

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

March 15, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Alejandra Alonso, Interpreter; Andre Bell, Senior Director Bond Finance; Pat Calvert, Director Certificated Employees; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Cliff Dorton, Electronics Technician; Lisa Erwin, Senior Director Fiscal Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent, Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Linda Grundhoffer, State Trustee; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent Human Services

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Pursley, Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Jeff Friedman, Patrick Tahara, Jill Sprague, Anastasia Garrison, Stephanie Kaiser, Leigh Brown, Linda Smith-Munyan, Marci Yura

III. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Superintendent Harter announced that this meeting would be a workshop for the Board to conduct a public discussion. He reported on the six community budget meetings held in January and February with over 700 people in attendance and said that Ms. Sheri Gamba would provide additional background at the request of the Board.

Ms. Gamba provided information regarding multiyear projections, anticipated deficit spending, expenditures, and other budget details.

Discussion ensued among Board members and staff, including the possible use of available deferred maintenance funds to transfer to the General Fund, as appropriate under state flexibility law, and review of the bond project list for deferred maintenance funds.

Ms. Rashidchi provided information regarding the use of federal funds, new Title I ARRA funds (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) for a class size reduction (CSR) initiative. She reported that the U.S. Department of Education has approved eight waiver requests from the California Department of Education. She said that Title II funds for Highly Qualified Teachers would allow another option for use toward class size reduction, and the targeting and repurposing of federal funds to the CSR initiative. With the repurposing of funds, she indicated that other services would be given up to take advantage, including the repurposing of professional development funds, reduction or elimination of the categorical fund cushion, and that this would only be a one year solution.

Board members continued with discussion about levels of funding for class size reduction.

Ms. Gamba continued the presentation with information relating to the Adult Education Program. Mr. Greer provided information about work with the local park and recreation departments to coordinate with classes for elder adults. Superintendent Harter spoke about State funds that may subsidize adult education program costs and staffing. Discussion continued.

Ms. Gamba restated the Board's direction in dealing with the use of deferred maintenance funds for class size reductions and augmenting secondary levels, as well as the potential of a balanced budget by June for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Ramsey asked staff to bring this item to the next Board meeting for the public to address. Board members were in agreement.

Superintendent Harter spoke about the Legislature dealing with 2009-10 budget deficit and the U.S. House of Representatives considering a bill that would provide additional funding for education.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

BH:dh

AAM
Approved 4-14-10