

**Berkeley Unified School District****June 7 Regular School Board Meeting****06/07/2023 05:30 PM**

1231 Addison Street

Berkeley, CA 94702

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**ITEM : 11.23. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium and Berkeley Unified School District****Recommendation****BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT****TO:** Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent**FROM:** Jill Hoogendyk, Associate Superintendent**DATE:** June 7, 2023**SUBJECT:** Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium and Berkeley Unified School District**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The District has committed to developing and implementing a model ethnic studies program for elementary through high school, as evidenced by LCAP Action 1.13. As part of this program development, the Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee (ESAC) was formed in 2022 to review needs assessment data on ethnic studies TK-12 programming, develop a common vision for BUSD Ethnic Studies and make recommendations on how to achieve this vision.

The ESAC committee's recommendations includes the need for a standardized adoption of ethnic studies instructional materials for elementary, middle and high school. Because there are not state-adopted curricula and instructional materials for ethnic studies TK-12 and because there are not published TK-12 instructional materials readily available, the ESAC recommends the investment in developing BUSD units of study for ethnic studies with the partnership of a content expert group who would provide the instructional materials, as well as professional learning and consultation for implementing the materials.

The ESAC solicited proposals from a variety of service providers, receiving proposals from Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium (LESMCC) and UC Berkeley's History and Social Science Project. After careful vetting, consensus was built to strongly support the LESMCC partnership. The UC Berkeley proposal has since been rescinded due to their current lack of capacity to provide the services originally proposed.

The LESMC purpose is to promote the advancement and implementation of well-designed Ethnic Studies courses and programs for the purpose of advancing students' academic achievement, educational equity, community activist scholarship, and community leadership skills. The proposal for the 2023-2024 school year includes the development of elementary units of study, middle school ethnic studies elective course design, the training of elementary, middle, and high school teachers, the review of current 9<sup>th</sup> grade units of study, and the consultation on how best to proceed for development and implementation of BUSD's ethnic studies program.

**POLICY/CODE:**

Education Code 56363

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Total cost not to exceed \$111,120, invoiced monthly, paid using \$84,625 from the one-time California Department of Education Ethnic Studies Grant and \$26,495 from BSEP Professional Development funds for ethnic studies program development.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium.