

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

September 2, 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 6:38 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.

Student Member Taylor Griggs, from Middle College, spoke on behalf of the WCCUSD Youth Commission. Ms. Griggs spoke about the development and mission of the Youth Commission and the wide range of issues for the upcoming year.

B.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Martin Coyne, Director Accounting/Audits; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Suan Dunlap, Coordinator EL Support Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Employees; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Barbara Mallon, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Secretary; Bill Savidge, Engineering Officer; Janice Thompson, Coordinator Preschool & Non Public Schools; Liz Torio, Director, Academic Intervention; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in closed session to approve the appointment of four Administrators: Joanne Eldridge, Interim Vice Principal at Peres Elementary School; Eileen Malone, Interim K-12 Instructional Specialist at Dover Elementary School; Virginia Rhome, Interim Assistant Principal at North Campus, Harbour Way and TLC; and a transfer of Christina McCoy as Vice Principal of Adult Education.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the vote to appoint four administrators. 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 approve a Special Education settlement agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the vote to approve a Special Education settlement agreement. 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 determine the procedure for a tie-breaker for the unusual circumstance when two bidders make the exact same bid and the Board approved the procedure of flipping the coin between the two bidders, and that will be done with both bidders present as soon as possible.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the vote to determine the procedure for a tie-breaker. 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.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda, tabling Item F.2 and pulling Items C.11 and C.12. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Minutes of August 19, 2009

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2009. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donation**
- C.3 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**
- C.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 26-0910: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**
- C.6 Certificated Personnel Changes**
- C.7 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)**
- C.8 Board Policy 4312.8 – Personnel – Employment of Relatives**
- C.9 Resolution No. 27-0910: Child Development Contract #CSPP=9057**
- C.10 Presentation of Student Board Representatives**
- C.11 Kennedy High School Fire Alarm Project Award of Contract**
This item was pulled.
- C.12 Pinole Middle School Building A Modernization Project Award of Contract**
This item was pulled.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Consent Items C.1 – C.10. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi provided an update of the Academic Subcommittee meeting of August 26, 2009. Three issues were discussed: Benchmark assessments, the opening of the school year and the single plan for student achievement process in the District.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond provided an update of the last Safety Committee meeting and the conversation about the site supervisor program at all schools. He said they were putting together a subcommittee to develop ways to strengthen the program and implement a comprehensive safety program. The next meeting will be held September 23, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

Youth Commission. Ms. Griggs announced the next meeting will be held September 28, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey provided an update on the Regional Information Night hosted by Stanford University that was held at El Cerrito High School on September 1 and future activities and programs.

Bayside Council PTA. Cathy Garza, President, provided an update and announced the first general meeting will be held September 28, 2009, when the program theme will be training. She provided information about the Reflections Program.

D.2 Report on the Efforts by West Contra Costa Unified School District to Promote a College Going Culture

Mr. Greer introduced this item and said that several outstanding educators who have been promoting a college going culture throughout our district will be providing a snapshot of their activities.

Mr. Vince Rhea introduced the following speakers to discuss providing students with multiple opportunities in addition to the comprehensive core curriculum at secondary sites.

Antoinette Henry-Evans, Principal at DeJean Middle School, spoke about the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program strategies and activities and the program's impact on establishing a college going culture at DeJean Middle School. She introduced Jay Eirvan, Counselor and AVID Site Coordinator, and Ashley Curry, second year AVID student who spoke about the program.

Carol Butcher, Principal at Stewart Elementary School spoke about the success of the MESA program which is supported by business and CSU East Bay, focusing on math, engineering, science and academics.

Rachel Bartlett-Preston, Principal at Helms Middle School, spoke about the Career Exploration program which assists eighth grade students to establish clear concise career goals. She said grant funding for this year will include Helms, Portola and Hercules middle schools.

Principal Guy Zakrevsky (Zak) shared his efforts working with students and staff to create a strong college going culture at Hercules Middle High School. He spoke of the high numbers of Hercules High students entering college including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Michele Lamons, an English teacher at Pinole Valley High School, spoke about her efforts to promote a college going culture at the school, including her involvement in the American Sign Language program that has grown to 175 students, the African American Student Union (AASU) that has over 100 members and now includes many other ethnicities and cultures, and forensic speech and debate team of approximately 80 students.

Mike Aaronian and Brenda King-Randall provided a presentation providing an overview of the Multiple Pathways programs throughout our district and how the program benefits students.

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg asked several questions about the AVID program regarding number of participants' use of AVID techniques and strategies schoolwide. Mr. Rhea and Mr. Greer responded.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. Lamons about the number of students in her programs, outreach, and events such as the college fair. Ms. Lamons responded.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. Bartlett-Preston regarding expansion of the Career Exploration program. Ms. Bartlett-Preston and Mr. Greer responded. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about expanding this program to all the schools.

Ms. Kronenberg inquired about plans to add an additional Multiple Pathway program. Ms. King-Randall and Mr. Aaronian responded. Ms. Kronenberg suggested adding an Urban Agriculture pathway at Richmond High School, where a class already exists.

Mr. Thurmond asked how Academies tend to concentrate at certain schools vs. other schools. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked about district-wide career days or events. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Medrano asked about the past difficulties finding an instructor for the Construction Academy class at Kennedy High School. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Medrano inquired about the Creative Performing Arts Academy at Richmond High School and whether they have reached out to the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Ramsey thanked the speakers for their hard work and expressed appreciation.

President Miles spoke about beginning a college going environment at the kindergarten and first grade levels and encouraging students to think in terms of career path schools. Mr. Greer commented on what activities were already in place in the elementary schools.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about Ivy League participants speaking to students at the elementary schools.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the importance of engaging family members and making them part of this process and asked about any programs that were in place. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Thurmond inquired about increasing activities to promote vocational education programs. Mr. Greer responded.

Superintendent Harter provided additional information regarding the skilled trades coming to district schools twice a year to work with our students in small groups. Mr. Thurmond indicated that the City of Richmond's Fire Department and Richmond Sanitary have offered to make vehicles accessible. Mr. Greer responded.

Ms. Rashidchi responded to the prior inquiry regarding programs to encourage parental involvement.

President Miles said she felt empowered to be hearing about academics, careers and college paths and was pleased that staff brought this forward. She thanked administrators for giving up their extra time.

D.3 Budget Report Update

Ms. Gamba said she attended a conference in Sacramento on the unprecedented July Revise of the February budget. She discussed the major changes that have occurred as a result of the revision, in particular the elimination of Prop 98 Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA).

Superintendent Harter spoke about attending a meeting in Sacramento earlier today with Pixie Hayward-Schickele and 130 other districts to speak about this hidden provision adopted by legislature, and to work with representatives and senators to provide suggestions and let them know the problem has to be repaired.

Ms. Gamba added that if the problem is not fixed, the district stands to lose 5.3 million in funding for students. Ms. Gamba continued by speaking about the “UnCOLA” or what it means when the district is not funded its COLA and we have a deficit funding model in California. She said the total lost funding in revenue limit dollars during the 2008-09 school year is \$13.4 million. The cuts continue and in 2009-10 the district has lost \$39.5 million in cuts alone.

Ms. Gamba spoke about anticipated negative impact on the state budget due to a reduction in property taxes and how that will affect the district.

Public Comment: Al Kirkman

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond, on behalf of all the Board members, expressed thanks to Taylor Griggs for her participation tonight. Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. Gamba to clarify how the QEIA money came about. Ms. Gamba responded. Ms. Kronenberg asked for further clarification regarding the fact that the district had already designated the funds by entering into contracts with teachers. She inquired as to the timing of the decision by legislatures to fix the problem. Superintendent Harter spoke about working with representatives to obtain a rider to the bill to restore that money and turn it back to the state to find the money, saying it is a complicated problem. He said there is no guarantee of a resolution by the next Board meeting of September 16.

D.4 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Dr. Harter recognized contributions of members of the community who have passed away.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

E.1 Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Harter provided a report of events in District schools on returning back to school.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment: Christina Slamon, Robert Studdiford, Jill Wolkenfeld, Al Kirkman

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution 28-0910: Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2009 – October 15, 2009

Superintendent Harter clarified that this resolution is being presented to the Board and public both in English and Spanish in advance of the presentation at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Rashidchi asked the Board for approval to move forward with the resolution in support of the Hispanic Heritage Month which would be celebrated from September 15 through October 15, and said there will be a presentation at the September 16 meeting.

Public Comment: Al Kirkman

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey referenced historical information about the diversity of Hispanics including those with African descent and spoke in favor of including this in the resolution.

Mr. Medrano agreed with Mr. Ramsey and suggested that in the third “Whereas” of the resolution adding “and Africa” to follow Spain. He spoke of reasons against the use of the word “Hispanic.”

Ms. Kronenberg spoke in support of this resolution.

Mr. Thurmond said he approves of the resolution and the proposed amendment to recognize the impact and contributions of those with African descent in the Hispanic community. He said it was important to vigilantly highlight and acknowledge the contributions of all cultures represented in our district.

President Miles spoke of America being a melting pot and as part of our Equity plan acknowledging each student is an important part of our community to make each child feel whole, welcomed and to value their own tradition.

Mr. Medrano commented on the relevance of the DeAnza Exhibition in Martinez.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution 28-0910: Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2009 – October 15, 2009, adding language in the third Whereas paragraph to insert “and Africa” to follow “Spain.” Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 Resolution No. 25-0910: Permitting Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee Appointments to Serve in Dual Capacity if, While Representing Stakeholder Organizations, They also meet the Statutory Membership Criteria of Proposition 39

This item was pulled.

F.3 Community Survey on Revenue Enhancement Measures

Superintendent Harter provided background regarding the June appointment of Mr. Medrano and Ms. Kronenberg to serve as a subcommittee to consider local funding options, and said the subcommittee is recommending engaging Godbe Research to conduct a random sample survey to assess the degree to which our voters will support local measures to replace some of our lost funding as well as to consider another bond measure.

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey move approval of the recommendation. Mr. Medrano seconded.

Mr. Thurmond asked for Board discussion on the motion and inquired as to the timeframe of the survey.

Superintendent Harter indicated the plan was for October.

Mr. Thurmond expressed concern that a survey conducted in October would not necessarily reflect the attitudes of voters in June. Superintendent Harter spoke about determining whether the voters are interested so we can begin to plan a campaign.

Mr. Thurmond said the feedback should be connected to when the election would be or at least in close proximity.

Mr. Medrano said the subcommittee took into account the possibility that the City of Richmond may be putting forward some type of tax measure.

Mr. Ramsey said that based on his experience he did not see a problem with the timing and the need to tap into the public and see where they are.

Ms. Kronenberg said that these consultants are good at following up with additional layers of information.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the methodology used and whether voter attitude between October – June would be factored in.

Mr. Ramsey responded speaking about the importance of obtaining baseline data and having additional time to obtain additional details.

Mr. Thurmond inquired about the scope of the agreement with the consultants including all the interrelated measures that are likely to come forward.

President Miles spoke of a prior agreement with the City of Richmond and asked for clarification.

Mr. Medrano said the district would not have the issue come up at the same election time that Richmond has theirs.

Mr. Thurmond recommended that the scope of the agreement should include the likelihood of all three measures passing.

Ms. Kronenberg said the conversation with the consultants included a bond measure and a parcel tax, and that it did not include a possible utility tax since that is not put on by the school board and only impacts a segment of the district.

Mr. Thurmond said we should take into consideration the impact on Richmond voters being asked to vote on three measures and that should be considered.

Mr. Ramsey said Mr. Thurmond was making a good point; however, he said that could be considered when the City of Richmond does a real proposal.

Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agreement as is.

Mr. Thurmond made a substitute motion that we approve this item with inclusion of intention that our contractor would ask about the three likely votes that would be put before the voters of this district.

President Miles asked for a second.

Mr. Thurmond’s motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Ramsey renewed his motion to approve the community survey as presented.

Ms. Kronenberg seconded.

President Miles asked for clarification. Ms. Romeo responded.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Community Survey on Revenue Enhancement Measures. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Bill Savidge provided an update of district-wide bond program projects.

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey commented on the engineering master program and possible additional projects due to lower estimations on projects due to current economic conditions and inquired about the reinvestment act funding under the stimulus package. Ms. Gamba and Mr. Savidge responded.

Mr. Ramsey asked about the projects at Ford and Coronado Elementary Schools. Mr. Savidge responded.

Mr. Medrano inquired about the status of Chavez Elementary School. Mr. Savidge responded.

President Miles inquired about the completion of King Elementary School. Mr. Savidge responded.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the progress of the mentorship program with Brown University and provided information on the Yale district-wide college admissions essay writing workshop on October 8.

President Miles spoke about making sure every school is included in the essay writing program. Mr. Ramsey responded.

President Miles asked Mr. Greer to encourage representation at all high schools. Mr. Greer responded.

Mr. Medrano asked for a report at the next Board meeting on AP success and how to encourage more students and staff to attend the AP workshops. Mr. Greer responded.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked Mr. Reimann for his handling of the technical difficulties at El Cerrito High School at last night's event.

Mr. Thurmond announced the Andrew Gooden Foundation annual event on September 18 and Familias Unidas celebrating its 30th anniversary on September 18. He welcomed back students, families, teachers and staff and congratulated everyone on the great start of a new year.

President Miles expressed appreciation to all administrative staff, principals, teachers and students for a successful beginning to the school year.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 16, 2009

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:29 PM.

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

BH:pr

<u>AAM</u> Approved 9/16/09
