

Minutes of October 30, 2012
BHS School Site Council
Conference Room B, D Building
4:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Present:

BHS staff: Pasquale Scuderi [*Principal*], Janelle Bugarini, Wyn Skeels, David Stevens, Robin van der Vegt

Parents: Margit Roos-Collins [*Acting Secretary*], Rita Himes, Landi Ehnle, Satish Rao, Diana Kuderna

Students: Cooper Walton, Sophia Olaya-Hermes, Shira Rothman

Absent: Laurie Rodney, Michelle Russell Nakayama, Alyssa Pace, Eli Burch, Farah Otero-Amad

Also Present:

Public Comment Speakers: Richard Boyden

Call to order at 4:20 p.m.

Beginning Business Items

Quorum established

Agenda approved

Public Comment

Richard Boyden, Chair of the Berkeley Athletic Fund, spoke. The BAF is rebuilding as an organization. Has raised \$13,000. Currently doing a teams needs assessment. They've learned that Track and Field needs \$100,000. The Golf Tournament in the spring funds freshman sports and four assistant coaches.

Introduction of members; briefly share members' goals for the year

Janelle Bugarini: This is her 8th year at BHS. She's served on the BSEP committee and was ready to switch to the SSC.

Wyn Skeels: He wanted to get a whole-school perspective.

Sophia Olaya-Hermes: She wants to increase communication between the student body and the school's governing body.

Shira Rothman: She wants to connect the Student Senate work to the SSC.

Cooper Walton: He wants to connect students more with the SSC.

Satish Rao: He wants to see how these changes play out.

Diana Kuderna: She wants to support the students in their efforts on the SSC.

Robin van der Vegt: She's in her 2nd year at BHS as an economics, history, and government teacher. Her Vice Principal asked her to serve.

Landi Ehnle: She wants to see if the SSC can get something done.

Margit Roos-Collins: She wants to be part of deciding what data to use to evaluate progress under the SPSA, wants to get subcommittees going to get more SSC work done, and wants to bring student evaluations to BHS after two years of talking about it.

Rita Himes: She wanted a way to be involved in the school; her chief goal is high quality teaching. She's been impressed with many of her student's teachers. Wants to be sure students don't fall through the cracks.

David Stevens: He is the case manager in Academic Choice and the Professional Development Coordinator with Susannah Bell. He wants to be sure that the SSC is supportive of the good work that's happening.

Principal's Update

The school is building a professional learning community. The professional development plans for each learning community are very strong. They are pursuing math assessment and academic language assessment. The school will be short \$250,000 after this year when the grant ends. He will be going to the school board and working to build support for replacing those funds, to keep the lead teacher structure and PD efforts going.

Work on the new academic building is only a week or so behind and is on schedule to be finished during spring semester 2014. World Languages department will probably occupy the building since they have been in the portables all this time.

He will discuss the API in a quarterly letter to parents. With a 19 point gain, the school met its growth targets for the year. There are always questions about the validity of what the API measures and the measurements will be changing soon.

On Nov. 14, the Leadership Team will meet to create a white paper on why they think the school's current approach (Lead teacher structure and PD) is essential, but they will also look at how other comparable schools are approaching the same challenges successfully. Brockton High School in Brockton, MA is similar in size to BHS and some of the BHS staff will go look at how their program works. Santa Monica's high school is similar in size and racial diversity but not in economic diversity -- differences make it harder to determine whether another school's approach would work.

The administration was not happy with Rally Day this year; the culture of the day has become an all-day party and they are no longer interested in supporting it. Some students felt threatened by the hostility between grades, some outfits are highly sexualized, and handling the event required two days of effort by the full admin team, plus hiring extra security people, plus recruiting about 70 parent volunteers. He thinks the number of alcohol incidents went up; a student member believes they may have decreased but a higher proportion were caught. In any event, the administration feels lucky that there were no more serious injuries or problems than there were. A teacher member commented that it was exhausting to teach the students that week as their minds are not on school. There was a small riot after school involving students jumping on cars. People were have difficulty exiting from the public garage and Milvia and Kittredge had to be cleared. One idea is to require the students to raise the funds ahead of time to cover the increased security costs. In any event, things will be different in some fashion next year.

Proposal for public art on exterior gym wall

Ruby Spring, a senior in Academic Choice, spoke to the SSC about a mosaic mural she would like permission to install on the gym wall in the BHS courtyard. The procedure for approval at the school level is unclear. There is a district board policy on public art, BP 7151, which was passed out to the group. So far, she has met with Mark Coplan, District Public Information Officer, who convenes the Review Board under the board's policy on an ad hoc basis. He advised her to get broad school support for the idea and to appear before the School Site Council as part of that process. Her idea is that the SSC should look at the criteria listed in the board policy and consider the proposal from those perspectives. She passed out a proposal description titled "School campus beautification -- mosaic mural proposal," describing the project and the materials and human resources needed.

She attended San Francisco Waldorf School for kindergarten through 8th grade and the school integrated art into everything. She has attempted to continue that integration into her work at Berkeley High. Last year, she took IB Studio Art which made her think about what she's making art for. She began thinking about the importance of self-reflection and made a prototype of the proposed mural for last year's IB studio art show.

The proposal and the prototype involve mirror shards set into sanded grout at many angles. The idea is that you see how the world views you and how you view the world from lots of different angles.

Madelyn Theodore's husband works at Prism and can help with the cost of materials.

Members raised questions which Ruby Spring answered:

Durability? They will scrape the paint of the wall so the thinset will stick and the work should be quite durable. Vandalism is the only issue.

Safety? The shards will be set flush into the sanded grout so there will be no sharp edges.

How thick? Will there be a border? It will be the thickness of the grout. There is no border.

Consider a plaque to explain the vision behind the art and increase student buy-in.

Additional questions raised:

How should the school deal with similar requests from more students?

How will you pick the students to help with installation?

Who will repair it when shards fall off over time? Ruby Spring offered to do that.

In terms of precedents, Wyn Skeels mentioned a mural done by a class in about 2003 on one BHS building.

Member suggested forming a subcommittee to consider procedure for handling this and similar future requests. Principal doubted membership would have time for that and said he heard a generally supportive mood from the SSC and he would help Ruby meet with the Art Department, whose support would be important.

SSC's role re: WASC/SPSA in 2012-2013

Daniel Roose is the BHS staff member tasked with overseeing the school's compliance with its improvement plan approved by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges [WASC plan]. Now that that plan is finalized, it is time to translate it into an SPSA, for which the SSC is responsible. Roose distributed a document titled: "SPSA DOCUMENTS, School Site Council, Oct. 30 2012." He quickly reviewed the flow chart on the cover page showing the development, approval, and monitoring sequence for the Single Plan for Student Achievement [SPSA].

Because the monies were allocated this summer in order to get staff working in compliance with the WASC plan, he acknowledged that this round of SPSA approval is essentially a rubber stamp for work and funds that are already committed. A member objected that the SSC has not yet had the opportunity to do a rigorous review of the underlying assumptions in the plan.

Timing is challenging. The work of the SSC on the SPSA is to monitor implementation and effectiveness. SSC will be deciding how to go about that work during its upcoming meetings. However, school-generated year-end data on the success of this year's efforts will by definition be available only after the end of school, at which time the SSC is not in session. Summer is when the Principal commits the next year's funds and staffing, in part based on the year-end data. And the state's CST results don't become available until even later.

However, all SSC's must face the same timing issue, so we need to learn about how others manage it. Principal will ask former superintendent Huyett how this is supposed to work, since he played a major role in drafting the current WASC approach. Acting Secretary will try to find out how some other schools handle this.

Member said it would be useful to know how the school performed last year on each of the growth targets. Roose and Principal committed to provide that information at the next meeting on the SPSA. Member asked about whether school could monitor matched pairs of students receiving and not receiving the interventions offered under Goal 5. Principal said it would be possible to pull such data but there are no personnel available to do it regularly.

The agenda for the next SPSA discussion will include voting on this SPSA and discussing what to monitor and how the school and SSC can do it.

Review of draft calendar and additional SSC responsibilities

Members reviewed the draft calendar and the reasons behind the timing of items on the calendar. A member requested not to meet on Nov. 6 in order to have more time to get to the polls. Meeting was shifted to Nov. 13. Other members asked whether we could

avoid meeting on Nov. 20, since that was the first evening of Thanksgiving vacation and some might be traveling. Members discussed possibility of other dates; no conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.