

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

August 18, 2010

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:34 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 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: Waheed Balogun, Director of Facilities and Construction; Samanta Beltran, Substitute Clerical; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Rosa Cornejo, Confidential Secretary; 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; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Terri Ishmael, Hercules Vice Principal; Linda Jackson, Executive Director K-12; Sewellyn Kaplan; Counselor; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Consuelo Rojas, Typist Clerk Bilingual; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint the following administrators for the 2010-2011 school year:

Eileen Malone, Principal, Dover Elementary
Alison Makela, Instructional Specialist, Dover Elementary
Kathrene Hatzke, Principal, Olinda Elementary

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the ratification to appoint administrators 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 for approval of a settlement agreement with Signature Properties at Anchor Cove.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the ratification of a settlement agreement with Signature Properties at Anchor Cove. 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.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session for approval of a settlement agreement with West Coast Contractors.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the ratification of a settlement agreement with West Coast Contractors. 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda including the tabling of items E.1 and D.2. 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: July 28, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of July 28, 2010. 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.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.5 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.6 Notification of Claim Rejected

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Classified

C.9 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.11 Bond and Non-Bond Revised Change Order Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.12 Ratification of Previously Authorized Staff Awarded Contracts

C.13 Purchase of State Relocatable Buildings

C.14 Agreement with Bay Area Community Resources, YMCA of the East Bay and Contra Costa County Health Services for School Based Health Center Coordinator Services

C.15 Agreement with the Cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, Pinole and Hercules and the Office of the

C.16 Terence Martin Day – August 23, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C16. 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.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

United Teachers of Richmond. President Diane Brown talked about the NEA High Priorities Schools Campaign, the contractual work day, teachers preparing classrooms for first day of school, and treating teachers with respect.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey invited two students who participated in programs over the summer to share their experiences. Dyana So, Pinole Valley High student, told of her experiences at Cornell University. Beulah Agbabiaka, Middle College High student, spoke about her experiences at Columbia University. Chaperone Terri Ishmael spoke about the students she accompanied to Columbia. Sewellyn Kaplan, chaperone to Cornell students, spoke about their opportunities and experiences. President Kronenberg also commented about her time spent with each group during the summer.

D.2 Expulsion Process

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

E.1 Request to Address the Board – Campaign Contribution Limits

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter reported on activities in the District during the summer months and preparations at school sites for opening.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Christina Slamon, Robert Studdiford, Thomas Prather

F. ACTION ITEMS

None

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Preventing School Closures in the City of Richmond

Superintendent Harter spoke about collaboration with the City of Richmond and the District and efforts to prevent closures. He provided a background about the District over the years with population fluctuations and the school closure process. He said that the District is seeking discussion and direction from the Board to work with the City of Richmond to keep Grant, Olinda and Kennedy open for the 2011-12 school year.

Richmond City Council Member Myrna Lopez spoke about the Council's support for maintaining Richmond schools and her renewed commitment during the financially difficult times. She would like to continue this dialogue with City Council members in September.

Public Comment:

Christina Slamon, Jason Freeman, Robert Studdiford

Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay spoke about the City's support of the recommendation to consider concepts to enhance partners that could help both the District and the City. He spoke of the District's need for certainty of funding for the 2011-12 academic year for financial planning. He said that at its September 7, 2010 city council meeting, an item will be agendaized to consider direct assistance that would allow Kennedy, Olinda and Grant to remain open for the 2011-12 academic year. He said that the City has committed and provided funds for the 2010-11 academic year and feels it is appropriate for the Council to consider further support.

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked Mr. Lindsay to clarify the September 7, 2010 City Council agenda action. Mr. Lindsay clarified that funds are confirmed for 2010-11, and that Council action would be to consider the 2011-12 year and looking at potential partnerships for the future. He said the City is struggling with financial issues, as are other agencies, but the City Council has stated as policy their support for keeping schools open as an important part of its community service.

Ms. Miles spoke about the importance of collaboration between the District and the City. She said she was excited to see the collaborative project models referred to in the agenda item and spoke about other entities that might also provide additional funding.

Mr. Medrano commended the District and the City for their continued partnership. He said he has attended workshops in the Bay Area regarding partnerships with school districts and departments of recreation. He also spoke of the collaboration between the District and the five cities within the District. He encouraged the Board to consider the collaboration of the Richmond Swim Center on the Kennedy campus, the furniture warehouse, and the Martin Luther King Center as well as continued support for the three Richmond schools considered for closure.

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about resources for the Gompers site and whether Gompers Continuation School might become part of the Kennedy Education Center. Superintendent Harter provided clarification in the District's offering a home for Leaderships Public Schools as one school that would be at the Gompers site and a long term solution with keeping Gompers at its current location while sharing the complex with LPS. Mr. Ramsey continued to speak about reassessing resources. He asked Mr. Lindsay about the Richmond Swim Center and repairs needed for the facility. Mr. Lindsay provided information. Mr. Ramsey asked about potential collaboration at the Martin Luther King Center near Nystrom. Mr. Lindsay spoke about the blended campus serving the community and confirmed that legal counsel has advised on the project. Mr. Ramsey continued by asking whether Richmond staff will make a recommendation to the City Council for the 2011-12 school year. Mr. Lindsay spoke about the Council's past history of commitment, an

array of services, as well as their financial concerns. He said he believed that the city's staff will make the recommendation to continue the support.

Mr. Medrano asked Mr. Lindsay about homeowner population projections for the Nystrom area. Mr. Lindsay spoke about potential homes to be built in the area.

President Kronenberg spoke about the creative idea in expanding potential resources as the result of people thinking about solving a problem with best solutions.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about direction to staff to continue conversations with the City and explore avenues as quickly as possible. He spoke about the mutually beneficial relationship and potential investments to be considered by the District. Superintendent Harter responded that the commitment from the City would be to keep Olinda, Grant and Kennedy open for the 2011-12 school year while looking at the provisions of a joint-use agreement including joint ventures, property swaps, and other possibilities, encompassing what the District can do and what it means for longer term operational funding. Mr. Thurmond continued with questions about a timeline. Superintendent Harter said the intent would be to develop a timeline for a joint use agreement by the end of the calendar year and the September council meeting would be to seek commitment to an additional year of funding for 2011-12. Mr. Thurmond continued with specific questions about Kennedy High and population growth in that community. Superintendent Harter responded that the Davis Demographic Report looked at projections for each school facility over the next ten years. Mr. Thurmond asked the process to develop a sustainable plan for keeping the schools open into the future.

Superintendent Harter responded. Mr. Thurmond asked about Lake Elementary and Superintendent Harter responded with information about San Pablo's City Council funding of the school for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years and that he would be meeting the new city manager in San Pablo to better understand the direction that the City Council there would be taking. Mr. Thurmond urged contact with San Pablo officials in an effort to support that community.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Lopez and Mr. Lindsay for their efforts and impact.

President Kronenberg thanked everyone for their input.

G.2 Attendance Improvement

Superintendent Harter spoke about efforts and best practices of other districts with similar demographics in improving attendance. Mr. Greer spoke about seven districts that were reviewed because they had a similar percentage of English Learners and number of students on the free and reduced lunch program. He provided examples of their attendance best practices where the district's central theme was a priority, part of staff evaluations, school site incentive motivation programs, attendance support encouraged at all levels within the district, student exit trends, as well as other factors. Mr. Greer also spoke about programs currently in place within West Contra Costa to support improved attendance.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the need to be in class in order to learn and counseling students about that importance in order to be successful.

Ms. Miles acknowledged the District counselor's format presented to the Academic Subcommittee and intervention models in place at each site. She also spoke of San Pablo as an example of a community services partnership in this area. She said she feels the District does a good job, but can continue to assess and seek ways to improve support for students.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the presented best practices, how they might be incorporated into the District's work and whether the Board would commit to a priority objective of improving attendance and reducing truancy. Mr. Ramsey said that once the parcel tax is passed, he would like to make this a priority for the 2010-11 year. Mr. Greer spoke about principal's goal as 95 percent attendance for the school year and that he would like to show case and recognize the efforts made by school staff.

Mr. Medrano spoke about promoting student interest in school through the high school academies and sharing this information with the community. He also spoke about his work with Faith Works and assisting youth dropouts to get back into school.

President Kronenberg said she saw how powerful the practices could be and she would be interested in a database to analyze dropout ratios. Mr. Greer responded and added that the Richmond truancy program will offer wrap around services to determine what issues are causing students to choose not to go to school and potentially dropout.

Ms. Miles added that a key component to the San Pablo truancy program is parent education and understanding their essential role in the education of their children.

Mr. Greer spoke about the Human Resources Department efforts to fill all teaching vacancies with a certificated teacher in each classroom on opening day of school.

Mr. Thurmond thanked Board members for giving a voice to this priority and acknowledged their individual efforts as well as staff's 95 percent goal challenge.

Superintendent Harter concluded by saying that while other districts' attendance improvements were made directly with intervention to reduce absenteeism. He noted that an integral part of WCCUSD's plan is to improve inwardly by improving school climate, instructional practices, and relationships between students and teachers. He said he would like to confer with staff for establishing ground work for an improved attendance campaign to be built within the fabric of the school system.

G. 3 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Savidge provided a review of the District's facilities planning and construction projects.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked about Department of State Architecture approval regarding the Nystrom open space calculations. Mr. Savidge responded with information for clarification. Mr. Ramsey spoke about appropriate special education classroom use on the site.

Mr. Medrano asked about the closure of South 11th Street. Mr. Savidge said the City of Richmond is inclined to close the street for student safety at the Gompers site. Mr. Savidge continued to speak about the Nystrom site, changes in use of the property and property line issues.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Miles recognized teachers with next week's opening of school and acknowledged the hard work of Local One employees in getting schools ready for opening.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about valuing teachers and the excitement of students starting school. He commended Local One employees and principals in getting schools ready. He spoke of his support of the Stege Elementary PTA and concluded with information about California School Boards Association.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged the partnership and support of the Richmond City Council and also said that he wanted to thank the many teachers who are already in classrooms prior to the opening of school in order to prepare for students arrival. He said he is looking forward to a successful year for students and the community.

Superintendent Harter reminded everyone of Terence Martin Day, Monday August 23, 2010 in remembrance of a district employee who gave his life to help another individual.

President Kronenberg wished everyone a happy first day of school, saying she plans to visit schools during the first week. She said she is looking forward to the year with great potential and positive direction.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 1, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.

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

BH:dh

<u>AAM</u> Approved 9-1-10
