

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

May 20, 2009

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Audrey Miles called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Miles called the Public Session to order at 6:35 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

Board Members Absent: Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Doris Avalos, Executive Director; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Pamala Blake, Interim Director Adult/Alternative Education; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Luis Freese, Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Sue Kahn, Principal, Pinole Valley High School; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; 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 Stephanie Carillo, Gompers Continuation High School

Ms. Carillo was absent.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel eight (8) students and rescind those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel eight (8) students and rescind those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to transfer three administrators and to re-appoint a fourth.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to transfer three administrators and to re-appoint a fourth. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to complete two teacher non-renewals.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to complete two teacher non-renewals. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.7 Minutes: May 6, 2009; May 11, 2009

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of May 6 and May 11, 2009. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Contracted Services
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities
- C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports
- C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers
- C.6 Agreements for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency Services
- C.7 Notification of Claims Rejected
- C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated
Ms. Romeo provided a revised backup page, which removed one employee from the list.
- C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- C.10 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- C.11 Coronado Elementary Portables Replacement Utility Installation Contract Award
- C.12 Resolution 90-0809, Governing Board of the WCCUSD to Become Subject to Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (UPCAA or the “Act”)
- C.13 Resolution No. 88-0809: Recognition of May 2009 as California Physical Fitness Month
- C.14 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Spring Sports

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve the consent calendar, Items C.1 through C.14. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, and Richmond High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League Colleges and Universities

Mr. Wendell Greer introduced this item and commented on the great partnerships created and recognized Board Members Madeline Kronenberg and Charles Ramsey. Mr. Vince Rhea spoke about the program which he said has blossomed since its inception when he was Principal at El Cerrito High School. He recognized the principals who have participated: Sue Kahn, Julio Franco, Jason Reimann and Guy Zakrevsky. The chaperones from each program were acknowledged and they introduced the students who will attend the programs with them this summer at Cornell, Columbia, Brown and Yale University. Board Member Ramsey spoke about the growth and success of the program and acknowledged the students. Individual students who previously participated in the program spoke about their experiences and expressed thanks. Ms. Kahn spoke about the teachers and staff who provide enormous support, and honored the parents for their contribution and sacrifice. The program sponsors were introduced and honored. Mr. Rene Flores of Seville Group spoke on behalf of all the sponsors. Ms. Kronenberg offered special thanks to Don Gosney for his photography and the broad range of services and support he provides. Mr. Gosney spoke about the need to give back to the students and community. He gave special thanks to Superintendent Harter and Coronado Principal Linda Cohen. All honorees received certificates of recognition. A break was taken from 7:50 to 8:00 PM for photographs.

D.2 Budget Report Updates

Ms. Sheri Gamba provided a budget update in relation to the failure of the May 19 ballot initiatives. She said that the District may now be in a position to be subject for additional cuts in 2009-10 and even 2008-09. She reviewed the series of events which occurred since the budget was adopted last June and the subsequent action taken by the Board.

Public Comment:

Al Kirkman spoke about treating all students equally, informing the public about what is happening with bargaining units and a 10 percent wage reduction to avoid taking services away from students.

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey commented on the May 19 election results and the need for leadership in Sacramento. He thanked staff for bringing forth the budget update reports on a regular basis and spoke about the need to find local solutions to the budget problem.

Mr. Medrano reported on his attendance at the CSBA legislative action conference and spoke of the legislators who were in support of our schools and more funds for education. He commented on letters he received from adult education students against cuts to their programs.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the state's decision to change the adult education classification from Tier II to Tier III status and the importance of changing how California legislators view adult education.

President Miles spoke about the work there is to do and petitioning legislators to make changes in Sacramento.

D. 3 Standing Reports

United Teachers of Richmond (UTR): Pixie Hayward Schickele, UTR President, spoke about safety issues and the need to control student behavior.

Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC): Charles Cowens, President of the Community Budget Advisory Committee, announced that the regular May meeting has been postponed until June 18 due to the present budget situation.

Local One: Mike Wasilchin, Local One Representative, spoke about school safety, the need for site plans, staffing levels and job descriptions, and being proactive. He spoke against the recent hiring of an El Cerrito Police Officer.

Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Medrano and Mr. Ramsey reported on the Facilities Subcommittee meeting of May 13, 2009, that included a discussion on Coronado Elementary School renovations, budget information on the current Measure D and J projects and use of money from projects coming in under budget.

Safety Committee:

Mr. Greer provided an update from the Safety Committee meeting of May 13, 2009 that included discussion on school wide safety and reporting, a mentoring program and grant funding to have more options for youth. He announced the next meeting date of June 17th.

President Miles asked about any corrective actions that have been put in place since the recent incident. Mr. Greer spoke of a discussion meeting at Portola Middle School, an increase to six student site supervisors and contracting with the City of El Cerrito to provide an on-site school resource officer.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about a possible meeting with police chiefs or designees for a coordinated effort among all jurisdictions, saying that the incident at El Cerrito High School has spilled over to Richmond and San Pablo. He also commented on Richmond High School and the Bay Area Peacekeepers.

Mr. Greer provided additional information about the Bay Area Peacekeepers. Mr. Medrano inquired whether Bay Area Peacekeepers would be expanded to other high schools. Mr. Greer responded that would come at the request of site administration.

Ms. Kronenberg inquired about changes at El Cerrito High School following the incident. Mr. Greer responded and spoke about working with the El Cerrito Police Department and providing conflict mediation to families and students.

Mr. Ramsey commented on having parent participation during the next school year.

President Miles spoke about site councils being a good resource and good starting point to seek parent involvement.

Ms. Kronenberg said she attended both the Safety Committee and the El Cerrito High School safety meeting and spoke about Portola being a feeder school to El Cerrito High School and building a connection to parents.

Ivy League Connection: Mr. Ramsey spoke about the success of the college fair on May 18 attended by 150 sophomores and juniors from all six District high schools, and provided a brief update on upcoming events.

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

Janet Johnson, Guadalupe Valladares, Glenda Pawsey and classroom representatives, John Barreiro, Javeta Gregory

During Public Comment, Mr. Ramsey raised a point of clarification regarding the classroom speakers. Ms. Romeo responded. President Miles provided direction.

Christina Slamon, Cecilia Valdez, Connie Pekedis, Xochiquetzal Moreno Ramos, Lillie Clausen, Martha Carrion, Gerson Sanchez, Bethanie Cassel, Antonia Jackson, Bianca Carter, Ana Smulian, Suzanne Skrivanich, Kimi Honda, Allan Jimenez, Charles Cowens, Cayetano Luna

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Approval of Resolution No. 91-0809 Response to the Grand Jury Report No. 0907

Ms. Gamba explained that this resolution was in response to the Grand Jury Report as provided to the Board on April 22, 2009, and said the Grand Jury Report requires the Board to take action on the resolution. Ms. Gamba indicated the resolution would be attached to a cover letter providing clarification and background.

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano inquired whether the Grand Jury would be provided with a list of our critical financial steps. Ms. Gamba responded that the information would be provided in the body of the cover letter.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve Item F.1 Approval of Resolution No. 91-0809. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.2 Mentoring Program Support

Mr. Thurmond was absent due to family illness and asked Mr. Greer to present this item on his behalf. Mr. Greer provided an overview of the mentoring program that included collaboration with the City of Richmond and community based organizations.

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano inquired whether the District would be seeking support from Chevron.

Mr. Greer responded Chevron was not among those organizations in the current focus, but that the District would branch out to other revenue streams in the future.

Mr. Ramsey said he would support the program even though he has reservations. He expressed concern about volunteers following through on their commitment and cited the Youth Commission as an example.

Ms. Kronenberg inquired about the number of programs currently in operation.

Mr. Greer responded and said the intent was to bring all programs together.

President Miles expressed concern that there was no solid outline as to how the program would run and taking on additional programs in the middle of a financial crisis. She proposed referring this to the Academic Subcommittee to interface with existing programs, looking at additional funding and providing a solid outline as to how the program would work.

Ms. Kronenberg inquired about the grant that would be written to fund the program and spoke about the How to Be a Mentor program.

President Miles again stressed the importance of laying out how the program would run and commented on setting protocols for things such as selection guidelines and fingerprinting.

Mr. Ramsey spoke in favor of deferring this item and strongly recommended having this vetted first by the Academic Subcommittee.

President Miles asked Ms. Romeo for direction. Ms. Romeo responded.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved that the proposal to develop and implement a mentoring program for WCCUSD be forwarded to the Academic Subcommittee and come back next month with a recommendation. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Possible Parcel Tax

Superintendent Harter said that at the last meeting Ms. Kronenberg asked to bring this item back for discussion, given the need to explore local options, and determine whether to consider a parcel tax in the 2009-10 school year.

Public Comment:

Pixie Hayward Schickele said teachers should be invited to participate in any committee from the beginning stage. Charles Cowens encouraged the Board to focus any discussion on the “nuts and bolts.”

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the public’s response to issues that affect them everyday. He spoke about the need for the Board to show leadership and tell people this is necessary for the students.

Mr. Medrano said he was in favor of a parcel tax and inquired about steps needed to put this on the November 2010 ballot. He spoke about the need to reach out to all the District’s organizations and get together in spite of any differences.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about accepting the fact that education in California is “local business” and move forward. President Miles spoke about bringing all players together with a clear purpose of what the parcel tax is and making sure everyone is willing to work.

Mr. Ramsey said this has been a challenging week on state and local levels and we need to come together as a family and continue to find ways to be successful. He asked that the Coronado Elementary School renovation and selection of architect for master programming be placed on the June 3 agenda in order to move ahead with the preliminary plan. President Miles inquired about comments made by Bill Savidge expressing concern about spending the excess funds. Mr. Ramsey responded that Mr. Savidge was expressing his personal views, that \$40 million in savings had been realized from bids that came in lower than budgeted and could be used for additional projects

Mr. Medrano reiterated that it was the recommendation of the Facilities Subcommittee to present the master planning and preliminary architectural design for the Coronado for action at the June 3 Board meeting.

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

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano commented on his activities including attending the CSBA legislative action conference and his visit with legislators, PIQE classes at Richmond High, the Jornaleros out reach to day laborers event, the Concilio Latino community benefits package, the Ed. Fund banquet and Unity Week at Richmond.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about attending the Ed. Fund banquet. She spoke about reforming California education and finding a way to streamline the California Department of Education.

President Miles spoke about attending the Ed. Fund banquet and the students receiving scholarships. She commented on the amount of stress within families due to the economic situation and spoke about the increase in senseless violence and loss of community members. She closed the meeting in honor of Charles Davis, the Berkeley student who was killed and Oscar Hernandez, the student killed at Hilltop.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 3, 2009 Regular Meeting

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 6, 2009 Governance Workshop

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Miles adjourned the meeting at 10:39 PM.

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

BH:pr