

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

**November 4, 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 6:45 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:** Michael Aaronian, Coordinator Ed. Services Multipathways; André Bell, Sr. Director Bond Finance; Martin Coyne, Director Accounting/Audits; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Rhonda Haney, Coordinator Youth Development Programs; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Nicole Joyner, Grant Writer/Special Projects; Brenda King-Randle, Coordinator Ed. Services College & Career; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, Engineering Officer; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Yaquelin Valencia, John F. Kennedy High School**

Ms. Valencia spoke about activities and opportunities for students at Kennedy High School.

President Miles and Ms. Kronenberg each said they would like to take this opportunity to make a statement of support to the young victim of recent violence, as well as all victims of violence in the community. Ms. Miles dedicated the meeting to these individuals.

**B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel five (5) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel five (5) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, and President Miles voted yes with Mr. Thurmond abstaining as he was absent from that portion of Closed Session. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to terminate a classified employee.

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the termination of a classified employee. 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 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Mr. Ramsey requested that F.1 and F. 3 be moved to follow the Consent Items. Ms. Miles reported that additional information for item C.9 would be read into the record.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower requested that F.3, Ratification of Local One Contract, be rescheduled to the next meeting due to revisions of information and allowing for public review. He also suggested an additional agenda item in support of Richmond High School victim of violence.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda as requested with the tabling of item F.3 until the November 18 meeting. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.7 Minutes: October 21, 2009**

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2009. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**C.1 Acceptance of Donations**

**C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**

**C.3 Adoption of Resolution No. 49-0910 Replacement of Outdated Warrant**

**C.4 Contracts with Employee Health and Welfare Providers**

Resolution No. 33-0910: School Supervisors Association (Active)

Resolution No. 34-0910: West Contra Costa County Administrators Association (Active)

Resolution No. 35-0910: Confidential Employees (Active)

Resolution No. 36-0910: Unrepresented Management (Active)

Resolution No. 37-0910: Public Employees Union, Local One (Active)

Resolution No. 38-0910: Board of Education Members (Active)

**C.5 Certificated Personnel Changes**

**C.6 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)**

**C.7 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

**C.8 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.9 Richmond High School Surveillance Cameras System Award of Contract**

*This item was moved to follow F.1 to allow Mr. Fay to read a revision into the record.*

**C.10 Resolution No. 48-0910: Recognizing Contributions of Veterans to the Country**

**C.11 Resolution No. 47-0910: American Education Week – November 15-21, 2009**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.8, C.10 – C.11. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.1 Recommendations from Safety Subcommittee for Board Consideration**

Mr. Greer introduced recommendations from the Safety Subcommittee, suggesting each item be reviewed individually for discussion and feedback.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower, Mike Wasilchin, Richard Leung, Ebony Sinnamon-Johnson, Charles Cowens, Genoveva Calloway

**Board Comment:**

- 1. Bring the programs and services from Community Violence Solutions to the WCCUSD High Schools through the Health Centers in each school and explore the possibility of expanding those programs and services to middle and elementary schools. Community Violence Solutions provides programs at no cost to the District.**

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged Rhonda James, Executive Director of Community Violence Solutions in the audience and urged the Board to take advantage of this agency's expertise in violence prevention.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. James about services her organization provides. Ms. James spoke about working with young men and women, curriculum, and a commitment of resources to young men and women.  
Mr. Medrano said he heard similar responses at various community gatherings over the past week and he agreed that the district needs this kind of resource for young people.

Mr. Ramsey also agreed.

Ms. Valencia recommended expanding services to middle and elementary school students.

Ms. Miles invited Ms. James to attend the next academic subcommittee meeting on November 24 to discuss potential programs and funding sources. She also discussed including teachers as part of the process to determine curriculum.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Item 1. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

- 8. Refer to the Facilities Subcommittee the consideration of providing additional lighting at school campuses.**
- 9. Invite the City Council members from the five cities in West Contra Costa, along with representatives from the County and Legislature, to meet to discuss safety enhancement efforts throughout West County.**

Mr. Ramsey suggested that Board members were in agreement with items 8 and 9.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Items 8 and 9. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

President Miles set the date for a community round table on Saturday, November 14, in reference to increasing collaboration to curb violence in West County.

- 3. Enlist local legislators in an effort to accelerate the approval process at the Division of State Architect so that the planned fencing of Richmond High School can proceed as quickly as possible.**

Mr. Myrick, representative of Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, spoke about proactive efforts to approach the Division of State Architects in order to move forward the planned fencing for Richmond High.

- 7. Refer to the Academic Subcommittee a recommendation to develop and implement a district-wide K-12 program to promote civility, respect and other character traits. The Academic Subcommittee would create a process to include schools and community in determining the content and implementation in the schools with costs and timeline to be determined.**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Items 3 and 7 Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

- 4. District staff will complete a report regarding the sexual assault of a student on October 24, 2009 at Richmond High that includes an analysis of the conditions at the school and the supervision at the Homecoming Dance and contains recommendations for enhanced procedures and potential costs to improve safety conditions. The plan would be developed in a way so as not to interfere with the ongoing police investigation or the successful prosecution of the perpetrators. Costs and timeline to be determined.**

Mr. Ramsey said he agreed with speakers about the necessity for an independent, objective investigation regarding this situation.

Mr. Medrano concurred.

Ms. Kronenberg also agreed and spoke about a neutral party taking on this investigation.

Mr. Thurmond also agreed and spoke about developing list of entities that can conduct an investigation.

Superintendent Harter spoke about meeting with officials from the Contra Costa County Office of Education and their offer to conduct an independent investigation, bringing in a team as part of their services.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Item 4 with the Contra Costa County Office of Education being solicited for its services to conduct an independent investigation. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

2. **Review non-general fund budgets and explore ways to identify resources to expand the partnership with Bay Area Peace Keeper so that the services from that group can be expanded in WCCUSD high schools. Funding source and cost unknown.**
  
6. **District staff in conjunctions with employees groups and other stakeholders will develop a comprehensive safety plan that would coordinate the elements from the California Department of Education “Safe Schools Planning” list that are already in place with those that need to be developed to include: Comprehensive School Safety Plan, Assessment of School Safety, Discipline Policies and Practices, Funding, Professional Development Activities, Counseling and Guidance Services, Collaborative Relationships, Safe School Programs and Strategies and Campus Security. Cost and timeline to be determined.**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the concerns of Public Employees Union, Local One, and requests from the Richmond High School site, saying that he will support this item.

Mr. Medrano spoke in support of the expertise of Bay Area Peacekeepers and their work with gangs.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of Bay Area Peacekeepers as experts to address a specific problem, and that she does not see this as an infringement of site supervisors on campuses.

Mr. Thurmond explained that these recommendations came from a community meeting where members of the community provided input and asked for help, and he spoke in support of moving ahead as any commitment of funds will be approved by the Board at a later meeting.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Items 2 and 6 with the amending of Item 2 to include services from Bay Area Peacekeepers and incorporate site supervisors in training and protocol in order to maintain campus safety. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

Mr. Greer reported that the organization, Bay Area Peacekeepers, is drafting an assessment and proposal which will include intervention, street team, and gang prevention presentations. He continued to say that he will work with Human Resources to meet with Local One to review job descriptions and safety teams.

Ms. Miles urged discussion with Local One to complement the work of site supervisors and that a report be brought back to the Board at a future time.

5. **Allow Neighborhood Councils, after training and under the supervision of the Richmond Police Department, to patrol campuses and report findings to the Richmond Police Department and the school principals.**

Mr. Thurmond spoke about neighborhood councils and watch groups patrolling in the Richmond High School neighborhoods as well as other school communities, providing volunteer services, working with schools around safety.

Ms. Miles asked about training for volunteers. Ms. Rashidchi responded with information about volunteers, as well as training and funding.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about sustaining the commitment of volunteers with a program requiring individuals to maintain contact with each volunteer.

Mr. Medrano asked whether training is offered in a bilingual format. Ms. Rashidchi responded affirmatively.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Item 5. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Yaquelin Valencia (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

7:51 PM Yaqueline Valencia left meeting.

#### **C.9 Richmond High School Surveillance Cameras System Award of Contract**

Mr. Fay read the following revision into record:

The District has two major security-related facilities initiatives underway at Richmond High School—new/replacement fencing and gates and a surveillance camera system. The fencing and gates project has completed design and is awaiting final approval at the Division of State Architect. The surveillance camera system was designed

with input from site administrators and Safety Resource Officers from the Richmond Police Department. Maxut Engineering has provided completed plans and specifications which include full interior and exterior coverage. In addition, the web-based system components will allow for remote access and event monitoring by the District and Richmond Police.

*The District conducted a public bid process for this project. Bids were opened on November 3, 2009. Five Contractors submitted bids. They are as follows: Stanley Security \$828,500; Electronic Innovations \$720,360; Aeko Consulting \$433,956; AT&T \$424,720; and, Walsh Electronic Systems \$338,988. Walsh Electronic Systems is the lowest apparent responsive, responsible bidder.*

This item is being presented prior to the expiration of the five working day Bid Protest period. In consideration of this timing, and in order to expedite the project, the Board's action will be to authorize staff to issue the Notice of Award effective at the end of the Bid Protest period to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. This award by staff will then be brought back for ratification at a future meeting.

**Recommendation:** Authorize staff to issue Notice of Award upon successful completion of the Bid Protest period, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

**Fiscal Impact:** Total for this action: \$338,988. Funded by the Measure J Bond.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification of the time line of installation of cameras when the contract is awarded.

Mr. Fay spoke of a December 2009 date to begin installation of cameras with completion in March, and construction start date of January 2010 for the fence and gate construction with completion in August 2010. Mr. Thurmond asked additional questions, with Mr. Fay providing details for clarification.

Mr. Medrano commented about visibility blockage at various areas of the Richmond High campus.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval Richmond High School Surveillance Cameras System Award of Contract. 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**

Public Employees Union, Local One – Mike Wasilchin spoke about recent events at Richmond High School and Local One extending heartfelt support to the victim, staff, and schools in the district. He continued to speak about establishing protocols for introducing new groups to work on campus to assure all employees work in concert with comprehensive safety plans and training.

Ms. Miles asked Mr. Greer about including Local One in the training process. Mr. Greer responded that the development of a comprehensive plan would include Local One and other partners.

Community Budget Advisory Committee – Charles Cowens reported about a recent meeting and announced the next meeting will be November 19, 6:30 PM at Alvarado Adult School.

Academic Subcommittee – Ms. Rashidchi spoke about professional development in the district, conversation as a result of the violent crime at Richmond High School, a comprehensive K-12 character development program, and updates about the local education agency plan. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about follow up on the volunteer program and mentor program. The next meeting is scheduled for November 24.

Safety Committee – Mr. Thurmond expressed support for the young woman who survived a violent attack and her family, and the community in promoting healing. He continued to thank the community and supporters for recommendations for going forward. Next meeting of the Safety Committee will be November 17, 6:00 PM at Richmond High School. Mr. Ramsey said that Crespi Middle School is looking forward to hosting a future meeting.

Ivy League Connection – Mr. Ramsey spoke about Princeton information night, a dinner with Vanderbilt University representatives and a potential weekend partnership. He reported on Fisk University, and Meharry Medical School. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about a Pinole Valley High School student attending a Women in Leadership program at Brown University. Ms. Kronenberg said she is also working with Kennedy High’s principal to seek student participation in the Ivy League program.

Youth Commission – Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting will be held November 16, 6:00 PM at RYSE Center in Richmond, inviting students from other high schools to join the meeting. He reported that the Commissioners are concerned and are working on ways to engage other students to raise awareness in reducing and preventing violence.

**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.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Robert Brower, Thomas Prather, Charles Cowens, Pinole Mayor Maria Alegria

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Recommendation from Safety Subcommittee for Board Consideration**

*Moved to follow Consent Items*

**F.2 Resolution No. 46-0910: Measure “J” Series “D” Bond Issuance**

Ms. Gamba presented information regarding the sale of bonds. She introduced Bond Counsel David Casnocha, and Disclosure Counsel Mary Fernandez. She also introduced Underwriter Jeff Baratta and Financial Advisor Dave Olson. She said that if approved, this item will then be presented to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors for approval and bond sale by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Olson to explain the state lottery process for OSCB bonds. Mr. Olson spoke about qualified school construction bonds as tax credit bonds created through the federal stimulus plan. Mr. Ramsey continued to comment on the competition for \$700 million for lottery funds. Mr. Baratta explained the allocation of funds to the largest 100 school districts in the county and seven in California with the remainder of the funds being distributed through a lottery process. Mr. Ramsey asked further questions for clarification. Mr. Baratta and Mr. Olson responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked question for clarity about the reduced amount of interest that taxpayers will pay on these bonds. Mr. Olson responded.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Adoption Resolution No. 46-0919: Measure “J” Series “D” Bond Issuance. 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.3 Approval of Agreement with Local One (Part Two)**

*This item was tabled to a later meeting.*

Mr. Ramsey left the dais.

**F.4 Community Budget Advisory Committee Charter**

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation of information to accurately reflect the committee’s purpose and terms of members.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked about any substantial changes. Ms. Gamba clarified changes regarding the parcel tax highlighted in the document as well as stricken language.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the institutionalization of the committee by passage of the parcel tax and its oversight language.

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification of specific areas of the proposed charter. Ms. Gamba provided information for clarification regarding initiatives of the committee and the district budget process.

**Motion: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Community Budget Advisory Committee Charter. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

Mr. Ramsey returned to the dais.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction**

Mr. Bill Savidge provided a report on various facilities projects throughout the District.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked about availability of Kennedy restrooms and hand washing units for public use on the fields. Mr. Savidge responded that he will look into this because it should be in place for public use.

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

None

**I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Ramsey thanked President Miles for the statements at the opening of the meeting of heartfelt feelings toward the victim, her family and the community in light of the recent act of violence and how much work is ahead to face the bigger issue. He said that the Board stands along side the victim in her request to not turn anger into more violence and engage our youth in making good choices.

Mr. Medrano spoke about Amnesty International's campaign about stopping violence against women. He expressed thanks to Richmond High students and faculty for organizing an incredibly emotional vigil. He also thanked the Richmond and San Pablo Police Departments for efforts to find and arrest suspects.

Ms. Kronenberg said she joined Mr. Medrano in thanking everyone who has responded to this event and spoke about responding not reacting. She said she wants to see the district defined by its response to this crime and change what is being taught to students. She said she challenges to Board to be held accountable for this response.

Mr. Thurmond thanked organizers of the peace rally that took place and the powerful message of love to the young woman who survived this assault. He said he appreciated her message of peace. He concluded by saying that violence against women, against anyone, is inappropriate.

Superintendent Harter clarified that a donation fund has been set up and contributions should be made to the First Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Donations coming to Richmond High School are being redirected to the church at the request of the victim's family.

President Miles said that the challenge here as a community is to stay focused and follow through. She said Richmond has reached tough times, requiring focus on commitments made tonight. She addressed the issue of empowerment of women. She concluded by saying that this violent act is not the image of Richmond and wants others to see what the true Richmond is about.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 18, 2009

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:26 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 11/18/09</p>
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