

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

April 28, 2010

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:31 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Kronenberg 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: André Bell, Senior Director Bond Finance; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; 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; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Linda Jackson, Executive Director K-12; Harlan Kerr, Principal Vista Hills; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Lyn Potter, Coordinator State and Federal; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Janice Thompson, Coordinator Preschool

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative

Mr. Matthew Arciniega 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 suspend those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the expulsion of eight (8) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes with Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the forwarding of statement of charges on two (2) certificated employees.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the forwarding of statement of charges on two (2) certificated employees. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to reinstate nine (9) Instructional Specialists, four (4) Coordinators and one (1) Assistant Principal for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the reinstatement of nine (9) Instructional Specialists, four (4) Coordinators and one (1) Assistant Principal for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the appointment of two (2) Bond Facility Project Managers, Mr. James Faith and Mr. Andrew Mixer.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the administrative appointments of two (2) Bond Facility Project Managers. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment:

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

B.7 Minutes: April 14, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2010. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donation

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Contracted Services

C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.6 Notice of Completions: Bid J068097 Richmond High School New Bleacher and Field House, J068163 Verde Playground and Site Work Upgrades, W068172 Chavez Elementary Wall and Window Repair

C.7 Notification of Claims Rejected

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.9 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.10 Approve Revised Job Description: Risk Manager

This item was pulled to allow public comment.

C.11 Resolution No. 84-0910: Classified School Employee Week, May 16-22, 2010

C.12 Resolution No. 83-0910: National “Day of the School Nurse”

C.13 Resolution No. 82-0910: California “Day of the Teacher”

C.14 Resolution No. 86-0910: School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week – May 3-7, 2010

C.15 Uniform Public Construction Cost Account Procedures

C.16 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report

C.17 Crespi Jr. High Emergency Repair Program Gym Wall Repair Contract Award

C.18 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.19 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.20 Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointments: Anton Jungherr Change of Appointment Status

C.21 Approval of Contract for Furniture, Setup and Installation at Kennedy High School

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Consent Items C.1 – C.9, C.11 - C.21. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.10 Approve Revised Job Description: Risk Manager

Public Comment:

Marcus Mitchell, Sandra Falk

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond suggested the Board hold this item over to resolve any disagreement. Ms. Romeo reported that meet and confer conferences had taken place and recommended approval of the position.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Item C.10 Approve Revised Job Description: Risk Manager. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Mr. Ramsey requested to amend the agenda by moving item G.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School to follow the Consent Items due to the number of students in the audience. All Board members agreed.

G.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School

Superintendent Harter introduced staff from Manzanita Charter Middle School and their request for a renewal of that charter and public hearing for discussion. He said this item will return June 2, 2010 for Board action. Board Chair Linda Ruiz-Lozito, Science Teacher Cristina da Silva, and Fiscal Manager Jill Perry, and a parent presented information about the school.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey said he was glad to allow staff and families opportunity to provide a well done presentation and that they are doing a wonderful job for students.

Mr. Medrano addressed those in the audience in Spanish.

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the student-to-staff ratio and required hours for parent participation.

Ms. da Silva and Ms. Ruiz-Lozito responded.

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 West Contra Costa Unified School District presents: “Classified Employee of the Year”

Ms. Romeo introduced the first annual recognition of classified employee of the year. Each honoree was introduced and awarded with a plaque. The Board and Superintendent joined in the recognition of these employees.

Classified Supervisor
General Services M & O
Office & Technical
Paraprofessional

Virginia (Ginny) Gardner, Office Manager, Hercules M/H School
Kevin Duggan, Auto Mechanic
Loretta Varnado, School Secretary, Ellerhorst Elementary School
Elaine Filippi, Special Education Assistant, DeAnza High School

Public Comment:

Sandra Falk, Marcus Mitchell

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey congratulated the recipients and said he and the Board appreciate their hard work and all they do.

Mr. Medrano offered thanks and said that without their work and service schools would be at a loss.

Ms. Miles thanked the honorees and said that the support staff is essential to teachers.

Mr. Thurmond offered congratulations to those honored and thanked them for what they do and said that everyone who serves in the District plays a role in the education and nurturing of young people.

President Kronenberg added her gratitude to everyone who serves in this District and said it is important to give a serious and professional acknowledgment to the work done by all of the support staff.

D.2 Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report

Ms. Gamba introduced Mr. Charles Cowens, Chair of Community Budget Advisory Committee, and the presentation of a CBAC resolution regarding parcel tax expenditures.

Mr. Cowens offered context regarding the insertion of language that provided oversight by the CBAC in the expenditure of parcel tax funds. The Committee incorporated their role in the charter approved last year and the annual review of expenditures as well as formally certifying that funds being used for parcel tax expenditures are actually within the language of the parcel tax itself.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.3 Standing Reports

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Charles Cowens provided a brief overview of the April 22nd meeting, including discussion of the State Trustee's comments about the budget, MRAD recommendations, review of the demographic report, as well as how to improve public interest and input. The next meeting is planned for May 27 at Alvarado Adult School.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the April 20 meeting where service learning projects were assessed and a review of the competencies that are on the agenda. The next meeting is planned for May 25 at Vista Hills. Mr. Ramsey asked that the committee review responsibilities of counselors. Ms. Miles said that the procedures and protocols for counselors are issues that the committee is addressing. Mr. Greer responded that a counselor handbook is in developmental stages.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond reported that the committee reviewed incidences that occurred at Pinole Valley High School regarding various support services. The committee also discussed truancy prevention planning and will seek input from students at the next meeting scheduled for May 26, 6:00 p.m. at the RYSE Center.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond said the commission met and listened to students about what they can do to support schools designated as persistently low performing schools. High school students would like to volunteer in the development of a mentor program to work with elementary youth. The next meeting is planned for May 10, 6:00 p.m. at the RYSE Center.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported on the annual dinner with Yale alumni. He said that Brown University has contacted the Connection to seek involvement in the District. A May 16 reception and roundtable discussion is planned with Brown University students about urban schools connecting with highly selective colleges. College information sessions are planned for May 18 and May 26. Mr. Medrano reported that he attended the Brown University dinner and was moved by the reaction of parents and their gratitude to enable their students to go to a university. President Kronenberg announced the website blog with contributions by students and parents: ivyleagueconnection.blogspot.com.

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.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Competencies for State-identified Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools

Ms. Rashidchi presented information regarding identifying persistently lowest achieving schools and an update to the designation and process. She asked the Board to approve the recommended competencies and the funding application submission.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked Ms. Rashidchi to define LEA for the audience. She responded that LEA stands for the Local Education Agency, meaning the District.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the determination of the competencies for the interview candidates and the Teach for America component. Ms. Rashidchi responded with information.

Ms. Miles commented on the review of the plan by local union organizations and whether the teachers' union has participated in this process. Ms. Romeo responded that meetings have been held with United Teachers of Richmond regarding developing a partnership, working with Lincoln staff to provide input, and the expectation of a Memorandum of Understanding in the next few weeks.

Mr. Medrano asked about teacher assignments as well as community input. Ms. Romeo and Ms. Rashidchi responded with clarification.

Ms. Miles asked about professional development to support teachers once the process is put into place. Ms. Rashidchi responded that this is detailed as part of the application submission.

President Kronenberg asked about the process of selection of the turn-around model of intervention. Ms. Rashidchi responded with details about the selection of the turn-around model versus other models.

Mr. Medrano commented about productive parent training. Ms. Rashidchi responded affirmatively.

Mr. Thurmond asked about parent involvement requirements elements. Ms. Rashidchi responded that the details of parent involvement and community relationship building are part of the conversation with parents, with details yet to be solidified.

Mr. Medrano raised concern about absenteeism during the Christmas holiday season.

Mr. Ramsey expressed the need to educate families about the importance of education versus absenteeism and truancy. Ms. Rashidchi said that data would be used to inform parents about the trends and patterns and then address these concerns school wide.

Mr. Thurmond said this is an opportunity to articulate an expectation that to be successful means being at school on time, everyday, ready to learn.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Competencies for State-identified Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools. Mr. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Mr. Ramsey requested to amend the agenda by moving item G.2 Community Roots Academy to follow item F.1. All Board members agreed.

G.2 Community Roots Academy

Dr. Francine Shakir, Director of Family and Community Partnerships, and Wesley Jacques, Director of School, for Community Roots Academy presented their charter school petition for the North Richmond community.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

Linda Delgado, Mark Alexander, Fred Jackson

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey thanked everyone for their presentation and proposal, and hoped they would bring some models that can be incorporated in what the District is doing.

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the location and accommodations, staffing ratios, and the physical education program. Mr. Jacques and Dr. Shakir provided responses.

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of the physical location.

Ms. Miles asked about funding sources. Mr. Jacques responded that the budget put together for review is with public funds and the plan to seek additional private funds. Dr. Shakir provided information about incorporation and 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the significant challenges and needs for students and what the petitioners see as the biggest challenge. Dr. Shakir responded that she sees mentoring as a huge need in order to expose students to values and world concepts and an academic commitment to teaching.

Mr. Jacques said he would like to envision a collaborative partnership with the District.

President Kronenberg asked about any plans for an extended day or extended year program, as well as adult education support for families. Dr. Shakir and Mr. Jacques responded.

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

F.2 Resolution No. 85-0910 Measure “J” Series “D” Bond Issuance

Ms. Gamba provided information about the issuance of qualified school construction bonds, the sale of bonds and savings to the tax payer in order to continue the school reconstruction program. The anticipated sale of bonds was delayed from last fall due to modified state legislative regulations which resulted in the need to re-resolution the sale under the new regulations. Representatives from the financial team including Krishna Pettitt, Dave Olson, Jeff Baratta, and André Bell were available to answer any questions.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about rating conference calls and strategic steps to improve ratings. Mr. Olson spoke about the current ratings by bond rating firms. Mr. Ramsey asked for a written summary to inform Board members.

Ms. Gamba provided input about the current economic condition in California and the effect it has on bond ratings.

Mr. Ramsey asked for an explanation of capital appreciation bonds and deferring of debt service. Mr. Olson responded.

Mr. Ramsey continued by asking for a full understanding for the Board to know all aspects of capital appreciation bonds and other forms of bonds. Mr. Olson responded with information about structuring bonds and the decline of assessed values, deferred repayments and reducing the tax impact in the short term.

Discussion continued about the Chevron Corporation as the largest local assessed tax payer and their recent filing of an appeal for property taxes debt, which was granted and has become final, and the County’s continued appeal review.

Ms. Miles asked whether the Chevron discussion was essential to this vote. Mr. Ramsey said it is important in terms of future decisions to issue further bonds.

Ms. Gamba recommended the Board move forward since the Chevron issue has been ongoing for sometime and will continue into the future.

President Kronenberg spoke about best and worst case scenarios.

Mr. Ramsey asked about definition of basic aide funding model. Ms. Gamba responded.

Mr. Ramsey questioned the impact of a qualified or negative certification regarding a tax revenue anticipation note (TRAN). Ms. Gamba said a TRAN does not require approval of the County Office of Education, as they are taxpayer approved notes.

Mr. Ramsey asked about the amount of payment to underwriter firms. Ms. Pettitt and Mr. Olson responded.

Mr. Ramsey asked for a correction about the statement regarding the date of appointment of Trustee Linda Grundhoffer.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about current property values, and stating worst case and best case scenarios based on the information currently known, and the bonding capacity to complete school reconstructions.

Ms. Gamba responded that this cash issuance would expect to have cash flow to complete projects through 2011. She continued to say that it is important to pursue another bond measure in June in order to continue the current program with building schools into the future and that Assessed Property Valuation reporting is expected to be released in July. Mr. Bell responded that current construction projects will be funded with the sale of this bond issuance, going forward to completion.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 85-0910 Measure “J” Series “D” Bond Issuance. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

G.2 Community Roots Academy

This item was moved to follow E.2 Public Comment.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano announced the Cinco De Mayo parade to take place Saturday, May 1 as well as festivities at St. Paul's Church in San Pablo. On Sunday, May 2, Richmond will host additional activities on 23rd Street. He also spoke about visiting a history class at Richmond High School studying Japanese internment camps. He recalled an incident from his childhood and spoke about the violation of human rights currently taking place in Arizona.

Mr. Ramsey announced that he will be a panelist at Portola Career Day on May 10. He congratulated the Facilities Department for the removal of portables at El Cerrito High School. He also thanked Dave Olson's firm, KNN Public Finance, for sponsoring the upcoming dinner with Yale University representatives.

Ms. Miles thanked teachers and staff in the midst of testing at all schools helping to motivate children to be successful in order to have confidence in their abilities. Ms. Miles recognized the mothers in attendance in honor of Mother's Day.

Mr. Thurmond wished students and staff continued luck with testing. He spoke about visiting Lincoln Elementary and its activities for preparing for testing. He also acknowledged Ms. Henry-Evans, DeJean principal, as the school celebrated 90 students making the honor roll.

President Kronenberg spoke in support of Measure D and announced the website For the Children of West County for the Measure D campaign.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 12, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 5/12/10</p>
