

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
Lovonya DeJean Middle School
3400 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805**

March 18, 2009

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Audrey Miles called the meeting to order at 6:00* PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Miles called the Public Session to order at 6:42 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Miles led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Miles offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

B.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Doris Avalos, Executive Director; Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Human Resources, Luis Freese, Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Supervisor; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Elmer Meredith, Electronics Technician; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Assistant; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer.

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Mia Montemayor, Pinole Valley High School

Ms. Montemayor spoke about academic expectations, community service, and extra-curricular and athletic activities at Pinole Valley High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Superintendent Harter withdrew items C.14, C.15 and D.2 from the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: March 4, 2009

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the minutes of March 4, 2009. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

Mr. Medrano requested to pull Item C.16 for discussion at the end of Section E.

President Miles stated that Items C.8 and C.13 would be moved to the end of Section E for separate vote and discussion.

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Adoption of Resolution 76-0809: Replacement of Outdated Warrants

- C.6 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- C.7 Notification of Claims Rejected**
- C.9 Certificated Personnel Changes**
- C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.11 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.12 Ratification of Previously Awarded Contracts**
- C.14 Transition Learning Center (“TLC”) Fence and Gates Project Award of Contract**
This item was tabled.
- C.15 Montalvin Manor Elementary Trash Enclosure Project Award of Contract**
This item was tabled.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items 1-7, 9-12. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Richmond Association of School Administrators (RASA) Award Recipients

Steve Collins and Doris Holland recognized the winners of the RASA Administrator of the Year awards for 2008-2009:

Ora Anderson, Special Education Administrator
Liz Torio, Central Office Administrator
Janet Scott, Elementary Principal, Peres (absent)
Bea Ponce, Confidential
Antoinette Henry-Evans, Middle School Principal, DeJean (absent)
Sue Kahn, High School Principal, Pinole Valley

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey acknowledged the tremendous work being done on behalf of the students and thanked the recipients. Mr. Thurmond thanked and congratulated those recognized for bringing distinction to the District. Ms. Kronenberg congratulated the recipients and acknowledged that being an administrator is a difficult job. Mr. Medrano thanked the recipients and said the awards were well deserved.

D.2 Recognition of West County Reads & Richmond Tales

This item was tabled.

D.3 Budget Report Update

Sheri Gamba presented a budget update and said she would bring an update to the board monthly so that the public would understand the gravity of the situation that the state of California is in and how it has local impact on the students and stakeholders of the District.

Board comment:

Ms. Kronenberg raised the issue of pending legislation that could change the Tier III list. Ms. Gamba said she did not have information yet and commented on block granting and moving funds. Ms. Kronenberg expressed concern about the timing of District decisions and passage of Spot Bill 460. Ms. Gamba provided clarification. Mr. Thurmond inquired about alternately funding Tier III items with other funding sources. Ms. Gamba responded. Mr. Thurmond asked for additional information about the arts and music block grant. Ms. Gamba said she would provide the information before April 1. Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification on the April 1 public hearing procedures. Ms. Gamba responded. Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification regarding the information on K-3 class size reduction. Ms. Gamba provided information on the various options. She spoke about limitations due to the parcel tax and possible modifications due to new state legislation. Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification on the multi-year planning and additional staff reductions. Ms. Gamba provided procedural information regarding the plan for additional classified reductions April 1.

Mr. Medrano inquired about advance placement programs and high school exit exam instructional support and services.

Ms. Gamba said that student achievement and safety are the District's top priority and commented on constructing alternative funding models for those items with federal funds if necessary.

D.4 Standing Reports

Public Comment:

Robbert Studdiford, Vice President of Bayside Council PTA, spoke about supporting the upcoming state PTA convention April 30 to May 3.

Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Medrano provided an update from the March 11 Board Subcommittee meeting.

Ivy League Connection: Mr. Ramsey reported on students in the program who are progressing on to college including the Ivy League schools.

D.5 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent Harter recognized community members who recently passed away.

Public Comment:

Francie Kunanec spoke in remembrance of former teacher Oline Floe.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Elle Marder, Rick Alexander, Sarah Creeley, Al Kirkman, Julie Maier, Marilyn Gonzalez, Margaret Browne, Peg Dabel, Elizabeth Brooking, Diane Browne, Christina Slamon, Jill Wolkenfeld, Linda Ruiz-Lozito, Justin Rodriguez, Eduardo Cuevas, Eduardo Martinez, Robert Studdiford.

C.8 Resolution No. 75-0809 Directing Preparation of Annual Report - MRAD

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the importance of this funding and said it is critical that we have the \$5.2 million in allocations to fund positions in the district.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve Item C.8 Resolution No. 75-0809. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.13 Portola Middle School at the Castro Site Preliminary Architectural Services Contract

Public Comment:

Joanna Pace spoke in favor of this item.

Jill Wolkenfeld and Linda Ruiz-Lozito spoke against approval.

Board Comment

Mr. Thurmond said that the reason he will vote in favor of this design work is that it serves as a means to permanently remove the Portola students from an unsafe situation.

Mr. Ramsey said the abbreviated CEQA report is expected to be completed by June and that if no lawsuit ensued it is likely the students could move to the temporary campus in September.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve Item C.13. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.16 Resolution No. 77-0809: Day of Recognition of César Chávez, March 31, 2009

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about the history of the Farmworker movement and his experience living in the Central Valley in 1965. He urged everyone to seek social reform through peaceful and nonviolent solutions.

Mr. Ramsey commented that the state courts are now closed in recognition of this day.

Ms. Kronenberg said that her school district is closed this day and indicated that Hayward has many activities to support recognition of Mr. Chávez. She recalled her experiences demonstrating in the 1960s and being a part of the Farmworker movement. She spoke of the importance of honoring everything Mr. Chávez stood for and for all social justice.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the importance of the impact of Mr. Chávez's work. He acknowledged Mr. Medrano and his family for their personal contribution and commented on the impressive students at the District school named after Mr. Chávez.

President Miles said this was an opportunity for teachers to find creative ways to integrate opportunities for students to read about the history of Mr. Chávez, even at the kindergarten level.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve Item C.16 Resolution No. 77-0809 Day of Recognition for César Chávez. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Charter Facilities Assignments – Proposition 39 Final Offer to Leadership Public Schools Richmond Charter School

Mr. Fay said that Leadership Charter School expressed the desire to stay another year at their present location, which was the District's preference as well.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve Item F.1. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 Charter Facilities Assignments – Proposition 39 Final Offer to Manzanita Charter School

Mr. Fay commented on the request from Manzanita to be separated from DeJean students, and said there would be a meeting on March 19 to further discuss the issues. He said although the District and Manzanita were still in discussion regarding the requirements, he asked the Board for approval as this was an offer that was subject to negotiation.

Public Comment:

Linda Ruiz-Lozito, Board Chair for Manzanita Charter School, commented on a problem communicating with the District regarding the terms in the offer. She requested the Board put over this item for a future date and said Manzanita would be willing to extend the District's legal time to provide an offer.

Board Comment:

President Miles asked Mr. Fay to respond to Ms. Lozito's comments.

Mr. Fay said the Prop 39 requirement to respond by April 1 could be extended.

Mr. Thurmond asked Mr. Fay to describe how the two schools would operate.

Mr. Ramsey stressed that this was just an offer the Board was being asked to approve, and that the parties could come back after reaching an agreement that would be ratified at the April 1 meeting.

Mr. Thurmond said he wanted to hear the particulars in light of the vote pending and also take this opportunity to hear from Manzanita.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the need to negotiate counter proposals.

Mr. Fay responded and directed the Board to Page 73 of the offer.

Mr. Thurmond asked for further clarification on how the two schools would operate.

Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked to hear the point of view from the Principal of Manzanita who was present.

Ms. Delgado responded and requested to delay the vote and continue the negotiation.

Mr. Medrano inquired about the preliminary offer process.

Superintendent Harter described the Prop 39 process and asked the Board to move forward with the offer of six classrooms and administrative space as described in the offer before the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve Item F.2. Mr. Ramsey seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, and President Miles voted yes, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

F.3 Charter Facilities Assignments – Proposition 39 Final Offer to Richmond College Preparatory K-5 Charter School (Richmond College Prep)

Mr. Fay introduced this item and asked for Board approval of the Proposition 39 offer to Richmond College Prep.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve Item F.3. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Mia Montemayor (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey provided additional information from the Facilities Subcommittee regarding solar roof panels, price reductions in bids, and the debt limit waiver.

Ms. Montemayor thanked the Board members for the opportunity to participate in tonight's meeting.

Mr. Medrano said he applauded San Pablo for the additional contributions to the science nutrition program at Dover and the Bright Futures after school programs at Bayview and Riverside. He spoke about the Hispanic Scholarship Fund event at Richmond High School on March 21 and the Town Hall meeting at St. Marks regarding the housing crisis in Richmond.

Ms. Kronenberg reported on three celebrations that she attended: the Literacy Program at Grant, the Adult Education student graduation and as a judge at the Hercules Middle School spelling bee.

Mr. Thurmond invited the public to attend the District Community Budget Advisory Committee meeting March 26.

He thanked Mr. Ramsey and Ms. Kronenberg for the success of the Ivy League students and spoke about accelerating the building program before the market changes again to increase cost savings.

President Miles thanked Steve Collins and staff for their involvement with the You Make a Difference program and acknowledged the excellent performance at Harding.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – April 1, 2009

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

* Corrects a typographical error.

Motion vote count order: Yes-No-Abstain-Absent

BH:pr

AAM
Approved
4-1-09