



**Black Parallel School Board**  
**A G E N D A**  
**September 2, 2023**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/128241678?pwd=QUxKUjVFQ1MvME5sTHVBN3htSUJadz09>

ID Number: 128 241 678

Password: 068425

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
10:00 – 10:02 AM	Open Meeting	I	White
10:02 – 10:05	Presentation on Board Process and Swearing in	I/C	White
10:05 – 10:10	Introductions	I	All
10:10 – 10:15	Minutes	I/D/C	Pinkston
10:15-10:30	Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Five Initiative – Early Literacy</li> <li>• Townhall/Independent Monitor</li> <li>• Million Father March</li> </ul>		White
11:00– 11:15	SCUSD Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCUSD Board report – Pinkston</li> </ul>	I/D/C	
11:15- 11:35	Updates on BPSB Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide Policy (SB 274)– McCullough</li> <li>• Parent Outreach - Bryson</li> </ul>	I/D	
11:35-12:00	Community Input		
12:00 noon	Adjournment		All

Action: D= Discussion, I= Information, C= Consensus

**All BPSB meetings are recorded**

Thank You for Your Participation

## **MINUTES OF BLACK PARALLEL SCHOOL BOARD MONTHLY MEETING - 08/05/23**

**Date and time:** 08/05/23 10:00 am to: 08/05/23 12:15 pm  
**Present:** Bakari Chavanu, Carl Pinkston, Darryl White, Marian Bryson, Ursula DeWitt, Rayvn McCullough  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Projects/Tags:** black parallel school board

### **DISCUSSION**

#### *1. FOLLOW US*

Visit and subscribe to the BPSB Website:

<http://blackparallelschoolboard.com>

Follow and like @SacBPSB on Facebook and other social media sites.

#### *2. INTRODUCTIONS*

Did the name misspell?: If your name is misspelled, please post the correction in the chat.

Thank you for attending:

Angela Jackson, Atenceia, Brendan Murphy, Carolyn Murray, Cynthia, Daryl Bailey, Daryl Bailey, Denise Richards, Gabriela Mitchell, Gwen, James Davis, Jim Peterson, Joyce Coleman, Joyce Watts, Joycelyn Cooper, Kayla, Kelly Bedford, Lamaia Coleman, Marcus Adams, Maria Herndon, Maria Madril Hernandez, Marian Thomas, Mary Ponder, Michael A. Love, Michelle Edache, Nancy Haley, Nikki Milevsky, Onethia Yemonja, Patrice TaplineWalker, Quita, Rayvn McCullough, Renee Webster-Hawkins, Roman James, Sharon Thurman, Shela, Shela Barnes, Shinteya, Susan Ciminelli, Yolanda Hankerson, Yvetta Franklin, Zelon Harrison

#### *3. MINUTES*

You can view the minutes and meeting packets for this and last year's BPSB meetings here:

<https://blackparallelschoolboard.com/about/board/board-packets/>

#### *4. CHAIR REPORT*

##### **4-1. SCUSD vs BPSB Townhall/Independent Monitor --Mr. White**

For more information: <https://blackparallelschoolboard.com/scusd-lawsuit/>  
The lawsuit came out of a listening session we held with parents.

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive."

--James Baldwin

### Parent Complaints (1)

#### 1. Special Education Placement

- Inconsistent Special Education time frames for testing and referrals
- Role of Student Study Teams (SST)
- Leadership should place added scrutiny on referring entities added review process at the site level)

### Parent Complaints (2)

#### 1. Special Education Placement

- School leadership should ensure parents understanding of the process and that just because a student is struggling doesn't mean he qualifies for the special education program.
- Parents should be taught that the 504 is a legitimate way to garner badly needed services for their children who don't qualify for special education.

#### 2. IEP Meetings Arg

Planned, timely, thoughtful, and transparent

- Parent Involvement- to often forms already complete before parents are involved
- Parent understanding and Participation
- Administrators should always be involved and should question every part of the process

#### 3. Instruction

- Teachers understanding responsibilities in setting up a special education classroom and how to use instructional assistants to maximize differentiation and Universal Design strategies and activities
- Teacher following instructional and behavioral components of the IEP  
Teacher ensuring that the specialized instructional time outlined in the IP is not only adhered to but quantified.

#### 4. Discipline

Personalized based on specific components outlined in the IP

- Involves Parents, doctors, psychologists as necessary to ensure a safe and productive environment for students and peers

### IMPROVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE SACRAMENTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Submitted to the Board of Education of the Sacramento City Unified School District Strategic Support Team Council of the Great City Schools

Council of the Great City Schools

- Promotes the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research, and media relations.

- Provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

The district did not respond to the recommendations of the Great City Schools.

The filing of the Lawsuit led the district to make interim changes:

1. Halting all suspensions based on willful defiance before it became state law for all K-8 students
2. Lowered the threshold for reviewing whether a behavior that led to a suspension was due to a disability
3. District directed school administrators not to call parents and have them take their children out of school in response to concerns about a student's behavior (soft suspensions)

Purpose of Settlement:

- Holding the district accountable and upholding the rights of students
- Promote a Special Education culture shift away from a system that promoted too much harm and not enough good
- Ensure that parent and student rights are protected- specifically all students in general and black students in particular

- Reverse the district's long history in denying the rights of Black students and students with disabilities
- Protect the right of students with disabilities to learn in classrooms and schools alongside their non- disabled peers
- Be protected from suspension or expulsion based on race or disability

#### Independent Monitor Data and Accountability

- Must be a 3rd party outsider
- Establishes a specific process for selection

#### What is covered in the Agreement

1. Substantial reduction in suspensions, including informal suspensions and expulsions
2. Substantial reduction in the placement of students in segregated classrooms and schools
3. Substantial reductions in the incidence and disproportionality of bullying and harassment
4. Increased transparency and meaningful participation of parents and students in the development of IP's and to attend other related meetings
5. Provide supportive training and coaching for teachers and other district staff consistent with the goals of the agreement.

#### **4-2. Questions and Discussion**

Nikki: (Chat Notes): SEIS has been the IEP data management system the district has historically used

James: (Chat Notes): Congratulations on your settlement! Your lawsuit and settlement mirrors ours in many respects. More groups need to take this approach.

BPSB will organize and conduct a town hall to further inform parents and the community about the results of the lawsuit.

James: (Chat Notes): Question: Can you give a bit of background into what happened between the time you filed the lawsuit and when you settled? How many conversations with the district did you have? Did you have to go through depositions? Etc?

The process took several years, and we demanded immediate action. Experts were called in to investigate and research. The pandemic gave challenges to the work of the independent experts. Then there are legal issues that had to be addressed and clarified.

James (Chat Notes): Thank you for your comprehensive explanation. I am an attorney and although I reside in New Jersey I am admitted to practice in California.

Jhdavis@davisadvocacyandconsulting.com

Please feel free to use me as a resource for your activities and endeavors

(Chat Notes): Good job BPSB....

Sharon: (Chat Notes): Good job BPSB....

1. Who approves the Monitor's final plan?

2. What law firm represented BPSB for this lawsuit?

Hi Sharon, Our attorneys are listed on [www.blackparallelschoolboard.com](http://www.blackparallelschoolboard.com)

Rene Webster-Hawkins has been involved with the CAC (Community Advisory Committee of SCUSD) is focused on educating parents. CAC focuses on students with special needs. BPSB is invited to participate and provide input to CAC.

There's currently a turnover of the Special Education head in the district.

CAC is organized by SELPA for each district.

Modesto City Unified is its own SELPA.

The Independent Monitor needs to come up with a way to track the terms of the agreement and make sure that individual students are met. The Monitor will need to continue tracking parents' and students' reports on how close the district is to meeting its responsibilities.

#### **4-3. First Five Initiative – Darryl White**

The first five years are crucial years for children. However, more suspensions occur at pre-schools than in other grades.

BPSB is part of First 5 California (<https://www.cfc.ca.gov/>)

We want to work with First Five to focus on the importance of reading at the preschool level. Our committee will be examining the science of reading to be used to address the reading needs of young children.

## **5. SCUSD UPDATES**

### **5-1. SCUSD Board Meeting Summary —Pinkston**

Summary overview of the SCUSD Board Meetings. You can view the agenda and minutes of the SCUSD here: <https://www.scusd.edu/board-meetings>

June 22nd SCUSD Board Meeting:

Approved LCFF plan.

Adopted and approved their 2023/24 interim budget.

Approved the renaming of three schools in the district.

Miwok Middle School (formerly Sutter Middle School), Suy:u Elementary School (formerly Peter Burnett Elementary School), and Umoja International Academy (formerly Kit Carson International Academy) (More info: <https://sacobserver.com/2023/07/scusd-to-rename-local-schools/>)

Approved early Literacy Support grant.

Adopted qualifications for Transitional to Kindergarten (<https://tkcalifornia.org/>)

June 28th meeting

Lisa Allen interim superintendent.

Mary Hardin Young is the interim assistant superintendent.

(Chat Notes): Regarding the science of reading (SOR), If you haven't connected already please reach out to Kareem Weaver of FULCRUM and Education Committee Chair of Oakland NAACP. I can help arrange a viewing of Right to Read, a new film he helped produce with LeVar Burton exploring the need for improved instruction in public schools esp those serving Black students. He presented at the CAC in November 2021. Also, there are four other elementary schools that SCUSD has grants to implement SOR or structured literacy. There should be data forthcoming about those efforts.

Here's a link to an informative podcast that gives background information on how teaching kids to read "went so wrong": <https://features.apmreports.org/sold-a-story/>

## 6. UPDATES ON BPSB WORK

### 6-1. Million Father March

<https://blackparallelschoolboard.com/million-fathers-march/>

The Million Fathers March (MFM) is a campaign aimed at encouraging fathers and father figures to actively support the academic success and life goals of children. Studies have shown that children benefit academically when they have committed fathers or father figures. The MFM invites fathers, grandfathers, mentors, community leaders, and men's groups to participate in a back-to-school campaign by taking their children or mentees to the first day of school and following the Million Fathers March Pledges throughout the year. The campaign also encourages involvement in school-related activities, engagement with teachers, and participation in community groups advocating for children's academic success.

### 6-2. Statewide Policy - McCullough

Two bills BPSB is supporting:

SB 274 Willful Defiance is the statewide policy for K-8, to sunset by 2025.

It's going to the appropriations committee.

AB 1323: Eliminate unnecessary police interaction in schools.

(<https://aclucalaction.org/bill/ab-1323/>)

How a bill becomes law.

[https://www.senate.ca.gov/legislativeprocess#:~:text=Most%20bills%20require%20a%20majority,%2C%2054%20in%20the%20Assembly\).](https://www.senate.ca.gov/legislativeprocess#:~:text=Most%20bills%20require%20a%20majority,%2C%2054%20in%20the%20Assembly).)

### 6-3. Power Outreach - Bryson

SCUSD has started a Community Engagement event for parents.

Other community events will be held in the coming in the next several weeks. Sac City Council has started its community engagement events in the park.

We're passing out fliers in the community.

Back to School Nights at the Fruitridge School

We're also working on the First Reading Initiative.

## 7. COMMUNITY INPUT

Brandan: Thanks to BPSB for keeping me better informed.

Maria: have four grandchildren in the district.



Jim P.: include a resoruces about the science of reading.

Sue: thanks for breaking down the provisions in the lawsuit.

Michelle: Parents Leading Change in Modesto and member of NAACP, organizing tutoring reading session.

Angela: thank you for your information. Grateful to NAAAPY for inviting me to this meeting.

Joycelyn: very informative meeting. Parent Leading Change will be focused on literacy.

Lamaia: appreciate hearing the details about the lawsuit.

Kayla: thank you for having me today.

Gabriela: I'm very encouraged by your work and opportunities of the lawsuit. Parent involvement is key to the success of the lawsuit.

Daryle B.: Journey for Justice wants to collaborate with BPSB.

Hi everyone, I am Daryl Bailey currently serving as West Coast and mountain Regional Organizer W/ Journey For Justice. I can be reached @ 424-777-3615 - d.bailey@j4jalliance.com

Mary P.: River Oaks Center for Children event will be held tomorrow.

Shela: appreciate the presentation. It cleared up some questions I had.

Nikki: we are on the verge of signing a Community Schools agreement that will empower teachers, parents, and students to get more out of schools.

Quita: thank you for the presentation

Marian T: enjoyed listening the meeting and hearing the progress being made for students with special needs.

Sharon T.: very informative. Natomas Black Parents United.  
<https://www.facebook.com/NBPU2020?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Denise: I'm pre-school teacher. Happy for the work you're doing.

Gwen: loved the very useful information. Very inspiring.

Carolyn M.: appreciate all the support I've been getting from Carl to implement a program in here in Riverside.

Onethia: appreciate the information and your fight for equity. I'm looking forward to the changes.

Yolanda H.: great to be in the room with minded people. I'm excited by the leadership of Dr. Luke Wood of California State University, Sacramento.

Ursula: really great meeting and the details on the lawsuit. Thank you for the parents for the DSC CA Parent workshop who attended today.

Shinteya: thank you for the drive you have on behalf of our. Natomas Black Parents United will have presentation on the accelerated reading program. Natomas Black Parents United nbpu2020@gmail.com

## *8. ADJOURNMENT*