

**Minutes of May 20, 2014  
BHS School Site Council  
Conference Room B, D Building  
4:15 – 6:00pm**

**Present:**

BHS Staff: Pasquale Scuderi, Anne Busacca-Ryan, Mark Griffin, Dharini Rasiah, Robin van der Vegt

Parents: Sandi Hunt (co-Secretary), Satish Rao, Margit Roos-Collins (co-Secretary), Alejandra Nunez

Students: Jesse Barber, Sophie Andrews, Kevin Flood-Bryzman (co-Chair), Sophia Olaya-Hermes (co-Chair)

**Absent:** Landi Ehnle, Iris Grace

**Call to order:** 4:21 p.m.

**Beginning Business Items** (Decision) – 5 minutes

- SGC Members sign in
  - Establish a quorum
- Quorum established.
- Approve agenda
- Agenda approved.

**Comments from members of the BHS Community** (Information)

Mark Griffin introduced Ana Bertero, Fire Science teacher at BHS.

Bertero: She worked for the Berkeley Fire Department and then came to teach at BHS. She wants BHS to be more supportive of career options that don't require college degrees. One doesn't need a college degree to join the local fire departments (except the city of Berkeley's), for example. She has a student who wants to go straight into fire work but his BHS counselor is aligning with his parents to push him to go to college. The course is on track to get designated as a science elective ( a "g" course) for purposes of preparing to apply to the UC/CSU system and she has kids taking the course who go on to college, but BHS needs to better support the choices of kids who are excited about alternate career pathways.

Griffin: He needed a mentor when he got to college but didn't find one until he got involved in sports. The coaches filled that role. We need more teachers at BHS who also function as mentors to kids.

Rasiah: We're talking about Career Technical Education [CTE] and the need for more of it for kids who choose alternate paths. The video courses provide one of the strong CTE pathways at BHS, and have done so for a long time. Many students have gone on to use their video training to secure jobs. There's a strong mandate from the district to expand the school's CTE/ROP

program. Cutting the Media Tech position from BSEP funding would deeply damage the video training and go against that mandate.

Griffin: The Media Tech burned DVD's for him that he could use for work-related meetings. We need to hold onto Kevin.

Andrews: (She read out loud the letter of support for the Media Tech position by John Villavicencio.) The MT position manages a lot of valuable equipment and keeps it available for teachers who don't have time to manage it themselves.

Kevin Kunze (BHS Media Technician): He read out loud the letter he'd sent to the SSC, rebutting BSEP's view that the job seemed to be more about old media and listing nine contemporary programs that he uses in helping teachers accomplish their goals.

Barber: He is taking Rasiah's video course and it embodies the essence of CAS. He's seen several struggling students who've been enthralled by the career paths that the video program opened to them. The Media Tech position makes the course possible.

Ana Bertero: She saw one of her students go from being a high school dropout to coming back to school and getting inspired about firefighting. She thinks that is happening with video as well.

Olaya-Hermes: She took the CAS video class and become ROP certified in video. As a result of her certification, she discovered she would be eligible to earn several thousand dollars more at PETCO because they wanted her to make promotional videos as well as fill the primary job she applied for.

Griffin: He's been around the school for 22 years. In the past, the kids used to treat the equipment badly. But the way the video program is run now, the kids handle the equipment carefully and professionally, saving the school thousands of dollars in replacement costs.

Co-Chair steered the group to hold further comments on the Media Tech position until the BSEP discussion.

### **Principal's Report (Information)**

He thinks the BSEP committee did not look at people or personalities but stayed focused on jobs. The conversations in committee were about what to do when two good ideas were in conflict for the same money. The SSC will have to figure out what we would give up in place of Media Tech, though ultimately we do not get to choose. A program may have to change without being lost.

The summer mailing will go out electronically this year. Families will get a postcard that has a link to the rest of the mailing online. They hesitated for years to do this because of concerns about the digital divide and that less affluent families would not have access to online communication. However, they realized that those same families may also not be reached by the bulk mailings. About 25% of the mailings are returned. Also, the mailings are not put in individual boxes at apartment houses but go into a general pile with the other bulk mail, and

many of the less affluent families are in apartments. So they think that the point of using physical mail – to reach those families – has probably not been working out well anyway and has cost a lot of money, approximately \$3,500 - \$5,000 per year. Families will have the option of picking up a packet at school during July and August.

The school's ability to follow its intervention rubric is about to get a lot stronger. They will be getting very specific information from the middle school counselors, using online forms, about the incoming 9th graders – information that BHS has not had access to before, such as which students are having significant difficult events in their lives.

One very disappointing piece of news is that they found out Saturday that the career/tech pathways grant from Alameda County is not going to happen. That means we lose the chance to have a dedicated career/tech pathways staff person at the College and Career Center.

Candidates for the BHS principal's job will be interviewed on Thursday.

#### **Adoption of Minutes from March 4, April 29, and May 6 (Decision)**

March 4 minutes deferred until the next meeting because they did not end up in the packet. Hunt moved and Barber seconded a motion to approve the minutes for April 29 and May 6 as amended. Passed unanimously.

#### **Principal's Question and Answer (Information)**

Hunt: How are the current services provided by the Media Tech going to be provided?

PS: They've reallocated .2 FTE from Rasiah to another CAS teacher who will help. They will still have the Media Coordinator position. There isn't enough money for all three [e.g., 2.2 FTE].

Busacca-Ryan: Will the online link for sign-ups for free and reduced lunch be included in the online packet? The paper forms are expensive and we get lots of extra money if people sign up.

PS: Yes.

Rao: Is school considering including any psycho-social intervention in the packet? For example: a place where parents can free write and set their intentions, in response to a question like "What do you want for your kid this year?" He'd like the packet to include a parent pledge.

PS: Interesting idea.

Nunez: Are you hearing anything else about Fridays and the violence?

PS: Seems to be quieting down. He communicated with the kids about the risks of being an innocent bystander. Explained to them that kids who, even inadvertently, are blocking police access, will be arrested. The worst day, there were hundreds of kids downtown including a number from outside BHS. It was bad. It gets much harder to manage and much riskier when kids come in from elsewhere.

One proposal is to take back some announcement time. If they limit announcements to twice a week, that could buy time for the school to look at these issues (as they would have with advisory). The downside is that using that time well requires well-prepared teachers and not all are equally good at this.

**Discussion and Decision on draft BSEP budget (Discussion/Decision)**

Scuderi: Dharini has had 1.2 FTE. They are moving her .2 to another CAS teacher, who will not have as much video skill but who was short on FTE. He will use that .2 to help the whole school with media needs.

The infusion of Local Control and Accountability Program [LCAP] funds from the state has given people the idea that we are flush, but everything depends on enrollment. The projected enrollment for next year is 2850 – the lowest it's been in ages. It's demographics. The elementary schools are bursting at the seams and they have no idea how the high school will make room for so many kids down the road. The impact of the low enrollment is that it's looking like we'll need to take a 3.0 FTE cut in staff positions.

We won't see additional money coming in from the base revenues due to the staff contract changes.

Van der Vegt: The media position supports more than 200 students in CAS, as well as staff, and teachers. It is a relatively low line item in the budget that supports every constituency in the school. I have heard from other teachers who support it and this committee has received letters in support from staff who also use the services including Daniel Roose and John Villavieccio, among others. I am personally using resources made possible because of this position in my own classroom this week. For these reasons, I cannot in good conscience, support this budget.

Ideas for replacing the Media Tech position in the BSEP budget? What might we cut?

Roos-Collins: The district wants every school to have a Parent Liaison. If we cut there, wouldn't they pick up that funding?

Scuderi: The district is funding 1.27 FTE of the Parent Liaison position. Under the new formula, they replaced the money they were providing before but they have not been willing to go beyond that level of support.

Griffin: Why do we need an Assistant Athletic Director and an Athletic Director? Why two?

Scuderi: The Assistant would focus on the academics of the athletic teams.

Busacca-Ryan: We need to see the number of people served by each of the BSEP-funded positions.

Roos-Collins: Are there funded items that might be funded through other sources? All of the proposals are strong – it's a question of where alternative funding might be found.

Hunt: Is Instructional Materials an item that might be more fully funded by the Development Group?

Discussion of why this would not work.

**Moved by Griffin, seconded by Hunt, that the SSC approve the BSEP budget.**

**One in favor, one abstaining, 10 opposed. Motion failed.** [Busacca-Ryan had left so was not in the vote tally.]

Discussion of how to convey SSC's thinking to BSEP committee. Van der Vegt, Flood-Bryzman, and Roos-Collins offered to go to speak at the BSEP meeting and/or be available for questions.

**SSC Member Topics relating to WASC Categories and SPSA Goals (Discussion)**

First, group congratulated Jesse Barber on his election as BHS student representative to the School Board for next year.

Group did an initial review of subcommittee's recommendations on math tutoring. Format was accepted and Scuderi noted that the draft recommendations were helpful. Rao will provide a link to research for insertion in the document. SSC will vote on the recommendations on June 3.

Roos-Collins encouraged other SSC members to draft recommendations arising out of SSC discussion of their own topics and to distribute those electronically ahead of the next meeting.

Roos-Collins noted that she attended most recent meeting of the Board Policy subcommittee and was told that they would like the SSC and principal to bring forward draft bylaws that we agree on. Current bylaws have not worked well in the context of an accredited school and this year, by ignoring the bylaws and doing what seemed useful to us as a group, we've had a productive year of examining the topics that seemed most important to each of us. Believes that it would not be hard to produce a draft set of revised by-laws reflecting this approach and that it would be a great kindness to do so before the new principal must begin all over again trying to make sense of the SSC.

Scuderi noted that it will be important to give SSC recommendations some teeth – perhaps by including deadlines by which Principal must return to the SSC with a report on how Leadership and the Admin Team responded to their recommendations. Agreed to spend 15 dedicated minutes brainstorming the topic with Roos-Collins after which she would try to bring a draft back to the group.

**Discuss topics for next meeting, on June 3**

Essentially, this was covered by the item above. In addition, at that meeting, the SSC will hear what the BSEP committee decides to do in response to the SSC's no-vote on their budget.

**Adjournment at 6:15 p.m.**