

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

November 17, 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 6:36 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, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Board Members Absent: Antonio Medrano

Staff Present: Andre Bell, Executive Director Bonds/Capital Projects; Linda Cohen, Coronado Elementary Principal; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Erin Fleming, Director of Human Resources-Classified; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Chris Hanna, Information Technology Operations Manager; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Barbara Jellison, Director Food Services; Sue Kahn, Principal Pinole Valley High; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Lynn Potter, Director Categorical & Instructional Support Services; Sonya Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Ed Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Lori Walker, Senior Personnel Assistant

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Pinole Valley High School

Tommy Tran provided a report of activities at Pinole Valley High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve two student settlement agreements.

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the vote taken in Closed Session to approve two student settlement agreements. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 3-0-1-1.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Keith Holtslander to the position of Bond Project Manager.

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Keith Holtslander to the position of Bond Project Manager. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes, no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

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

Motion: Ms. Miles moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to deny an employee grievance. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes, no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda with the tabling of item G.1 to the December 8 agenda. Ms. Miles seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tommy Tran (advisory

vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.7 Minutes: November 3, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval the Minutes of November 3, 2010. Ms. Miles seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tommy Tran (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Medrano. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Donations

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Contracted Services

C.4 Summary of Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.6 Community Budget Advisory Committee Member Ratification

C.7 Notices of Completion: Bid J068245 Helms Middle School Access Road, E068212 Crespi Middle School Window and Door Replacement, E068223 Crespi Roofing Project, and J068222 Chavez Painting

C.8 NCLB Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Tutoring Contracts

C.9 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Fall Sports

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.11 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.12 Approval of Pool of Pre-Qualified Geotechnical Engineers and Boundary/Topographic Surveyors for Measure D 2010 projects

C.13 Approval of Superintendent and Board Members Attending California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C13. Ms. Miles seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tommy Tran (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.2 Employee Service Anniversary Recognition

Ms. Reinhagen announced the names of employees with 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of distinguished service with the District. Board members greeted the honorees.

Public Comment:

Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey congratulated all the recipients for their years of service, thanking them for their hard work. Ms. Miles thanked the honorees for their service to the District's students and their influence with families. Mr. Thurmond commended the employees with 20 plus years and their work with students, parents and staff. President Kronenberg said she also taught in the same district for 30 years and knows the importance of developing a history with the lives touched. She commended the honorees.

D.1 Resolution No. 32-1011: Honoring Audrey Miles for Four Years of Service on the Board of Education

Superintendent Harter recognized Ms. Miles for her years of service on the Board of Education as well as her additional years of service as a teacher in the District.

Public Comment:

Carol Lee Tolbert, Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke of Ms. Miles' contribution during her time on the Board, reflecting on when they first met. He commended her role as a mediator.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about Ms. Miles' sense of duty, her humor, and her choices of the best for children and the school district. He commended her commitment to students.

President Kronenberg spoke about the challenges over the four years that Ms. Miles has served. She acknowledged her as a teacher and fellow board member, and the respect she has shown others. She also commended her constant focus on children. President Kronenberg presented a plaque of appreciation to Ms. Miles. Ms. Miles said that she is emotional, particularly during hard decisions and that she has grown as an individual over the last four years. She thanked the many District staff that supported her and their advocacy for students and parents.

D.3 Standing Reports

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey spoke on behalf of Mr. Medrano regarding the committee's support and recommendation for the debt limit waiver. He also spoke about the new projects schedule for Ohlone, Leadership, Pinole Valley High, and Coronado schools. He said that only Ohlone would be funded if the debt limit waiver is not approved. The committee also heard a presentation regarding the timeline for Ford Elementary, water intrusion repairs at Harding Elementary, and an update on the Leadership Nystrom project. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey said that Vanderbilt University is interested in partnering with the District. Plans are beginning for the next group of students for summer programs with applications and interviews upcoming. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about visiting Vanderbilt University while she is traveling to Nashville this week. She also spoke about recently accompanying students to an international symposium at Brown University.

Linked Learning Committee. President Kronenberg said that Mr. Medrano is in Nashville for a national conference regarding the college going and industry based culture. She will also attend the conference later in the week.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting planned for December 1st at Gompers at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond announced the meet planned for November 22nd at the RYSE Center, 6:30 p.m.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba spoke about the last meeting where the student attendance system was reviewed. The next meeting is planned for December 3rd at Alvarado.

Motion: Mr. Thurmond moved to amend the agenda by moving item G. 2, Adding 6th Grade at Madera Elementary, to following item D.4 in order to accommodate the audience. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tommy Tran (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D.4 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent recognized contributions of members of the community who have passed away.

G.2 Adding 6th Grade at Madera

Superintendent Harter provided information regarding the attendance area for Madera Elementary School over the last five years and possible options for consideration by the Board regarding adding a sixth grade class.

Public Comment:

David Miller, Lindsey Lam, Mindy Brown-Lechner, Lewis West, Sharon West, Jennifer Yolasan

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey thanked speakers and expressed concern to provide equitable educational opportunities for the students. He said he supports transfer students remaining at the school and redrawing the boundaries. He further remarked on the impact of the loss of Measure M funds and the potential loss of class size reduction in terms of course loading and space availability.

Ms. Miles said she hoped there is a decision to the request to add sixth graders to Madera but that the District must consider the financial impact. She commented on parent concerns about the middle school system in the District. She said that while she supports the addition of six graders she has concerns for Castro students placed there, as well as other transfer students.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the speakers and talked about looking at the cost of opportunity if students are lost to other districts or private schools and planning a bridge for students beyond middle school. He said he would like to see all the scenarios for possibility to do this in a way that is affordable.

President Kronenberg announced November 29, 6:00 p.m., for a parent meeting at Madera. She said that it makes sense to allow Madera to add a sixth grade. She also discussed the middle school transition in order to be academically prepared.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about students who attended Madera, Portola and El Cerrito High and have successfully gone on to Ivy League colleges.

Mr. Thurmond commented about the challenge for parents who leave the District during the middle school years.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS
(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Harter reported on activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Eric Swabeck, Kristen Pursley, Margaret Browne

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Request for Bond Waiver

Mr. Fay introduced Dave Olson of KNN Public Finance and Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffary & Company who provided a presentation regarding the resolution regarding submission of a waiver request to California Department of Education asking for a release from the limitation of 2.5% bonding limit capacity.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

Audra Williams, Linda Cohen

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about the tax rate and the bonding capacity. Mr. Olson responded with information about tax rate targets and issuance of bonds. He spoke about available funds and costs of completion as well as school site councils' input in the waiver request. Mr. Fay responded that the Department of Education will allow submission with supplemental information supporting application requirements. Mr. Olson commented on the section about the parental involvement by saying that the waiver process involves all types of requested waivers, most of which deal with educational programs. He said that while the bonding capacity waiver is not a perfect fit for the statute, this is the venue for the Department of Education to review. Mr. Ramsey further commented about the health and safety problem at the Portola property and serious issues that require economic consideration. He also had questions about an appeals process if the waiver is denied. Mr. Olson responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the District bonding capacity as compared to other districts with better assessed property values. Mr. Olson responded with clarification. Mr. Thurmond asked about any anticipated vulnerability in the proposed application. Mr. Olson responded with information about concern of accumulated debt and an increase in bonding capacity, as well as surety of meeting tax rate targets. He further commented that public support of the bonding construction program will make a strong statement.

Mr. Ramsey asked follow up questions about issuing the last of Measure J funds. Mr. Olson responded with information about Measure J and moving forward with Measure D 2010. Jeff Baratta spoke about points of interest as viewed by the State Board of Education

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

F.2 Resolution No. 31-1011: Intent to Seek Debt Limit Waiver from State Board of Education for Sale of remaining General Obligation Bonds as approved by voters under Measure D, 2010

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Kronenberg said that she has followed this matter carefully and thinks it important to support the resolution as well as appear before the Board in Sacramento for the hearing. She said she does not want the bond program to fall victim to the real estate crisis in California because of the Board's failure to fight for it.

MOTION: Ms. Miles moved approval of Resolution No. 31-1011: Intent to Seek Debt Limit Waiver from State Board of Education for Sale of remaining General Obligation Bonds as approved by voters under Measure D, 2010. Mr. Ramey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tommy Tran (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Medrano absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Student Reassignment for Lake and Shannon Elementary Schools

This item was tabled to December 8, 2010.

G.2 Adding 6th Grade at Madera Elementary

This item was moved to follow item D.4.

Tommy Tran left the meeting.

G.3 WCCUSD Competitive Food Sales Policy

Mr. Fay commented that this report is given as a result of public comment about local restaurants delivering food to the Richmond High School campus. He said that families and students have the choice to bring lunch to school as well as purchase from food service offered on campus. He commented that competitive food sales as prescribed by District policies are compliant with state and federal laws. Ms. Barbara Jellison, Director of Food Service, provided further information regarding campus food sales meeting guidelines of state and federal regulations.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Miles had concerns about student and site council ability to make comments and suggestions about food items. She also commented about cultural likes and how that might be addressed. Ms. Jellison responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked about a formal mechanism for feedback from students. Ms. Jellison said her department is working on an online survey for feedback. She is also receptive to recipe development and almost any input to broaden communication. Ms. Jellison said she expected the online survey to be available by the end of February for the kind of feedback necessary.

President Kronenberg thanked the food service staff for their openness to gathering input. She also suggested posting a phone number for customer service and quicker feedback.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He further thanked Ms. Miles for her work with the Board. He also thanked his own family for their support through the campaign and election season.

Mr. Thurmond also wished the audience a happy Thanksgiving and announced a campaign to help raise supplies for schools in the Bay Area called Tools 4 Schools through the volunteer group Bay Area Benefit. He encouraged donations of pencils, paper and other needed classroom items. Locally the schools Ohlone and Nystrom will be benefit. Drop off locations include the Administration Building, Richmond Civic Center, and the office of County Supervisor John Gioia.

Ms. Miles thanked everyone for their support over the past four years and wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

President Kronenberg spoke about attending a Chevron supported Classroom Challenge Awards dinner where a District teacher, Catherine Vanier, won \$25,000 for her school. Ms. Kronenberg had opportunity to sit with Ms. Vanier and other science and math teachers from DeJean Middle School. She spoke about how grateful she is for community partners like Chevron. She also bid farewell to Mr. Rafael Para of SGI with appreciation for his work with the District over the last seven years. She concluded by saying that Ms. Miles will be missed and values the relationship forged.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – December 8, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:26 PM.

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

BH:dh

MK
Approved 12-8-10