

Berkeley High School Site Council (SSC)
Minutes
May 5, 2015
4:00-6:00 PM
Community Theater Lobby

Beginning Business:

1. Established quorum.
2. Approved agenda and minutes from meeting on 4/21/15.

Public Comments:

1. Michelle Leideker, parent of Elijah Leideker, suggests more information on BHS web site on **preparation for testing, including PSAT**. Consider REALM Grad/College Manual which lists deadlines or some flyers with dates at the start of the school year. Ms. Leideker also had concerns about the **Health Center** and its frequent closures. The closures greatly impacted attendance for students with health needs such as diabetes. The SSC expressed gratitude for Ms. Leideker's contributions to the meeting.
2. Margit Roos-Collins advocated for **Values Intervention** to be implemented at BHS. She discussed an article in Science magazine about an intervention that involves 15 minutes of class time at the beginning of the year. Students are asked to identify values they care about and do not care about. There were statistical differences by end of semester. Principal Glenchur added that ethnic studies and social living classes will deal with harassment. Glenchur would like to hear from teachers about how they would use this curriculum. Marx wants to vote on incorporating values intervention.

SSC Comments:

1. Cao had a question about the **BHS Stop Harassing** posters about interviews with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to report incidents of harassment. Glenchur explained the OCR is investigating BUSD and BHS to uphold sexual harassment laws. According to Glenchur, BUSD is facilitating interviews between students and OCR staff.
2. Marx asked if other **surveys** will be given in addition to the voluntary student surveys that AC designed and is supported by BFT. Glenchur responded that surveys will be discussed in admin. meeting, including the BUSD Parent Survey (should be sent out at LCAP meeting with Parent Resource Center).
3. Glenchur announced the **All Parent & Student Event for Incoming 9th Grade Families on 8/29 from 11 AM to 1 PM in Berkeley Community Theater**. Event will be advertised on the BHS website. Discussed monthly lectures, meetings, or events for parent as possibilities for next year. Glenchur reported high number of student participants in **AP and IB testing**. Next year, the BHSDG will pay for the **entire 10th grade to take the PSAT**. BHSDG had a fundraising phone blast on 5/5/15 to support PSAT among many other programs.
Suspension data for 8/27-4/16/15: 147 suspensions of 115 students: 15 white, 70 African American, 14 Latino, and 5 Asian students. Minimum 1 day suspension listed, none suspended for defiance. Not specified for violent offenses.
Glenchur reported that we received a **3 year WASC accreditation** which is the maximum length of time.
The **Worrell Survey** will move to next year because staff does not want to test students more than we already test and due to the length of time to administer survey.
4. Marx heard Worrell speak and found him to be very visionary. She stated that the Worrell Survey seemed excessively long and inconsistent and questioned if this was done purely for admin. or to UC Berkeley. Glenchur answered that the Worrell Survey was used to support the

Small learning Community Grant. Marx suggests that the survey be reviewed very carefully since it is very labor intensive and may be redundant.

5. Kirwin asked if the Worrell Survey should be administered after Semester 1. Glenchur replied that the new principal could decide about the survey and the timing of its completion.

SSC Recommendation from 2013-14: Class Flexibility:

1. Glenchur stated that **master scheduling** makes it very difficult to switch students around in classes, especially for reason of “dislikes teacher”. This switch could skew enrollment numbers in classes and **class size** becomes an issue for professional unions. **A change in class will require formal, documented reasons or issues (e.g. wrong level of class).**
2. Skeels asked if those documentations will affect teachers’ evaluations. Glenchur responded that changes must be made formally, not just an email requesting a change in teacher.
3. Marx said that students and parents/guardians must have **clear sense of what to do when there is an issue with a teacher. Consider putting clear and consistent answers in a “Frequently Asked Questions” FAQ publication of part of the BHS web site.**

School Site Plan: Single Plan for Student Action Plan:

1. The School Site Council must formally review the site plan for the next meeting on 5/19/15. Glenchur added that the WASC Committee loved the site plan. Glenchur commented that the site plan guided her this year.
2. New principal, Sam Pasarow, is working on securing additional funding to allocate .2 or .4 FTE to support student leadership.
3. Kirwin discussed ASI and its intent to get help for students when needed. He argued that children of single or divorced parents need encouragement and should have an extra point added to ASI as adverse factor.
4. Others countered that personal events like divorce or distressed or dysfunctional relationships are not always shared with BUSD. First line of defense is to call the student’s counselor for support.
5. Discussed FAQs- what should be included in the publication. Marx said that the e-tree constantly gives out info. Kirwin thinks the proper palace for resources is on the BHS web site.

Next meeting agenda 5/5/15- discuss detailed suspension data for kinds of incidents/ violations, invite Sam Pasarow, and vote on approval of Single Plan for Student Action.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth James.