



City Manager's Office

2 X 2 COMMITTEE MEETING BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 29, 2026
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Cypress Room
Berkeley, CA 94704

Hybrid Option: [Zoom Link](#)
Webinar ID: 814 1622 2572, Passcode: 363285

Committee Members:

Councilmember Terry Taplin	Jennifer Shanowski, BUSD Board Director
Councilmember Brent Blackaby	Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, BUSD Board Director

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Remote participation by the public is available through Zoom. To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device and use: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81416222572?pwd=c4HMnieoTQ9A33Q7I31SbFXQjhFGw8.1>
Webinar ID: 814 1622 2572 Passcode: 363285. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” icon on the screen. To join by phone: **Dial 1- 669-444-9171** and enter **Webinar ID: 814 1622 2572, Passcode: 363285.** If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54653. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, at 510-981-7000.

This is a meeting of the 2 x2 Committee of the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School District. Since a quorum of the Berkeley City Council may actually be present to discuss matters with the 2 x 2 Committee, this meeting is being noticed as a special meeting of the Berkeley City Council as well as the 2 x 2 Committee meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda for October 29, 2026
4. Approval of Minutes for May 7, 2026 (Attachment 1)
5. Public Comment (10 minutes)
6. Discussion Items
 - 6.1 Afterschool and Afterschool Transportation (30 minutes)
 - 6.2 Chambers Modernization Project (20 minutes)
 - 6.3 School Drop-Off and Pick-Up (10 minutes)
7. Adjournment



COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various scents, whether natural or manufactured, in products and materials. Please help the City respect these needs.

2x2 Meeting Notes

May 7, 2026

Location: 2180 Milvia Street, First Floor, Cypress Room
Berkeley, CA 94704

Time: 11 - 12:30 pm

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

2. Roll Call

All voting members were present:

City of Berkeley: Councilmember Terry Taplin; Councilmember Brent Blackaby
Berkeley Unified School District: Director Jennifer Shanoski; Director Jen Corn

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda for May 7, 2026

Motion: Director Shanoski

Second: Councilmember Blackaby

The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes for March 19, 2026

Motion: Director Shanoski

Second: Director Corn

The minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Members of the public expressed appreciation for the work underway to restructure and improve the afterschool program and for the District's efforts to listen to families and staff.

Public comment also emphasized the need for continued, clear communication about the restructuring, including communication from the Superintendent to help families and staff understand upcoming changes.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Transportation and Afterschool Access Constraints

Presenters: Joya Balk, Director of Categorical Programs & Special Projects; Amanda Espino, Operations Supervisor, Transportation; Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Staff provided an update on transportation and afterschool access, including current ridership, transportation capacity, operational challenges, enrollment and plans for the 2026–27 school year.

BUSD reported that transportation capacity continues to be constrained by the size and condition of its bus fleet. The District transported approximately 1,693 students during the 2025–26 school year, including 714 students to afterschool programs. Staff discussed challenges related to fuel costs, vehicle maintenance and electric bus reliability, noting that the District has limited spare-bus capacity.

The Committee discussed opportunities to better align afterschool enrollment and transportation, including proximity of programs to school sites, walking routes, transportation eligibility and whether program placement could be more closely aligned with geographic zones. Staff also discussed opportunities to expand LEARNS capacity at school sites and reduce reliance on bus transportation.

Staff reported efforts to improve communication with families during the enrollment process, including more timely enrollment data, confirmation emails and weekly communication. The Committee also discussed unmet afterschool demand, particularly at Malcolm X Elementary, with Berkeley Arts Magnet and Emerson expected to experience significant demand in the coming school year.

Follow-up: Staff will continue exploring transportation efficiencies, alignment between school sites and afterschool programs, and transportation arrangements involving non-City afterschool providers.

6.2 School Site Safety — Drop-Off/Pick-Up and Traffic Management

Presenters: David White, Deputy City Manager; Lt. Cummings, Berkeley Police Department; Wahid Amiri, Interim Public Works Director; Mark Helmbrecht, Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Committee discussed traffic and pedestrian safety concerns during school arrival and dismissal, including double parking, vehicles blocking driveways and bus loading zones, speeding, running stop signs and congestion around school sites.

Particular concerns were raised regarding King Middle School, Malcolm X Elementary and Washington Elementary. At King, Committee members discussed congestion and unsafe drop-off practices and the potential for greater coordination between school leadership and the Berkeley Police Department. Members discussed balancing enforcement with education and community-based approaches.

Staff also discussed challenges at Malcolm X, where vehicles frequently occupy bus loading areas during dismissal, creating conflicts with school buses. Similar concerns were discussed at Washington, where changes to the loading zone are being considered to improve safety. The Committee discussed the importance of clearly separating parent pick-up/drop-off areas from school bus loading zones.

The Committee also discussed the role of families and school communities in improving arrival and dismissal practices, including opportunities for parent participation and supervision.

Follow-up: City and District staff will continue coordinating on school-site traffic safety, loading zones, education and appropriate enforcement strategies.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Director Shanoski

Second: Director Corn

Motion to adjourn was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.