

**West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting  
Vista Hills High School  
2625 Barnard Road, Room V9  
Richmond, CA 94805**

**December 15, 2009**

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

**A.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

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

**A.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond (arrived 6:39 PM), President Kronenberg

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools; Superintendent Bruce Harter; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Secretary.

**B. ACTION ITEM**

**B.1 Ratification of Contract with United Teachers of Richmond (UTR)**

**(UTR / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with UTR)**

Ms. Romeo said the District and UTR have been in bargaining since May 2008, and that the parties reached a tentative agreement that was ratified by UTR on December 14, 2009. Ms. Romeo thanked everyone for the hard work that went into reaching agreement and asked the Board to ratify the tentative agreement.

**Public Comment:**

Hulda Nystrom, teacher at Gompers Continuation School, spoke about a lack of information and legalities of ratifying the tentative agreement.

Karen VanWinkle, teacher at Dover Elementary, spoke against ratification of the tentative agreement.

Margaret Browne, retired WCCUSD employee, spoke about the loss in salary, benefits and the vote count.

Diane Brown said she voted against the tentative agreement and spoke about plans to educate teachers and the community.

Charles Cowens spoke about the lack of funds, possible reopeners should revenue limit increase and changes to the bargaining process.

Robert Studdiford thanked the teachers for coming to an agreement and making it possible to move forward.

John Fischbach spoke about the need to increase teacher compensation and obtain the promised financing from state legislators.

Susan Billings, teacher at Kensington Elementary, spoke against ratification of the tentative agreement.

Holly Ruff, teacher at Kensington Elementary, spoke against ratification and questioned the timing of the Board's actions.

Eduardo Martinez, teacher at Sheldon Elementary, spoke against ratification of the tentative agreement and the timing of the ratification process.

Cynthia Taylor spoke about the sacrifices the teachers will need to make.

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. Romeo for clarification on the appendices and other items not incorporated in the tentative agreement. Ms. Romeo responded that the tentative agreement included all changes. Members of the public commented on the absence of the salary schedules and Ms. Romeo responded to their concerns indicating all substantive changes were shown in the tentative agreement. She explained that salary schedules don't appear in

tentative agreements because salary schedules are developed from the underlying changes in the language. It is the underlying changes that the Board is approving.

Mr. Medrano inquired further about the salary schedule. Ms. Romeo responded that changes to the salary schedules are written in a portion of the agreement and as customary, are developed and provided after the agreement is ratified.

Mr. Thurmond inquired about the volume of information that was being questioned. Ms. Romeo responded.

Ms. Kronenberg asked for confirmation that what is currently provided is a formula. Ms. Romeo confirmed and further clarified that all agreed upon language is before the Board.

Ms. Kronenberg responded to members of the public who expressed additional concerns.

Mr. Thurmond suggested a short break for those present to review the tentative agreement.

Mr. Ramsey commented on the limited purpose of this meeting being the ratification of an agreement that was reached by the District and UTR.

Upon request for a point of order, Ms. Romeo instructed that if there is no further Board discussion to go forward with a motion, a second and a vote.

Mr. Ramsey moved approval. Mr. Medrano seconded.

Mr. Thurmond asked for discussion on the motion, requesting a restatement of some of the major provisions of the agreement.

Ms. Romeo provided information on reopeners, changes to benefit structures for active and retired employees, class size and staffing allocation, furlough days and salary structure.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged the sacrifices being made for the District and expressed appreciation.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Tentative Agreement with United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

**The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting – January 6, 2010**

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

BH:pr  
Min sp 12-15-09

<u>AAM</u> Approved 1/6/10
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