Beverly Hills Unified School District Minutes

Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 12, 2020, 5:00 PM

As per Executive Order N-29-20 from Governor Newsom, the Board of Education meeting will move to a teleconferencing environment. If members of the public would like to contact the Board about the upcoming agenda, please do so by 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2020 by emailing community@bhusd.org. If you wish for your comment to be read aloud, please indicate this specially in your communication. Requests to be read aloud will be honored, subject to the Board's usual time limits on public comment.

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present:
Isabel Hacker
Rachelle Marcus
Noah Margo
Mr. Thomas Recupero
Mel Spitz
Tristen Walker Shuman

I. OPEN SESSION-2:00 P.M.

II. AGENDA HEARING PERIOD-PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CLOSED SESSION-2:00 P.M.

III.A. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES (Gov. Code Section 54957(a) Consultation with agency counsel

III.B. Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation pursuant to subdivisions (d)(1) and (g) of Government Code Section 54956.9. (Case name unspecified as disclosure would jeopardize existing settlement negotiations)

III.C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-Anticipated Litigation Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) & (d)(2) of Section 54956.9: (3 Cases)

III.D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL Existing Litigation (Government Code 54956.9(d)(1)): Beverly Hills Unified School District v. Federal Transit Administration; et al. (Case No. 2:18-cv-0716)

III.E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS: Agency Designated Representative(s): Luke Pavone, Executive Director Human Resources

III.F. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Gov. Code 54957)

IV. OPEN SESSION-CALL TO ORDER-FLAG SALUTE-5:00 P.M.

Minutes:
Board President Isabel Hacker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and asked Laura Chism to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion Passed: A motion was made to approve the Agenda.

A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Noah Margo and a second by Tristen Walker Shuman.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

VI. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION

Minutes:
Dr. Bregy reported from Closed Session that the Board voted 5-0 to approve an agreement with Chevron for Wolfskill 23.

VII. AGENDA HEARING PERIOD-PUBLIC COMMENT

VII.A. AGENDA HEARING PERIOD-PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes:
The following emails were sent to the Board to read into Public Comment:

1. Dear board members and community leaders,

   During this current pandemic, I feel that changing the choir director one more time would create more havoc for the students than necessary. Stacy Kikkawa left, currently we have Mr. Turnblom, and now you are replacing him? The students need consistency!

   I believe the most rational decision would be to allow Mr. Turnblom to stay one more year in our district, and if he's still not a good fit then create a search for a new teacher. I do understand that there are a lot of different opinions regarding this subject, but to me this seems to be the fairest choice for all parties involved.

   Thank you for your time,
   Robin Platt

2. Dear Board Members and Community Leaders,

   We are in the midst of a chaotic time for our children, and it has come to our attention that during this chaos there is a plan to change the choir director. Our concern is that this will create more unnecessary change for our children, who already are dealing with so much. My son will be a senior in the fall, and he, along with all our students, needs consistency your decision to replace our choir director doesn't seem to make any sense to us. We feel that the best choice would be to give Mr. Turnblom one more year in our district and if he is still deemed not a good fit, then create a proper search for a new teacher. Now doesn't seem to be the time to make this change. Our hope is that you will put the best interest of our children first, and this would make the most sense to us,

   Thank you for your time,
3. Dear Members of the Board:

I have the honor of being in the first Madrigal group started by Robert Holmes in 1961 - an experience that changed my life. My daughter was a Madrigal under Joel Pressman in the 80's; and now in the 21st Century, my granddaughter is the first 3rd generation Madrigal singer. Our music program at Beverly Hills High School was always considered as important as any program in the curriculum. The Performing Arts flourished and brought great honor to our district. The world is different now, and priorities may have changed. Nevertheless, the esteemed history of the Beverly Hills High School Madrigals has continued for almost 60 years. This is a tradition to cherish and uphold. It is disturbing that the district is rushing to fill this vital position with someone who was previously proven not to be the right fit. To follow in the footsteps of Robert Holmes and Joel Pressman, a nationwide intensive search is owed to the importance of this position. Our kids have gone through so much turmoil during the last few years. Why create another situation that is so questionable? The arts are such a vital part of our children's development. Before this position is rushed to be filled, the importance of our music program deserves extraordinary effort to find the right person.

Respectfully,
Diana Gordon
Class of 1963

4. Dear Beverly Hills Board of Education:

Below is an email my husband and I sent Mr. Mead back in March, in support of Mr. Turnblom. Although our daughter is graduating in a few weeks, we felt it was important to share with you her amazing experience at BHHS choral program, all four years were wonderful, but in particular, her first semester with Mr. Turnblom was exceptional. We saw her blossom and reach a maturity we had not expected, and it was all because of his direction and support that he gave to her. With the unstable environment these kids have had, I feel it is important to keep him on and give them continued stability and not have them start all over again with someone who is not familiar with who they are or what they have been through this year.

Please read our letter below.

We will miss BHHS and are thankful for all our daughter has achieved.

Rachel Sheff

Hi Mr. Mead,

While we haven't met personally, I did see you at the meeting last week regarding the New Orleans trip. My daughter Rebekah is a senior and in Madrigals, Theater and Dance.

I'm sure you are struggling to juggle the daily updates and trying to plan for a safe future and I wish you patience and fortitude.
I just felt it was incumbent upon me and our family to add our commendation of Mr. Turnblom after we heard he was not asked to return next year. Regardless of the professional reasons you and the administration have for this decision, I wanted you to know that we as a family are very thankful that Rebekah's last year of choir was under Michael's leadership. He instilled a great deal of confidence in Rebekah by choosing her to be in the Madrigals this year and her voice and presence blossomed throughout the year as we all witnessed. Mr. Turnblom was always so polite and friendly throughout the year, I was even hoping to hire the Madrigals for the opening night of the LA Sephardic Film Festival that I chair but unfortunately that event was postponed and I hoped to find another event to showcase them when our little world started to fall apart.

Please convey our personal gratitude to Michael and thank him for having changed lives in his short tenure at BHHS. We will always be thankful for his contribution to Rebekah's special senior year. He has been a wonderful teacher and mentor to Rebekah, and gave her the opportunity she deserved to shine on behalf of her school.

Wishing you good luck and hoping to greet you "in person" in the very near future-hopefully at the Chicago performance where Rebekah has a lead part (praying it gets rescheduled!).

Best,
Neil

5. Good Evening

As a parent of a student in the Choral Music and Theatre Departments, as well as being a BHHS Music and Theatre alumna myself,

I am writing to express my concern over the news of another change in faculty in the choral music department. I was disappointed with the news that Mr. Turnblom would not be returning to Beverly High next year.

Now I understand that the board is considering replacing him with a teacher that has already once held this position, but was terminated after one year because of being a "bad fit" with the program. This makes no sense to me. Right now our kids need consistency, security, and encouragement to get them through this seemingly never ending quarantine.

In spite of Mr. Turnblom's release, he has been extremely diligent in keeping the choral students engaged, enthusiastic, and singing, in order to maintain positivity and creativity as they are stuck in their homes. This, to me, speaks volumes of Mr Turnblom's dedication to his students and to his craft.

Choral music, just like Theatre, Dance, Music, and the other arts, is more than just a class for our students. This is where they build their character and find their place in the society of High School. It was a tough adjustment for the kids to switch from classroom learning to home learning so abruptly in the middle of the semester..

Now in fall, when they (hopefully) will be returning to the classrooms, please don't make them have to go through another transition to another teacher at the same time.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Turnblom will be given the opportunity to remain in his
position for the upcoming school year '20-'21. After that, if it is still necessary to search for a replacement, than please wait until a proper and thorough search can be done.

Thank you so much for your time this evening.

Sincerely,
Pamela (Klamer) Singer
BHHS class of '83

6. Dear Members of the Board, Dr. Bregy and District Administration,

Our family has been deeply involved in many aspects and programs of the BHUSD school district for decades. Having three children matriculate K through 12, we have been through and seen a lot.

The Madrigals program is and has been one of the true gems of BHUSD. We have admired the passion and strong ties that both alumni and students have to this amazing BHHS Program.

If the performing arts programs are going to continue to be the the world class programs that they are, that anchor our campus and attract so many others to our district, then we must continue to invest in them.

We are extremely displeased and disappointed to hear about a hasty hire for the choral position at the high school without a proper search for someone who could be a great fit for the program. Why would you put someone in a position who was already unsuccessful? That decision is a detriment to the kids.

Our Performing Arts kids have been through SO much turmoil over the last several years between staff changes, construction, no performing spaces and now the quarantine where all their performances, tours, and competitions have been canceled.

Please take the time and energy necessary to keep this a top performing program at Beverly by going on a thorough and proper search for this esteemed position.

Respectfully,
Laurie and Todd Okum

VII.A.1. If members of the public would like to contact the Board of Education about the upcoming agenda, please do so by 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2020 by emailing community@bhusd.org. These comments will be shared with the board members prior to the board meeting. If you wish for your written comment to be read aloud, please indicate this specifically in your communication. Requests for written comments to be read aloud will be honored, subject to the Board's usual time limits on public comment. Public comments should relate to topics on the agenda.

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

VIII.A. BHHS & BVMS Style Guide Presentation

VIII.A.1. BHHS Style Guide
IX. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion Passed: A motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar minus items IX.A. and IX.B.1. A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Noah Margo and a second by Mel Spitz.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

IX.A. Approval Board Meeting Minutes

Motion Passed: This item was pulled for further discussion.
A motion was made to table this item. The minutes will be brought back to the next Board meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Noah Margo and a second by Isabel Hacker.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

IX.A.1. Regular Board Meeting-4-28-2020

IX.A.2. Special Board Meeting-5-7-2020

IX.B. Personnel Reports

IX.B.1. Certificated Personnel Report

Motion Passed: This item was pulled for further discussion.
A motion was made to approve the Certificated Personnel Report. A roll call vote taken. Passed with a motion by Noah Margo and a second by Rachelle Marcus.

No Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

IX.B.2. Classified Personnel Report

IX.C. Approval of Agreement for Special Services - Tao Rossini

IX.D. Authorization to Declare Obsolete Equipment Surplus Property

IX.E. Ratification of Purchase Order Report #19 for 2019-2020

IX.F. Cash Collection Report #17 for 2019-2020
IX.G. Approval of Warrant Report #11 for 2019-2020

X. REPORTS

X.A. Quarterly LACSTA meeting-Noah Margo

Minutes:
Mr. Margo gave an overview of the May 1 LACSTA zoom meeting that he attended. There was a discussion about the 2020/2021 slate of officers, graduations and remote learning.

X.B. Oil Wells Update-Don Blake

Minutes:
Don Blake and Terry Tao gave an oil well investigation update to the Board.

X.C. Superintendent's Report

Minutes:
Dr. Bregy gave a power point presentation for his report.

X.D. Student Board Member Report

Minutes:
Student Board Member Thomas Recupero reported that last week our students celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with videos and notes for their teachers. He also announced that online AP testing started on Monday, May 11th.

XI. HUMAN RESOURCES

XI.A. RESOLUTION NO.2019-2020-029 TO REDUCE OR DISCONTINUE PARTICULAR KINDS OF SERVICE

Motion Passed: A motion was made to approve RESOLUTION NO.2019-2020-029 TO REDUCE OR DISCONTINUE PARTICULAR KINDS OF SERVICE. A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Noah Margo and a second by Isabel Hacker.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

XII. BUSINESS AND FINANCE


Minutes:
Wade Roach presented the LACOE acceptance of the District's 2019-2020 Second Interim Report with a positive certification. Mr. Roach pointed out that all of the numbers are changing because of the Covid-19 situation. This will be discussed at the May 19 Study Session.
XIII. PLANNING AND FACILITIES


Motion Passed: A motion was made to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-2020-028 Approving Amendment No. 6 to the Construction Services Agreement with ProWest PCM, Inc., dba ProWest Constructors for Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) Buildings B1 and B2 Modernization Project Establishing a Preliminary Guaranteed Maximum Price for Phase 3 of the Modernization of Buildings B3 and B4.

A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Tristen Walker Shuman and a second by Isabel Hacker.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

XIII.B. Rejection of Bids for Bid No. 19-20-004 Beverly Hills High School Building A Refurbishments and Exterior Asphalt Work Project.

Motion Passed: A motion was made to approve the Rejection of Bids for Bid No. 19-20-004 Beverly Hills High School Building A Refurbishments and Exterior Asphalt Work Project. A roll call vote was taken. Passed with a motion by Rachelle Marcus and a second by Noah Margo.

Yes Isabel Hacker
Yes Rachelle Marcus
Yes Noah Margo
Yes Mel Spitz
Yes Tristen Walker Shuman

XIV. COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

XV. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

XV.A. Study Session-Budget-Tuesday, May 19, 2020-3:00 PM-Meeting will move to a teleconferencing environment

XV.B. Regular Board Meeting-Tuesday, May 26, 2020-5:00 PM-Meeting will move to a teleconferencing environment

XV.C. Regular Board Meeting-Tuesday, June 9, 2020-5:00 PM-Meeting will move to a teleconferencing environment

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:
Mrs. Hacker announced the May 19 Board Study Session-Budget and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.