Berkeley PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Reparations Task Force Update Presentation

December 6, 2023

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Enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our world.

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Berkeley PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Berkeley Unified School District

# Presenters

| | |
|---|---|
| **Adena Ishii** | Task Force Co-Chair/ Community Member |
| **Raniiya Nolen** | Task Force Member/ BHS Student |
| **Ana Tellez** | Task Force Member/ BUSD Parent/Guardian |

# Local Grounding and Context

- After George Floyd murder, community started exploring reparations in BUSD
- Members included local civic/religious leaders, former BUSD Board members, and BUSD staff (on personal time)
- Researched existing examples, discussed policy and legal considerations, and raised money for and administered poll

# Local Grounding and Context

- Culminated in June 2022 request of BUSD to establish Reparations Task Force - returned to Board in Feb and Mar 2023 to reiterate request
- Board members expressed support for Task Force at first March meeting
- District announced Task Force later on March 23

# Task Force Purpose

- As recommended by the community, more deeply explore and make recommendations on:
  - **How can BUSD fund reparations?**
  - **What does reparations look like?**
  - **How can and should BUSD implement such a program?**

*All three questions are important and influence the other two*

# Schedule of Meetings

Monday, April 24

Monday, May 22

Thursday, June 29

Monday, August 28

Thursday, September 28

Monday, October 23

Monday, November 27

**Task Force has requested to be extended thru June 2024**

# Activities To Date

- **Consulted external expert on examples of reparations**
  - Dr. Ashley Adams, Associate Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, Northeastern Mills University



# Reparations Are Not New

- **INTERNATIONAL**
  - Germany - Israel (Holocaust)
  - Canada (Indian Residential Schools)
- **NATIONAL (U.S.)**
  - Indian Claims Commission
  - Japanese Americans Incarceration

# Reparations Are Not New

- **STATE-LEVEL**
  - Destruction of Rosewood, FL in 1923)
  - CA State-Sponsored Sterilization
- **LOCAL**
  - Evanston, IL (Housing/Cash)
  - Asheville, NC (Commission)

# Reparations Are Not New

- CA Statewide Taskforce has completed its work, with its final report published in June 2023
- Many other local governments are also exploring reparations, including Berkeley, Oakland, Vallejo, Hayward, Richmond, and San Francisco

# Activities To Date

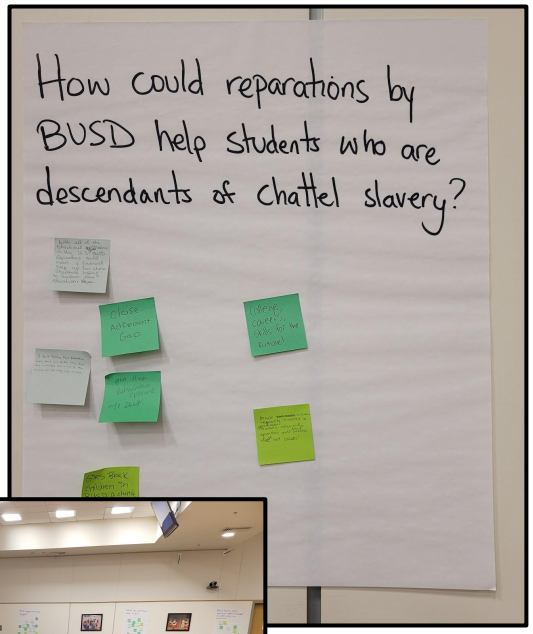
- **September 7 with CA Reparations Task Force Chair Kamilah Moore**



# Activities To Date

- **September 13 meeting with interested community members**





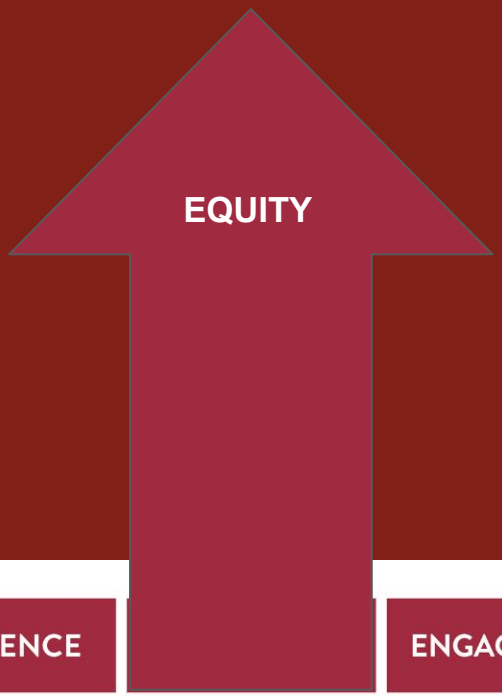

# Activities To Date

- **Community engagement survey**
  - Primary distribution timeframe is January 3-19
  - Will work with District staff to publicize
  - Task Force members will also spread the word
  - Any Board help is appreciated!

# Summary

- Task Force has researched and educated itself regarding reparations and related the policy and legal considerations
- Task Force has organized and hosted two community engagement events and has plans for a community survey and more engagement events
- Task Force has requested Superintendent grant extension through June 2024 so that it can solicit more community feedback and bring forth its final recommendations to Board

# Feedback, Questions and Discussion

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