

3.

Co-Chairs Chris Martin and Elisabeth Hensley

No comments were made.

4.

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director

Beery announced that there would be a LCAP Community Forum at Rosa Parks elementary School, Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 7pm. She also indicated that Board Director Josh Danie

Beery reviewed the BSEP CSR discussion of the last P&O meeting in which a deficit was noted and therefore no action was taken on it at that time. Beery also noted that the 3% reserve had been viewed as a possible source for the funds to start using. However, Deputy Superintendent Javetta Cleveland recommended that the reserve not be spent but held for the next Measure. It was noted that there was a “One-Time Contribution from GF for negotiated salary increases (if needed) of \$200,000 for the FY 2013-14. It was noted that the GF was able to support salary increases but those affect BSEP, which does not have the revenue increases to carry them. Superintendent Cleveland thought that if relief was needed to close the books and prevent this fund from falling into a deficit, it could be provided through the GF.

Lazio noted that the Program Support expenditures could have been further reduced [by the GF picking up the cost] to assist in balancing the budget, and expressed concern that the BSEP fund has allowed for shifting funding in and out of the GF. BSEP funding for Program Support had at one point jumped up to 21 FTEs, which begs the question of “what is or is not the role of the GF in supporting these positions?”

Glimme stated that he thought it was appropriate for BSEP to be able to expand funding for Program Support, when fund balances permit as otherwise there would be a big ending balance, and the purpose of BSEP is to serve the needs of students rather than build up large fund balances. There have been periods of expansion but now it was a time of budget contraction and Program Support budget has to shrink also. Beery stated that she could provide a picture of how Program Support works over time and how this resource provides room to expand and support programs.

Frederick said that he shared concerns about the contribution from the GF and preferred to see Program Support cuts, but was comfortable in knowing that there was a Math class size reduction and noted that half of what BSEP funds in Program Support will have to be removed from the budget in the next three years to balance the budget. Beery pointed out that the plan is for one year and may not factor in all the possible variables for enrollment, COLA, future salary increases, as well as the LCAP funding. Beery mentioned that the P&O had discussed shifts and cuts in the meeting minutes and one of those discussed was the RtI² program. She confirmed that the reason that some RtI² funding was taken out of the BSEP budget was that Special Ed had reductions in costs. Martin suggested that the Committee could offer a statement for next month expressing the P&O’s concerns and suggestions for balancing the budget over the next three years.

Hamill raised the issue of the use of the 3% reserve and its carryover to the next Measure and suggested that a new fund reserve could be created out of the next Measure. Beery said that she could ask Superintendent Cleveland to come to a future P&O meeting to discuss the pros & cons of doing that. The committee discussed the history and importance of the 3% reserve and what a reasonable reserve looks like. Lazio pointed to the sentence in Superintendent Smith’s report (bottom of page 2) “The increased cost of the teacher transfer and the need to maintain appropriate reserves means that amount of funding remaining for discretionary expenditures listed that a mTJb1 76.464 157.1 Tmpappropriate res

McCulloch stated that in writing the new Measure, proposals for funding high school arts could be included. She also confirmed that the high school arts and music program was paid for by the GF and expanded course offering funds.

10. Recommendation for BSEP Funds in FY 2014-15: Library.

Becca Todd, *BUSD Library Coordinator*

Todd provided the following handouts:

- *Recommendation for Expenditure in 2014-15 from the Library Portion of the Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006 (BSEP) from Becca Todd, BUSD Library Coordinator to the BSEP P&O Committee, dated April 15, 2014*

Todd presented her budget recommendation for Libraries. She explained that she was able to find only a .5 FTE teacher/librarian instead of her preliminary idea of having a full-time teacher/librarian. She stated that because of salary increases that her staff might be receiving after the BUSD Compensation and Classification study findings are implemented, she is a little more cautious about spending money on more staff. In addition to K-12 libraries, the department provides materials for the Pre-school students.

Todd noted that the Library Staffing expenditure shown on page two was to be \$1,502,800. The work of the librarians is described on page 3 and 4. She noted that the staffing for 2014-15 was the same as the previous year. The budget difference of \$56,000 was due to salary increases.

Todd reduced the library per pupil allotment to \$15/pupil and bumped up the library materials for the four new Transitional Kindergartens. Net changes in the budget items are noted with their description.

The Library budget summary was listed on page 7. The Ending Fund Balance is \$238,890, which should leave an adequate fund balance for the next two years, as she does have the flexibility to reduce discretionary expenditures such as materials.

Simon asked if Todd had any sense of how the online resources are used and Todd responded that it depends on research season, when it is more heavily used, but generally its use has an ebb and flow.

Todd confirmed that keyboarding time was not always during “library time.” Starting last year and continuing this year, from 3rd grade on up, keyboarding was presented at other times. It is supported and there are banks of computers in the libraries, and it varies from school to school as to when they launch their computer programs. Various typing programs are being used for keyboarding through a combination of free and for fee programs (tracking is provided in the for fee program).

Hamill stated that at Thousand Oaks they are still building up materials for their Spanish-speaking students, and Todd responded that she has been keeping them in mind.

Rabinowitz asked about what crossover there was with classroom libraries and the school libraries because the PTA is providing funds for classroom libraries. Todd responded that the classroom libraries are also supported by the General Fund for the Teacher’s College Reading and Writing program that is based on having leveled classroom libraries. There is some overlap and they try to build on the classroom libraries, but the breadth and quality of the school library for current literature is primary, and it takes a few years to get books into paperback that can be included in the classroom library.

11. Adjournment

Martin stated that next weeks meeting would include action on the Music/VAPA budget and the Library budget. There would also be several presentations including one from Technology.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Race, BSEP Staff Support