BSEP PLANNING & OVERSIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES October 8, 2015

BUSD Offices –Technology Room 126 2020 Bonar Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

P&O Committee Members Present:

Shauna Rabinowitz, *Jefferson*Danielle Perez, *John Muir* (co-Chair)
Elisabeth Hensley, *King*Bruce Simon, *King* (co-Chair)
Larry Gordon, *Berkeley High*Christine Staples, *Berkeley High*

P&O Steering Committee Members Absent:

Laura Babitt, Rosa Parks Louise Harm, Independent Study

Visitors, School Board Directors, Union Reps, and Guests:

Peter Gidlund, Visual and Performing Arts Supervisor Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

BSEP Staff:

Natasha Beery, *BSEP Director* Valerie Tay, *BSEP Program Specialist*

1. Call to Order and Introductions

At 7:15 p.m. Co-chair Danielle Perez called the meeting to order by welcoming attendees and asking them to introduce themselves.

2. Establish the Quorum/Approve Agenda

Five voting members were present for a quorum of the Committee. [4 voting members are required for a quorum of the Steering Committee.]

MOTION CARRIED (Hensley/Simon): To approve the agenda of the October 8, 2015 P&O Steering Committee Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Director's Report - BSEP Measure Planning Update

Natasha Beery reported that she gave an update on the new measure planning process at the September 30 Board Meeting. Bruce Simon also presented a statement at Public Comment about BSEP on behalf of the P&O, reinforcing the message that BSEP is and has been good for the District, has been approved multiple times, and finally that the Board's engagement is needed. At the Board meeting, Beery reviewed the planning time-line and the three components of the new measure process - educational priorities and programs, budgets and models for a future measure, and a robust public process. Assistant Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi also resented the first of three educational priority papers.

Beery reported that during the summer, BSEP and Ed Services collaborated on drafts of these papers; the first one was titled "Essentials for Excellence." Scuderi's paper and re-

originally intended to have it on a separate day, but because of a tight calendar and the fact that the orientation is well-attended, decided to combine the two purposes. The orientation will be compressed and earlier in the evening, focusing on the essential public process relevant to all committees and how to make things run effectively. All other break-outs would be eliminated, and all attendees would instead go right into a budget

workshop.

Beery showed the simulation tool, or budget "thermometer" with squares representing dollars, and a quide to use of the squares that were used during the last measure. She provided a draft guide updated with current costs. She explained how participants will be given the guide along with pieces to represent such resources as CSR, library, and other resource/program projected costs. Assistant Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Deputy Superintendent Javetta Cleveland will do a team presentation explaining the programs and how they fit into the budget. There was some discussion about the challenges of the process, including how to transmit the right information and amount of information, given the complexity of the budget picture, the variables, and moving parts. There was agreement with Simon's thought that the theme should be the "big picture," that currently "all of these funds with these funds maintain the status quo." According to Beery, the exercise will be to get a general idea of what people want, what their priorities are and whether people want to ask for a tax increase to support the programs. In response to Hensley's question about alternative models for CSR, Beery said that several scenarios may be presented – the current model of K-3 at 20:1 and 4-5 at 26:1 and one that balances K-5 classes. Beery expressed the desire to have P&O members and others serve as table leaders or facilitators who understand how things connect. Jay Nitschke would be training the table leaders, providing broad guidelines as to the level of detail and depth to explore.

A discussion ensued as to the benefits of arranging tables by affinity groups or whether to allow for more heterogeneous grouping. There was consensus that table groups of six, eight the maximum, were ideal. Each group would identify their essentials and trade-offs, and there would be time allowed for reporting back or summarizing.

Simon suggested that the option of increasing funds be taken off the table, that the focus be on making the pieces fit that budget. The current \$25 million is already an equalization of tax rates. Some other issues for facilitators are how to address new ideas by using building blocks that might include guides to staff costs, as well making sure people understand about CSR and how it will likely always be more than 60% of the measure, as well as what constitutes expanded course offerings and program support.

The discussion wrapped up with an acknowledgment that the event will be an opportunity

5. P&O Calendar and Plans Overview

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director

Beery reviewed the 2015-16 calendar, noting what a busy year it would be with current year business and new measure planning work combined. There will be the regular reporting cycles for the current BSEP measure, including CSR, page 2 issues, music, etc.; elections in November and December; and plans for the current budget in the Spring. For the new measure, Asst Superindent Scuderi will present Educational Priorities Paper #2 to the Board on October 28, Paper #3 on November 18. She estimates that she may have an official report on the first workshop back to the Board no earlier than November 10. Another budget forum is expected to be held on February 25, and another poll will be conducted end of February/beginning of March and will have more details about what the likely voter would pay for. Beery will report to the Board on the outcome of voter polls and community workshops and focus groups in March, and a first draft of the measure is due in April. A second reading will take place in May, and then after June, the measure is finalized, at which point a private citizen's campaign begins.

6. P&O Statement to the Board

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director

Beery suggested that any Board meetings that BSEP is mentioned, the P&O should consider making a statement. Hensley suggested that the first one be October 28, and a draft statement be drafted by then.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Valerie Tay, BSEP Staff Support