



Office of the City Manager

**2 X 2 COMMITTEE MEETING
BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

Friday, November 4, 2022
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state-declared emergency, this meeting of the 2x2 Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81475089758?pwd=aE5bWk1T0lIQUZxaGVTci80WFVjQT09>

If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

*To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter Meeting ID: 814 7508 9758. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.*

Please be mindful that the teleconference will be recorded, and all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference.

This is a meeting of the 2 x2 Committee of the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School District. Since a quorum of the Berkeley City Council may actually be present to discuss matters with the 2 x 2 Committee, this meeting is being noticed as a special meeting of the Berkeley City Council as well as the 2 x 2 Committee meeting.

Committee Members:

Councilmember Sophie Hahn
Councilmember Lori Droste

Laura Babitt, Vice-President, BUSD Board
Ana Vasudeo, Director, BUSD Board

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54653. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager, at 510-981-7000.

AGENDA

1. **Comments from the Public**
2. **Approval of Notes – April 22, 2022 (Attachment 1)**
3. **Vision 2020 Status Update**
4. **Update on the Miyawaki Forests (Attachment 2)**
5. **Student Mental Health**
6. **Vision Zero**
7. **Joint COB and BUSD Public Health Campaign for Vaccine-hesitant Students (Attachment 3)**
8. **Willard Pool**
9. **Annual Schedule for the 2 x 2 Committee Meeting 2023**
10. **Adjournment**



Notes from 2x2 Committee Meeting
April 22, 2022
Zoom Webinar

Meeting Called to Order:

The 2x2 meeting is called to order at 8:30 am

Roll Call:

Councilmember Droste - Present

Councilmember Hahn - Present

Vice-President Babitt - Present

Director Ana Vasudeo - Present

Superintendent Stephens - Present

Public Comments:

Five members of the public provide public comment. One comment is about kids' safety getting to and from school, the City should prioritize walking and biking safety, the same public commenter encouraged the school district and city to cooperate with regards to the Milvia Street Parking Garage project. There were four comments related to the Peace and Justice commission, and encouraged the school board to appoint members to the commission so work can be expanded. They believe it is important for Berkeley children to have a voice, especially the voice of underrepresented youth in Berkeley.

Councilmember Droste requests to reorder items on the agenda to make sure the committee is able to get through the most pressing agenda items, the following item will be discussed at a later meeting: Item 4 "Commission Restructure, Specifically as it Relates to the Peace and Justice Commission".



Berkeley Unified School District

3. Superintendent Search Update

Director Babitt and Vasudeo provide an update on the superintendent search. The school board has hired a consulting firm to help with the superintendent search, they have a timeline in place and hope to find a new superintendent by July 1, 2022. Consultants are meeting key stakeholders to gather information to help find a new superintendent who is a strong instructional leader, and an effective communicator.

4. Commission Restructure, Specifically as it Relates to the Peace and Justice Commission

Item moved to a later meeting

5. 2020 Vision:

Nina Goldman provides an update on the 2020 Vision. Ms. Goldman manages the 2020 Vision, which is currently undergoing a transition phase, it is staffed by two City employees including Ms. Goldman. The 2020 Vision involves partnering with childcare providers ranging from child care to higher education throughout the City of Berkeley. During the pandemic, the 2020 Vision received limited attention, so at the moment the staff is focusing on deferred maintenance. Currently the 2020 vision has formed a reimagining 2020 Vision work group with partners from the school district and the Berkeley community college, their focus is to have a positive impact on the children and youth they target. Part of the rebranding of the 2020 Vision is coming up with a new name, the need to elevate health issues aside from education as an outcome. Mental health is more important than ever, and is particularly affecting BIPOC youth. Another priority is to look at strengthening the services that support African American and Latinx youth, they are key to achieving racial equity in our community.

Following Ms. Goldman's update, the committee had a chance to engage in robust discussion centered around serving the underrepresented Berkeley Youth. There is recognition that much of the work is happening informally, and there is a need to formalize this work, so that the work being done is tracked in a formalized way. The committee expressed a shared need



Superintendent Stephens thanks Ms. Goldman for her work on the 2020 Vision and shared that the District and City recently co-authored a grant where part of the resources will be used to hire a full-time mental health coordinator position at BUSD. Despite the pandemic, the BUSD has continued to carry forward the augmentation of the Black studies department, created a 7th period day at Longfellow middle school, is revising the EL Master Plan, has partnerships with College Bound, PUENTE, PIQE, there are all efforts of Liza Estupin.

6. Summer and After School Supports and Alignments

Liza Estupin, Director of Categorical & Special Projects; Aaron Jorgensen, Program Supervisor of Extended Learning Programs; and Marco Taylor, John Muir Elementary Principal present an update on Summer and afterschool programs.

Mr. Jorgensen says there is a lot going on this coming summer, there is a partnership with Scott Ferris and his team, which is one positive silver lining from the pandemic, it has allowed them to develop a good relationship to align expanded learning. They are excited about having students in the BEARS program attend the Berkeley Tuolomne Camp in the future, but not this coming summer. There is now better collaboration, which is making the process easier for families. The district is in the thick of registration for elementary summer school programs, and they are looking at a new curriculum that will focus on intervention, and helping students through the pandemic. One thing being recommended is the Be The Change Curriculum, which promotes social-emotional development, as well as the Step Up program in partnership with RT Fisher to work with students of color.

Mr. Ferris says there is collaboration to eliminate structural barriers for families, financial barriers have been reduced, which is allowing for more people in Berkeley to qualify for financial aid. There is an unprecedented number of applications, the programs are 55-70% full for all-day summer camps in the City.

Mr. Taylor will be the summer school coordinator, he provided a brief rundown of the action items taking place. Students' first day of summer school is June 16, the budget



Berkeley Unified School District

was approved yesterday to finalize staffing. There will be 3 summer program principals recommended to HR to hire by May 6, there will also be weekly meetings with the curriculum development team.

The presenters and 2x2 Committee members engaged in discussion, and asked presenters clarifying questions.

Councilmember Droste suggests that the remaining items on the agenda are carried over to the next meeting, all voting members agreed unanimously.

7. Vision Zero Check-in Near Schools and Follow-up on Implementation of the Request for Street Evaluation Form (which is linked to Councilmember Hahn's Bright Streets to Schools item 17 from November 9, 2021)

Item moved to a later date

8. Request to Return to Pick Up and Drop Off Procedure at Campuses

Item moved to a later date

Joint CoB and BUSD Public Health Campaign for Vaccine Hesitant Students

Item moved to a later date

Adjournment: 10:00 am



The Miyawaki Forest Project

Presented by Stephen Collins and
Sofia Peltz

- In November of 2021 BUSD planted **3,300** saplings on **13,000 sq ft.**
- Three school sites were selected.
- Cragmont Elementary, Malcolm X Elementary, and King Middle School.
- BUSD is home to the **first** 3 Miyawaki School Forests in the United States.



Features of a Miyawaki Forest

- Native species
- Trees/shrubs are planted 1 ft apart making an ultra-dense micro forest
- Soil amendments to increase water retention and soil fertility



Why plant a Miyawaki Forest?

Community Health and Equity

Research supports the association between time spent outside in nature and improved health. Some of these improvements include:

- Cognitive function
- Blood pressure
- Mental health
- Physical activity
- Sleep

Community Engagement

- Establish relationships with local indigenous leaders and other community groups.
- In 2021, BUSD had over 2,000 students, teachers, and other volunteers participate.



Climate Resiliency

Build resilience in our most vulnerable communities, combating environmental injustice. Some of the benefits include:

- Carbon sequestration
- Air pollution filtration
- Greater water absorption
- Cooling of surrounding areas

Increase in Biodiversity

Miyawaki forests boost the biodiversity of an area and nurture pollinators, supporting and restoring ecosystems.



Maintenance of Forest

- Establish a watering schedule
- Track tree health
- Weed and mulch as necessary





Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School after 1 year

- Research suggests that Miyawaki Forests grow 10x faster, become 30x denser and 100x more biodiverse than those planted by conventional methods.



Thank you!



Attachment 3



2X2 Committee Meeting
November 04, 2022

We're Ready!

*"COVID-19 is here to stay, but we have learned methods and gained tools to decrease its impact on our health and well-being. California's schools can manage this disease in **sustainable and adaptive manners.**"*
CDPH June 30, 2022 K-12 Guidance



3 Vaccine Clinics in November

BUSD will be hosting 3 Vaccine and Bivalent Booster Clinics at Rosa Parks Elementary School on November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Children who are at least 5 years old and have completed the primary two-dose COVID vaccine series, and it has been at least two months since their last vaccine or booster dose, are now eligible for the bivalent booster.



At-Home COVID Tests to be Distributed Prior to Fall Break

Similar to last year, schools will be providing students and staff with at-home COVID tests for returning to school after Fall Break.

These tests will be distributed at schools during the week of November 14.



Key BUSD COVID Strategies

1

Return to “pre-covid” practices in our schools, as practicable (be flexible!)

2

Strongly recommend indoor masking (especially at high transmission)

3

Provide vaccination opportunities to students, families & staff

4

Test, as practicable—especially at high transmission

5

Optimize indoor air quality

