

2x2 Committee Meeting - Minutes 9/11/2020

Zoom Meeting

1) Approval of the Agenda

Berkeley USD President Judy Appel makes a motion to approve the agenda, Councilmember Sophie Hahn seconds the motion.

Motion Passes 4-0

2) Public Comments:

Five members of the public make public comments in support of outdoor learning.

3) Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Arreguin moves to approve meeting minutes; Berkeley USD President Appel seconds the motion

Motion passes 4-0

4) Joint Properties MOU:

John Calise and Scott Ferris update the committee on the work they have done over the past few months to review issues around leases, terms, pools, use of parks, and bond dollars. They plan to put together a timeline for future meetings to review BUSD and CoB MOU.

The committee discusses outdoor learning opportunities similar to San Francisco USD to find shared spaces to continue education beyond Covid, as well as the soon-to-expire MOU between BUSD and CoB.

5) Back-to-School Plans

The committee discusses return to school under a Covid-19 pandemic.

Superintendent Stephens provides an update on distance learning, as well as the city, county, and state requirements all school districts must follow. He clarifies that there is no special exemption for outdoor vs. indoor learning spaces, but the District is exploring all options, including contact tracing in the event that in-person learning is permitted.

Committee members express gratitude and praise for the Superintendent and District staff for the work they are doing to keep students learning, keeping youth and staff safe under a global pandemic. Similarly, the Superintendent expresses appreciation for the CoB their collaboration, time, and expertise during what has been a confusing environment in Public Health.

The BUSD and CoB remain committed to continuing to work together to return to full in-person instruction.

6) After School Programs:

The committee discussed the difficult and confusing guidelines between in-person after-school programs, which at the moment are permitted to run in-person; and school day programs, which at the moment are not permitted to run in-person. One of the challenges the District faces to run school day programs is the availability of teaching staff, who are teaching full time virtually, so they are not able to provide the necessary supervision.

There was some discussion to explore whether youth 16 and up can help run these programs

7) Contact Tracing/Testing:

CoB and BUSD have been working in partnership to create testing, case investigation in support of the school system, and are seeking to develop a collaborative team to collectively focus on how to create testing, test investigation, and contact-tracing models.

8) 5 G Cell Towers

The committee discusses concerns from the community about 5 G cell towers near school sites due to potential health concerns around radio frequencies.

9) Capital Program Update:

The committee hears an update from John Calise about early projects that are earmarked and approved by the board for the Berkeley Community Theater, the Little Theater, and Districtwide solar and sustainability plans.

10) The committee adjourns at 2:48 pm