

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Javetta Cleveland and Neil Smith, Co-Superintendents Lew Jones,
Director of Facilities June 26, 2013 Receive and Update on the Portable
Replacement Project

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2009, the Superintendent convened an Advisory Committee to consider a renewal of Measure BB and to consider a new bond. A wish list for a bond was compiled that included projects which totaled \$400 million. The Superintendent and the Board wanted to limit the impact to taxpayers to no more than the maximum amount paid for all bonds (\$172.80/\$100,000 of assessed value). There was also a decision to proceed with a Proposition 39 bond which limits the maximum amount of levy (\$60/\$100,000 of assessed value). Measure I was passed by the voters in 2010 for \$210 million.

The Board approved its first detailed listing of individual projects in early 2011. One of those projects was the replacement of 1960's and 1970's portables at Washington, BAM and King. The portables that currently exist at Washington, BAM and King are in poor condition and are definitely in need of replacement. Eleven portables from Berkeley High School will become available for re-use in the spring of 2014. The Board hired HKIT Architects on January 9, 2013, to design the project and Van Pelt on December 12, 2012 to manage the project. A Site Committee was created at Washington and it met four times. A Site Committee was created at BAM and it met three times. A Community Meeting was held at BAM on April 18, 2013, and two Community Meetings were held at Washington (one was added after the project plan was established) on April 10, 2013 and June 5, 2013. A number of concerns have been raised regarding the portable replacement at both Washington and BAM by some neighbors and parents. Those concerns include safety issues, capacity issues and the idea of replacing portables with portables rather than with permanent construction.

The schedule was based on schematic approval by the Board on June 12, 2013. At a Community Meeting held at Washington on June 5th, it was stated that no decision would be made until June 26th. Based on concerns communicated at this meeting, staff researched the impact of delaying the decision until the September 9th Board Meeting. Staff anticipates that if the Board approves the project on September 9th, we can still meet the schedule. If the decision is delayed past that date, it may not be possible to construct the project by the end of the summer 2014.

The portables have each had some system replacement over the years, but for an additional year. While we do not have an exact cost for storing the portables, our best guess is that a year of storage would cost an additional \$40- \$50,000 plus the cost for inflation for delaying the entire project (about \$80,000). The cost of purchasing portables rather than re-using the ones for BHS would be a little over \$800,000 plus inflation.

DISTRICT GOAL

V-B – Parcel Tax and Bond Revenues: Provide the best possible education for all students by effectively utilizing local parcel tax and bond revenues.

POLICY/CODE

None

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to be paid from the Measure AA Bond Funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive this update as information.