

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

December 10, 1994

Approval of a Reconfiguration Plan

At the December 7, 1994 meeting, the board adopted several policy statements at first reading to serve as a basis for approval of a specific plan. The major areas that needed additional clarification are:

Final Delineation of zones

Elementary

Middle

Transition grade level configuration and numbers of classes for 1995-96

Middle school: Choice or assignment

Grouping of language minority students

Providing an instrumental music program

Providing resources at Malcolm X and Longfellow

Amount of funds available

General Funds

Measure A

BSEP

Based on board discussion and staff analysis, the following actions are recommended for consideration:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of reconfiguration policies at second and final reading as follows:

1. District's grade level organization plan will be K-5, 6-8, 9-12 with the elementary schools organized into three zones. During the transition period, the board will also consider special program configurations that meet the integration criteria. *The approval of this policy does not preclude other options in the future.*
2. The three middle schools will be King, Longfellow and Willard. *Enrollment be on a controlled choice basis with no zone designation.*
3. The Northwest Zone will consist of Franklin, Jefferson and Thousand Oaks, pending construction of Columbus
4. The Central Zone will consist of Oxford, Washington and Whittier, pending the construction of Cragmont. (Central Zone students will have the option of attending Franklin)
5. The Southwest Zone will consist of Emerson, LeConte, Malcolm X and Muir
6. BUSD shall seek to assure that enrollment at a school shall be made so that each school will have a student population which reflects a racial balance for the grade levels that are found within that school.
7. The threshold that BUSD should use to determine if a racial group is included for distribution purposes should be twenty five percent (25%) of the total BUSD population.
- Omitted 1995-96 8. The grouping of language minority students for for instructional purposes at a school shall not exceed the District-wide percentage of the largest population subgroup in that grade level grouping.

9. If a school has the physical grade capacity:

(a) All currently enrolled students who are Berkeley residents will be allowed to re-enroll in their current school of attendance for the following year;

(b) All children who are Berkeley residents living in the same household as a student who will be enrolled in a school the following year will be allowed to enroll in that school for the following year;

(c) These enrollment preferences do not apply to interdistrict transfers. BUSD shall require that all interdistrict transfers into the district be assigned to schools so that those assignments fit the integration criteria. Interdistrict transfer students shall be assigned in a way to improve any imbalances in the racial composition of the school.

10. Student assignment will be made on a choice-within-zone basis. Berkeley residents, choosing schools in their zone, will be given top priority in the controlled choice system. Berkeley residents choosing outside their zone and children of BUSD employees living outside the district will have second priority. All other non-Berkeley residents will have third priority.

11. During the transition, if a school does not have sufficient space to house students, inter-district students will be moved, then out-of-zone students subject to controlled choice guidelines using a random selection, computer generated program. The date of entry will be used as part of the decision-making process with those being enrolled the longest the last to leave. When Special Education classrooms must be moved to permit the K-5 grade level configuration to occur, the new location will take into consideration program needs and long-term housing potential.

12. Establishment of zones is intended to meet the integration criteria, fit school capacities, maximize student safety, promote socioeconomic diversity with the hope of minimally disrupting the student's current school assignment. It allows controlled choice, encourages a sense of community throughout the zone and minimizes the amount of time students spend on buses.

13. Student assignment will be made by a computerized random selection program. A specific deadline for school selection will be established. Choice documents can be submitted through the year. However, all students submitting documents after the deadline will have third priority--the same as continuing interdistrict students. In case a computerized program is not ready, a back-up system will be identified.

14. BFT and Local One will be involved in the process of the transfer and reassignment of their membership.

15. Because of the short timeline to implement the reconfiguration, December 31, 1994 is the GO/NO GO deadline for having a plan in place for September, 1995.

16. Additional resources will be allocated to schools undergoing major reconfiguration during their initial year to insure the success of their programs and integration. Sources of funding will include BSEP, bond interest, and other discretionary revenue and resources. Committees responsible for making recommendations to the board regarding the allocation of such funds need to take this policy commitment into account in developing their recommendations.

17. A within-zone transportation program will be implemented that minimizes the amount of time a student spends on the bus. Coordination of school schedules will be essential.

18. In January of each year, the Superintendent shall present to the Board a written report on the grouping of students for desegregation purposes in each school and an analysis of the District's compliance with approved policies. The Superintendent will make written recommendations to the Board on steps to be taken by the District to enhance compliance with these policies.

19. Where changes may require the realignment of students, the BUSD Administration shall discuss the proposed realignment plan with the affected school communities (staff and parents) both before recommendations are made to the Board and after Board action.

20. The Superintendent should consider the establishment of an oversight committee to assist in implementing and monitoring the reconfiguration plan.

21. The board recognizes that there will be General Fund implications to implementing reconfiguration. The board will rely on the superintendent to provide a cost analysis of all proposals.

Approval of a reconfiguration plan as follows:

1. The Zone boundaries that were approved on July 13, 1994 will be in effect for the 1995-96 school year. Zones will be re-examined when Columbus School is built.
2. District's grade level organization plan by school for 1995-96 will be as follows:

Northwest Zone

Franklin: K-5; Those students from the old Columbus and Cragmont areas who attend Franklin will have grandfather rights and sibling preference when the new schools are built. Any student from the Central Zone may also choose Franklin.

Jefferson: K-4; Will have 2 Kindergarten's next year instead of three. Some students may need to move since capacity is limited. Attrition, interdistrict attendance agreements and interzone students will be used to lower enrollment, if necessary.

Thousand Oaks:- K-5 with two classes at each grade level. Attrition and interdistrict attendance agreements will be used to reduce enrollment, if necessary.

Central Zone

Oxford:K-4; Some students will be reassigned through attrition, interdistrict attendance agreements and interzone guidelines, if necessary.

Washington; K-4

Whittier/Arts; K-5, with one class of sixth graders. Magnet for the Northwest and Central Zones

Southwest

Emerson; K-4, with two sections at each level.

Le Conte; K-4, with two sections at each grade level and one second-third grade class

John Muir; K-5 and house the Hearing Impaired Classes for 1995-96.

Malcolm X becomes K-6 (The goal is to have two classes, K-4; maintain the existing number of fifth and sixth grades classes. The number of classes will be evaluated March 30 and staffing finalized.)

Middle Schools

King; 6-8; with the grade level staffing as this year

Longfellow; 5-7; Current fourth to become fifth; current fifth to become sixth; Seventh grade would be on a district-wide choice basis

Willard; 6-8; with the current grade level staffing

3. Middle school enrollment shall be on a district-wide, no zone basis, for the 1995-96 school year

4. During 1995-96, the current policy of enrolling language minority students will be maintained.

5. The 1995-96 instrumental music program will be located at one elementary school per zone (Malcolm X, Whittier/Arts, and Franklin) and at the three middle schools. Before and after school programs and other alternatives will be developed for all other elementary students by the instrumental music committee.

6. The additional resources to be provided at schools undergoing major reconfiguration are:

Malcolm X

Longfellow

7. The budget for 1994-95 and 1995-96 to implement the reconfiguration plan by funding source is as follows:

8. The superintendent will aggressively pursue Federal, State, Local and private funds to offset costs of the controlled choice program.

9. By November 1, 1995, the superintendent will recommend a 1996-97 plan to continue transition toward a fully implemented controlled choice program.