coaching, and RTI

The ending fund balance table on Page 4 shows offerings that were funded after the main goal of class-size reduction had been met.

He noted how important it was that Measure A added \$150 million to this budget.

Pastika asked if, since the GF adds to BSEP and vice-versa, there is a notion of re-paying each fund. The answer was not really. The funds are mutually supportive.

Regarding the fund balances in the various resources, the new measure states that these can be saved and used for similar purposes in the current measure.

The Steering Committee is still in the planning sequence so these won't be presented.

Currently there is a general election and the Board has asked for cuts of \$1.8 – \$2.1 million, and it is still deliberating.

Simon notes that it is his understanding that in the past, most BSEP funds have gone to K-8 and now it seems that more will be going to Berkeley High. He asked where the last item in the bucket, the Universal 9th Grade structure (U-9), come from.

Scuderi replied that he added it because he could see that was upcoming, but it's not currently on the table. With probable BTA staff reductions, U-9 could get some of those funds.

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