

Hello,

My name is (our names are) and we have been asked to provide this statement on behalf of the BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee. We would like to take just a few minutes to talk about the role that our committee plays in ensuring that the funds from the BSEP special tax are spent in accordance with the stated goals of the local tax measure, and the critical function that having a citizen oversight committee plays in ensuring a clear and transparent accountability process. The voters and taxpayers of Berkeley have entrusted these funds to our schools with the understanding that the BSEP funds are to be spent in specific ways, and the measure language included the creation of this Planning and Oversight committee, usually called the P&O Committee, as part of the oversight process.

The P&O committee is made up of representatives from each school and program in the district, and includes parents, guardians, staff, students and Berkeley residents. Each year the P&O committee reviews the proposed plans and actual budget expenditures. P&O carefully scrutinizes each of these and directors for each resource before deciding whether we endorse the plan.

being carried out. In this way we help to ensure that both the budgets and reports presented to the school board have additional citizen oversight and have been subjected to vigorous review.

Finally, the P&O committee is a place where members of different school committees can meet and discuss the ways that funds and programs are being used at various sites and share what is working and what needs to be improved. Our members report back to their site's School Governance Committees and often are able to share valuable information about how other sites are implementing programs or using their discretionary funds, thus fulfilling another specified purpose of this committee of ensuring best practices across school sites for use of BSEP funds.

The members of the P&O Committee are happy to volunteer the time and energy to ensure that BSEP funds are spent in accordance with the goals outlined in the BSEP measure. We all recognize the critical importance of BSEP funds in providing the best learning experience for all Berkeley School District students, and take very seriously our role as representatives of the larger community. We look forward to our continued partnership with district staff, the Board of Education,