

**Notes of 2 x 2 Council Committee Meeting
October 13, 2021**

Present:

City of Berkeley (COB)

Councilmember Sophie Hahn
Mayor Jesse Arreguin

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD)

Ana Vasuedeo, Director, BUSD Board
Laura Babitt, Director, BUSD Board

Others present:

Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Scott Ferris, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Director, COB
Mark Numainville, City Clerk, COB
Dr. Lisa Warhuus, Director of Health, Housing & Community Services (HHCS), COB
Farid Javandel, Deputy Director, Public Works, COB
Yvette Gan, Secretary to the City Manager, COB
Dr. Brent Stephens, Superintendent, BUSD
John Calise, Executive Director of Facilities, BUSD

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm, with Councilmember Sophie Hahn chairing the meeting.

2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Arreguin noted that he would need to leave at 5:00 pm to attend another meeting, and asked that if he was needed to speak on any of the agenda items, that those items be moved up in the agenda. Items 5.3 and 5.4 were moved up accordingly.

M/S/P to re-order the agenda (Vasuedeo, Arreguin).

3. **Approval of Notes – September 11, 2020**

M/S/P to approve notes of September 11, 2020 (Vasuedeo, Arreguin, with Babitt abstaining).

4. **Public Comment**

A member of the public invited the 2x2 Committee to attend a play, "Our Town".

10 members of the public commented on parking issues near schools, additional parking permits for school staff, safety issues for students travelling to and from school, infrastructure (signage, curb painting for zones, etc.).

5. Discussion items

5.3 Pedestrian and Bike Safety

5.4 Transportation Issues with Schools (COB and BUSD)

Director Vasudeo noted that there were many different transportation issues related to schools (safety, painting curbs, crossing guards, etc). In San Francisco, the City staff use a form for requests specifically for school issues. She and Councilmember Kesarwani have been discussing a process to address these requests.

Councilmember Hahn mentioned she will be submitting a new item to ask that staff review the transportation issues for a two-block radius around every public school, and do touch-up work (painting curbs and crosswalks, etc.) before the school year starts.

Mayor Arreguin asked if the number of parking permits for school use had been increased. Mr. Javandel responded that permits had increased from 60% to 70% for those schools that are outside the half-mile radius of a BART station or more than a quarter-mile from a Rapid Transit Stop, or from two major transit lines.

Mayor Arreguin asked if BUSD had a program to encourage its staff to use public transit, and if there isn't one, that he would strongly recommend it. There may be grants available to support such a program. In terms of "Safe Routes To Schools" projects, he asked if BUSD prioritized the schools, and was informed that individual schools apply for these projects.

Director Vasudeo proposed that staff create a form that school principals would complete and submit to City Transportation staff about their needs. Director Babitt asked if there was information on which transportation modes students and staff use. Councilmember Hahn asked how the parking permits for schools were distributed, and whether part-time employees also received them. Supt. Stephens said that principals at each school distributes those passes, but there is no set criteria for the process.

Councilmember Hahn also raised the idea of having a system in which any requests from schools could be easily distinguished from the multitude of requests received by Transportation, along with the form for principals to use for larger concerns. City Manager Williams-Ridley said she could envision many such requests coming in and felt that a prioritization system was needed. Deputy Director of Public Works Farid Javandel felt that the information on how students and staff travel to school would be very useful in creating

safety plans, and having principals as point of contacts would be ideal. About 40% of school staff drive alone. The number of competing priorities increase every year, leading to both Transportation staff and funding being stretched thin.

Councilmember Hahn noted she would work with Director Vasudeo and City of Berkeley staff on this issue. BUSD will work on gathering data around transportation modes. Supt. Stephens will be the point person regarding an incentive program for public transportation use for school staff. Director Vasudeo asked that Transportation staff provide input on the type of information needed on the forms.

5.2 Student Vaccination and Public Health Campaign (COB and BUSD)

Councilmember Hahn asked permission of the Committee to have this agenda item be discussed next.

Health, Housing & Community Services (HHCS) Director Lisa Warhuus shared information about the achievements of BUSD and COB in the area of COVID-19 vaccinations. Berkeley's population has a very high rate (93%) of vaccinations. In schools, transmission has essentially flat-lined; infections are happening at home or during activities outside school. COB staff have provided support to schools by providing teachers with vaccines as soon as they became available, with site visits, coordinating outreach efforts, and vaccination clinics at Berkeley High, Longfellow School, and behind City hall. Staff are continuing their work with students at B-Tech, Rosa Parks, Sylvia Mendez and Malcolm X schools.

HHCS staff noticed disparities in vaccination rates among various groups, and so have contracted with 3 non-profit organizations to do targeted outreach. They now have a communications partner to do outreach to the community as well. BUSD has also co-funded an outreach person who will work with BUSD staff.

Councilmember Hahn expressed her thanks for the outstanding work of HHCS staff, not just with the schools, but during the entire time since the pandemic began. Dr. Stephens was also grateful for the on-going partnership with the City, including a new youth-led targeted vaccination campaign.

Director Babitt asked if there were any concerns about supplies, and Dr. Warhuus confirmed that there is no shortage of the supplies of vaccines or booster shots. She was very glad to hear about the youth-led campaign, and noted that youth workers at the BHS Health Center could also be involved with that work.

5.1 Update on the Board Room

Dr. Stephens informed the committee that both COB and BUSD staff have been working together on plans for return to in-person or hybrid meetings in the BUSD Board Room. New hardware has been purchased, and the technology staff from both organizations are working to make it seamless. Due to the current COVID-19 emergency, Zoom meetings will be the norm for some months into the future.

City Clerk Mark Numainville has been meeting onsite with BUSD's Executive Director of Facilities, John Calise, and new IT Director. They still need to work on the physical changes for the dais area and the Board Room in general. There is limited physical space on the dais, there needs to be further work done regarding ventilation, air circulation, cleaning and sanitizing the areas. There will be an overflow area in the gym for the public if many attendees come to a meeting. Since the Board Room is also used by the Zoning Adjustment and Rent Boards, the staff from those departments are also involved in the discussion. He felt that the collaboration has been very positive so far.

6. Adjournment

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 pm (Vasuedeo, Babitt).