

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

**June 2, 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 6:37 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 (arrived 7:16 PM)

**Staff Present:** Andre Bell, Senior Director Bond Finance; Pamala Blake, Director of Alternative Education; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Linda Jackson, Executive Director, K-12; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Secretary; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

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

Ms. Valencia, a Senior and Vice President of the Youth Advisory Board at John F. Kennedy High School, provided an update of activities and programs at the school.

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel six (6) students and suspend those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the expulsion of six (6) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg 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 two student settlement agreements.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the vote to approve two student settlement agreements. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg 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 the reappointment, reassignment or appointment of 28 administrative positions.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the vote to approve the reappointment, reassignment or appointment of 28 administrators. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

The following Administrative appointments and reassignments were made:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Appointee</b>
Adult Ed	Assistant Principal	Jim Trombley
Adult Ed	Principal	Raul Ramirez
Bissell	Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources	Ann Reinhausen
Bissell	Executive Director / Educational Services	Antoinette Henry-Evans
Cameron	Administrator	Barbara Kitagawa
Chavez	Elementary Principal	Jeanette Ramirez
Crespi Middle	Assistant Principal	Debbie Narasaki
Crespi Middle School	Principal	Pat Martin
DeAnza High	Assistant Principal	Guthrie Fleischman
DeJean	Principal	Sylvia Greenwood
DeJean	Assistant Principal	Morenike O'Neal
DeJean	Instructional Specialist	Hector Franco-Marina
Downer	Instructional Specialist	Eddie Scruggs-Smith
Gompers	Principal	Latoya Williams
Hanna Ranch	Elementary Principal	Greg Santiago
Hercules M/H	Assistant Principal	Jessica Smith-Kennan
Hercules M/H	Assistant Principal	Ken Gardner
Madera	Elementary Principal	Cheryl Cotton
Olinda	Elementary Principal	Barbara Mallon
Pinole Valley High	Assistant Principal	Ryan Kolb
Pupil Services Center	Administrator Special Education - Interim	Rachel Bartlett Preston
Richmond High	Assistant Principal	Kibby Kleiman
Riverside	Elementary Principal	Alicia Azcarraga
Valley View	Elementary Principal	April Scott
Vista Hills	Coordinator – Educational Services	Sonja Neely-Johnson
Vista Hills	Coordinator- Educational Services	Sherry Bell
Vista Hills	Director of Curriculum	Lyn Potter
Wilson	Elementary Principal	Kim Moses

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to deny an appeal of a grievance.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the vote to deny the appeal of a grievance. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda, with a request to move Item G.1 to follow Item D.1. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Valencia (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.7 Minutes: May 12, 2010**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2010. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.4 Notices of Completion: Bids: JO68194, JO68210**
- C.5 Waiver of California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for Ten West Contra Costa Unified School District Special Education Students**
- C.6 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Spring Sports**
- C.7 DeAnza High School Exchange Group Students to Shimada, Japan**
- C.8 Notification of Claim Rejected**
- C.9 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.10 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**
- C.11 Resolution No. 93-0910 Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees**
- C.12 Approve the Following Reclassification, Revised Job Description: Facilities Use Technician**
- C.13 Approval of Contract for Furniture - Setup and Installation at Kennedy High School**
- C.14 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.15 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.16 Adams Middle School Emergency Repair Program Paving, Drainage, and Site Repairs Contract Award**
- C.17 Adams Middle School Emergency Repair Program Music Room Roof Repair Contract Award**  
*This item was tabled.*
- C.18 Portola Middle School Temporary Campus Utilities Hookup Award of Contract**
- C.19 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education**
- C.20 Resolution 91-0901, Limiting Travel to Arizona and Calling on the Arizona Legislature to Repeal SB 1070**
- C.21 Resolution No. 89-0910: Specifications of the Election Order**
- C.22 Appointment to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

**MOTION: Ms. Miles moved approval of the Consent Items C.1-C.16 and C.18-C.22, with Item C.17 tabled. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Valencia (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**D.1 Report from LGBTQ Task Force**

Mr. Greer introduced the LGBTQ Task Force presentation. He recognized the task force for being steadfast and working on behalf of district students since its establishment in 2002. Ms. Julie Lienert spoke about the history, efforts and success of the program. Also present to speak about the program were committee members Jennifer Rader, Terra Cheney, Irene Rojas-Carroll, Susan Wehrle and Sharon Lewis. Mr. Greer presented a certificate of recognition to the task force for their valuable contribution to ensure safety for all students.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey thanked the speakers for an excellent report and expressed his ongoing support of the work of the task force. Mr. Medrano commented that things have come a long way, but that there is still fear of being recognized and being different.

President Kronenberg said she was delighted that the District is in the forefront of this initiative and it is important to meet all of the District's children's needs.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Rader for her work and spoke about standing for tolerance and inclusion.

Ms. Valencia applauded the young leaders and said it is great they are speaking out for the LGBTQ community.

**G.1 Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter**

Superintendent Harter introduced a presentation made by Richmond College Prep on behalf of its charter renewal petition. David Rosenthal, Founder and Chairman of the Board, presented an overview of the school's history, composition and philosophy and spoke about the school's success, uniqueness and commitment to the community. Speaking on behalf of the charter school renewal were Principal Linda Delgado, Michelle Grant, Quran, Susana Ramirez, Pamela Dawson, and Rosetta Davis.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

*Mr. Thurmond arrived at 7:16 PM.*

**Public Comment:** Tana Monteiro, Dennis Itua

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey thanked the presenters and said he enjoyed their enthusiasm, excitement and confidence. He said that he looks forward to renewing the charter and is impressed by the API test scores.

Mr. Medrano said he applauds the work of the school and that he constantly hears good things about the school.

Ms. Miles thanked the presenters for their great work. She said she was impressed to see young people who are so empowered.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the presenters, families and staff for the impressive information, saying the school warrants renewal. He asked Mr. Rosenthal to what he attributed the school's success. Mr. Rosenthal responded, saying everyone at the school is committed to the vision of putting children first.

President Kronenberg said she is incredibly impressed by Richmond College Prep and the wonderful job it is doing with the community it serves. She spoke about finding ways to connect with neighboring schools to learn from each other.

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

**Motion on the Agenda: Mr. Ramsey moved to amend the agenda by moving Item F.2 to follow Item G.1. Mr. Thurmond seconded, adding a request to move Item F.1 to follow Item D.4. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Valencia (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.2 Resolution No. 92-0910 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2010-11, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and Providing for Notice of a Public Hearing**

**Public Comment:** Charles Cowens

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve Item F.2 Resolution No. 92-0910 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2010-11, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and Providing for Notice of a Public Hearing. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Valencia (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**D.2 Recognition of Juanita Stephen, Regional Science Competition Award Winner**

Mr. Greer introduced Antoinette Henry-Evans, Principal DeJean Middle School, to recognize District Science Fair winners Brenda Quintanilla, Diana Portillo and Marcos Delgado, with special recognition to Juanita Stephen, who went on to win fourth place in the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Science Fair and receive special acknowledgement for a public health award. Ms. Stephen expressed appreciation on behalf of her peers and thanked teachers, friends and parents for their inspiration. The students provided a brief presentation on their projects. Mr. Greer provided certificates of recognition.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond congratulated the students, teachers, staff and family members commenting on the relevance of the projects.

Mr. Ramsey congratulated the students and spoke about his special interest in work related to diabetes.

Mr. Medrano said he was proud of the students for their excellent work.

President Kronenberg said the ideas were very creative and she thanked Ms. Stephen for going to San Francisco and representing the District.

Ms. Valencia congratulated the students and encouraged them to keep going forward.

**D.3 Recognition of the Smith Family McDonald's Scholarship Contribution**

Mr. Greer recognized the Smith Family McDonald's Scholarship, which provides annual scholarships to African American students in pursuit of higher education. He personally thanked Ms. Smith and her family for their contributions and expressed regrets that Ms. Smith was unable to be present.

#### **D.4 Recognition of the Hercules High School Journalism Students**

Mr. Greer recognized Hercules High School journalism teacher Natalie Wojinski and her students who were recognized in the 2010 High School Journalism Contest for Northern CA Press Women. Ms. Wojinski provided background and overview of the program and introduced Sabrina Saktikul and Andrew Asuelo to briefly talk about their experience and what they learned. Mr. Greer provided Ms. Saktikul and Mr. Asuelo certificates for their achievement.

##### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey congratulated the Hercules students for the work they did. He commented on the possibility of expanding the Ivy League Connection program to Syracuse University which has a top journalism program.

Ms. Miles said she appreciated the process of including writing as an essential part of the curriculum, as it is essential for college exams, and congratulated the students on their success.

Mr. Thurmond congratulated the students and encouraged them to cover the Board meetings anytime.

President Kronenberg congratulated the students saying that writing is the key to everyone's future and success.

#### **F.1 School Improvement Grant (SIG) Application for Lincoln School**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Mimi Melodia, Principal at Lincoln Elementary School, to give a brief presentation on the School Improvement Grant application. Ms. Melodia said she is proud to speak about the changes to be made at Lincoln next year if awarded the grant and provided an overview of how the plan was created, proposed actions and timeline.

##### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey wished Ms. Melodia good luck, expressed his support, and spoke about the importance of focus and commitment to have success.

Mr. Medrano expressed the full support for the project and wished Ms. Melodia good luck.

Ms. Valencia offered congratulations and good luck, thanking Ms. Melodia for the wonderful presentation.

Ms. Miles praised the presentation which was also made at the Academic Subcommittee and said that with the staff and parents on board, the school is bound for success.

Mr. Thurmond expressed thanks for the presentation and praised the staff for their commitment. Mr. Thurmond inquired about longer days and safety issues. Ms. Melodia responded. Superintendent Harter commented on the requirements for a city paid crossing guard, and the volume of traffic on Sixth and Chanslor Streets.

Mr. Medrano inquired about the abandoned homes in the neighborhood. Ms. Melodia responded.

President Kronenberg asked what would happen if the District did not win the grant. Ms. Rashidchi responded.

President Kronenberg inquired about communication with the United Teachers of Richmond and the need for a fully signed Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Rashidchi responded.

Mr. Thurmond commended the Board and staff for their support. He proposed that at a future meeting, the Board consider formal adoption of a program for Lincoln by the city and county and local businesses to bring in additional resources.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved to approve Item F.1 School Improvement Grant (SIG) Application for Lincoln School. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Valencia (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

#### **D.5 Standing Reports**

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Charles Cowens, Chair, said that the May meeting was rescheduled to June 24 at 6:30 PM at Alvarado Adult School. He expressed appreciation that the District homepage is being kept up to date of all committee meetings.

**Community Bond Oversight Committee.** Robert Studdiford, Vice Chair, spoke about the recent tour of the new Helms Middle School. Mr. Medrano welcomed a new appointment, Ivette Ricco, to the CBOC.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi reported on two agenda items at the last meeting, the SIG for Lincoln Elementary School and the presentation from the Alameda County Office of Education on strategies for math

programs for students and staff. Ms. Miles and Mr. Greer provided additional information on the math enrichment program.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Thurmond said the Youth Commission is wrapping up its work for the year and interviewing candidates for the next school year. He invited Board Members to a wind-down event on Friday, June 11 that will celebrate graduating seniors.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond said the Safety Committee took up the issue of truancy prevention and several students from all high school spoke about the cause of truancy and how to prevent it. President Kronenberg said it is important have a more comprehensive conversation around truancy and welcomed anyone to participate.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano reported the next meeting will be June 9, 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Ramsey said they will be visiting about 25 colleges this summer and will be setting up events to engage admissions officers. Mr. Thurmond commented on his attendance at the Cornell dinner and offered congratulations to Mr. Ramsey, President Kronenberg and Don Gosney for putting together a great program. President Kronenberg spoke about the different ways in which the program is expanding and directed those interested to: [ivyleagueconnection.blogspot.com](http://ivyleagueconnection.blogspot.com). Mr. Medrano spoke about the multicultural event with Brown University at LaStrada Restaurant, saying it was a very effective presentation.

#### **D.6 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

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

##### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey commented that prior to 1965, the District was called the Richmond Union School District.

#### **E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

##### **E.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter reported on the District bond construction program and the contributions it has made and said he is looking forward to continuing and expanding the program.

##### **E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

**Public Comment:** Charles Cowens, Robert Studdiford

##### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond responded to Mr. Cowen's request for an update on the funds the District is to receive from the City of Richmond to keep three Richmond schools open in 2010-11, and said he wanted to make sure the public understood that no schools will be closing in the coming school year.

Mr. Ramsey commented that Lake and Shannon Elementary Schools are also part of this issue, clarifying that the WCCUSD Board of Education did not spearhead the Save Our Schools Initiative.

#### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **F.1 School Improvement Grant (SIG) Application for Lincoln School**

*This item was moved to follow Item D.4.*

##### **F.2 Resolution No. 92-0910 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2010-11, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and Providing for Notice of a Public Hearing**

*This item was moved to follow Item G.1*

#### **G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **G.1 Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter**

*This item was moved to follow Item D.1*

## **G.2 Preliminary Budget for 2010-11**

Ms. Gamba provided a brief report on the preliminary budget for 2010-11, focusing on issues around the May Revision of the Governor's budget proposal, oversight of the state budget at the Governor's level and how it will affect the West Contra Costa School District. Ms. Gamba commented that for the most part, the May Revision contains no further cuts to K-12 education other than what was anticipated in January; however, there has been a revision in how those cuts were calculated since January and that just the revision of how they do the math on those cuts has changed our estimate to an additional \$1.2 million in cuts to our school district.

### **Board Comment:**

Ms. Miles asked for further clarification of the possibility of additional cuts. Ms. Gamba explained that the Governor's May Revision had changed some of the mathematical formularies which school districts relied on in the past, leaving the District with shorter money than was anticipated in January.

Ms. Miles commented on the need to be pro-active in planning for the 2011-12 budget, and inquired about plans for property sale and leasing. Mr. Fay responded that a real estate consultant has been engaged and will be providing information.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Gamba for the report, saying the State of California has made it clear that schools must find funding locally. He asked Ms. Gamba for an update on Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs). Ms. Gamba responded indicating the deadline will be met and the process completed before the next board meeting on June 22.

Mr. Medrano asked that Ms. Gamba clarify what QSCBs are for the public audience. Ms. Gamba said that Qualified School Construction Bonds, are a method of issuing bonds against a current bond measure already voted on by our voters, and are part of the federal stimulus package providing an interest subsidy back to the taxpayers of our community. She further clarified this is part of the overall planning process the Board is engaged in to build facilities out as planned.

Mr. Thurmond asked that Ms. Gamba continue to provide feedback regarding the Helms School community as it relates to QEIA funding and class size reduction. Ms. Gamba responded, saying the state has not been reliable and has been late provided funding.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether the schools are still held to the obligations if the money comes late. Ms. Rashidchi responded yes, schools are still held accountable for the goals that were put in place for the QEIA legislation.

President Kronenberg commented that the State of California is not a reliable partner in funding this school district, and it is clear that we must find additional resources.

## **G.3 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction**

Mr. Savidge provided a brief review of the District's facilities planning and construction projects, including an update on the fire restoration of the Administration Building at Crespi Middle School.

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

None

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

Ms. Valencia thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Ramsey wished congratulations to all graduating seniors and their families.

Mr. Medrano thanked Mr. Savidge and SGI for the Open House at Helms Middle School. He said that he attended the Reclassification Ceremony at the Richmond Civic Center where over 900 students were honored, and thanked the Board for their support of the Arizona Resolution and for supporting human and civil rights of individuals living in Arizona.

Ms. Miles congratulated all graduates, and in particular those at Middle College who also received their AA degree. She acknowledged the teachers who are closing down the schools at a stressful time of year.

Mr. Thurmond expressed his interest in and support for the Arizona Resolution, although he was unable to be present for the vote. He offered congratulations to all graduates and announced the Honor Roll Barbeque Saturday, June 5, thanking fellow Board members for making the statement that this Board supports academics. Superintendent Harter said there was a phenomenal response of over 2,000 students and family members who have committed to attend the event.

President Kronenberg said that neither she nor Mr. Ramsey will be in town on July 21<sup>st</sup> and asked whether the other Board members would consider changing the meeting date. The Board, by consensus, agreed to change the date to July 28<sup>th</sup>.

President Kronenberg encouraged everyone to vote on June 8, when Measure D will be on the ballot. She congratulated all those graduating and also the teachers, administrators, classified and members of the District family who worked so hard this year.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 22, 2010

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:55 PM.

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

BH:pr

<p><b><u>AAM</u></b> Approved 6-22-10</p>
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