

## **Youth Commission Meeting**

Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:30pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley CA, 510-981 6670

### **Mission Statement**

The Berkeley Youth Commission identifies the needs of youth, reviews and recommends youth services and programs.

### **Commission Members**

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mayor	Maya Ng-Yu	BUSD/Brown	Vacant
Kesarwani	Vacant	BUSD/Leyva-Cutler	Vacant
Davila	Vacant	BUSD/Appel	Vacant
Bartlett	Vacant	BUSD/Student Director	Max Schlosberg
Harrison	Estella Zhou	BUSD/Sinai	Vacant
Hahn	Rachel Alper	BUSD	Mallika Hari
Wengraf	Samuel Kaplan-Pettus	BUSD/Alper	Evie Berg
Robinson	Vacant	BUSD	Auden Friedman
Droste	Naomi Birenbaum	BUSD	Maize Cline

### **Draft AGENDA** **Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order (Chair)
2. Roll Call (Secretary)
3. Announcements (Chair)
4. Approval of Agenda (Chair)
5. Approval of Minutes (Chair)
6. Public Comment (Chair)
7. Director's Report

### **Discussion Items**

8. Climate Subcommittee report and action plan (Chair, Berg, Hari)
9. Discussion of Sexual Assault Subcommittee (Chair)

## Action Item

10. Approval of letter recommending action against sexual assault to the Berkeley Unified School District School Board.
11. Approval of letter recommending elimination of single use plastic to the Berkeley Unified School District School Board.
12. Approval of Sexual Assault Subcommittee
13. Adjourn

**Commission Information:** The Youth Commission packet is available for review at both the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6671 or by email at Gbryant@cityofberkeley.info.

**ADA Disclaimer:** This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

**SB343 Disclaimer:** Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Berkeley CA.

**Communications Disclaimer:** Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website.

**Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the commission or committee for further information.

### **Youth Commission Regular Meeting Dates January 2020 –December 2020**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Monday, January 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, February 10	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, March 9	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, April 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday , May 11	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, June 1	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley

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**City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission**

Ginsi Bryant, Secretary  
2180 Milvia St. 3rd Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
GBryant@CityofBerkeley.info

February 25, 2020

City of Berkeley School Board,

Dear Honorable School Board,

We are currently experiencing the effects of the climate crisis and every institution must take all possible action to reduce its impact on our environment, including yours. One step Berkeley Unified School District could take right now is reducing, and ultimately eliminating consumption of single-use plastic in our schools. We, as a Commission, spoke to two representatives from the Sylvia Mendez Elementary School Green Team about their efforts to change the school district's policies. They are focusing on how much packaging is used for food items. So much of the food that is served to students in BUSD is wrapped in plastic. Plastic not only adds to landfills, but its production causes greenhouse gas emissions. The Sylvia Mendez green team has been pushing for, with support from the mayor, a joint committee with the City Council and School Board. We are asking that you meet and collaborate with them and other experts to proactively become a leader in fighting the climate crisis.

We know the School Board has stated many times its dedication to addressing the climate crisis. Now it's time for action. Solving these issues will require new and creative solutions, and it is your job to find, fund and enact them. We strongly urge you to take all the necessary steps to eliminate our district's use of single-use plastic. Plans aren't enough we need real policies.

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission

The two representatives we met with:

Rachel Doughty: [rachel.doughty@greenfirelaw.com](mailto:rachel.doughty@greenfirelaw.com) (Parent of Sylvia Mendez 1st Grader) Sandra Curtis: [sandra@plasticpollutioncoalition.com](mailto:sandra@plasticpollutioncoalition.com) (Former BUSD parent, Plastic Pollution Coalition)

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**City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission**

Ginsi Bryant, Secretary  
2180 Milvia St. 3rd Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
GBryant@CityofBerkeley.info

February 25, 2020

City of Berkeley School Board,

Dear Honorable School Board,

On February 19, 2020, Berkeley High students filled your board room to demand action on the continuing issue of sexual assault in BUSD. Our fellow students proposed thoughtful and widely supported demands, which hundreds of students rallied for, and won the support of Principal Schweng. We, in our capacity as City Commissioners, strongly urge you to take all possible steps to fulfill the demands of the students.

The demands are as follows:

1. Replace the contracted Title IX coordinator (who has had 4 days of training) with two full-time Title IX compliance officers with more expertise. One for the district, the other for Berkeley High.
2. Given the concentration of sexual harm perpetrators who are star athletes, fund and require the evidence-based curricula "Coaching Boys Into Men" within BUSD in order for coaches to coach, and male athletes to play (this is a program explicitly for male players) and make this an ongoing budget line item.
3. Train all K-12 vice-principals and principals on Title IX to reduce lawsuits and to help bring BUSD into compliance.
4. In order to make good on your policies and promises of restorative practices, hire two Restorative Justice staff with expertise in sexual harm to be present at BHS full time.
5. Train all staff, teachers, and other adults at campus on sexual harm and harassment, trauma-informed receiving of this information, and referral.
6. Train all students beginning with 6th grade on consent through a combination of both peer education and expert outside trainers.

7. Continue ongoing dialogue as part of your commitment to creating a school that is no longer a product of rape culture but of healing.

We strongly recommending that you hire the expert employees necessary to address this issue. We understand that hiring new staff is expensive and that the district is losing funding. However, students have lost faith in your district, and no longer feel safe at school. A budget is a moral document, a representation of what you feel should be prioritized. We hope that the safety of your student body is something you are willing to make sacrifices for.

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission