

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

April 13, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:33 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Ramsey offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

B.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Sherry Bell, Coordinator Educational Services; Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Cliff Dorton, Electronics Technician; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Personnel; 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; Harlan Kerr, Coordinator Education Services; Joe Mayes, Manager Building & Maintenance; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jason Reimann, El Cerrito High Principal; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Ken Talken, Administrator

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from DeAnza High School

Ms. Julia Bourey provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School and the recent WASC visitation.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the April 13 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 through #013.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of April 13, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 through #013. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes with Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the termination of a certificated staff member.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the termination of a certificated staff member. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes with Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Magdy Abdalla as Director of Facilities and Construction.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the appointment of Mr. Magdy Abdalla as Director of Facilities and Construction. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes with Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment:

Al Kirkman

Mr. Ramsey requested that the Olinda students have opportunity to provide a presentation regarding their fundraiser for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan before item D.1.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with the modification. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: March 16, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of March 16, 2011. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund Raising Activities

C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Contracted Services

C.6 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.9 Approval of Sabbatical Leave Requests for 2011-2012

C.10 Resolution No. 62-1011: California “Day of the Teacher”

C.11 Resolution No. 63-1011: Classified School Employee Week, May 15-21, 2011

C.12 Resolution No. 64-1011: National “Day of the School Nurse”

C.13 Students from Richmond High going to Robotics Regional Tournament, April 5-11, 2011

C.14 Students from Kennedy and Richmond High are visiting the nation’s capital April 23-29

C.15 Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Parent/Guardian & PTA

C.16 Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Paul Gilbert-Snyder appointed by City of El Cerrito

C.17 Lupine Hills & Verde Restroom Surface Repairs Projects Contract Termination Ratification and Authorization to Rebid

C.18 Richmond High School Master Plan Approval

Mr. Ramey said that with the approval of the Facilities Subcommittee, the Master Plan for Richmond High School had been increased from \$30 million to \$40 million because additional support for the school was located.

C.19 School Consolidation Projects Architectural Services Approval

Mr. Ramsey said that with the approval of the Facilities Subcommittee, the scope of work for Montalvin has been increased to \$4 million to allow for permanent construction rather than portables.

C.20 Nystrom Temporary Campus Approval

C.21 Program Management General Conditions Reimbursable Expenses Contract Amendment Approval

C.22 Highland Elementary School Reconstruction Architect Selection

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.23 Approval of Project for Surveillance Cameras at PVHS

C.24 Labor Compliance Program, Local Capacity Building, Informal Bidding, and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (“DVBE”) Programs Management and Consulting Services Contract Approval

C.25 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.26 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

- C.27 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report**
- C.28 Resolution 60-1011: In Support of Senate Constitutional Amendment 5 (SCA) to Reduce the Two-Thirds Vote Requirement on Parcel Taxes**
- C.29 Resolution No. 66-1011: SB 810 – California Universal Health Care Act**
- C.30 Resolution No. 67-1011: In Appreciation of Be A Mentor and Contra Costa Interfaith Council**

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.21 and C. 23 – C.30 with the modifications. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

Public Comment:

Olinda students from Mr. John Ryder’s sixth grade class spoke about their fundraiser for Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief, making a donation to the American Red Cross. Students Damien Clemintin and Ariel Tonesi spoke about their efforts. Superintendent Harter invited the class to stand for recognition.

D.1 Presentation of certificates to the first, second and third place WCCUSD Spelling Bee Winners

Ms. Rashidchi spoke of the opportunity to celebrate the middle school spelling bee winners. Ms. Sherry Bell spoke about her involvement and judging for the annual spelling bee. She said that the first, second and third place winners went on to the county spelling bee. She recognized the winners who were presented with certificates of recognition.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.2 Teacher of the Year Recipients

Ms. Rashidchi asked Mr. Harlan Kerr to provide information to honor the District’s Teachers of the Year. Mr. Kerr recognized the four recipients with certificates of recognition. The winners include:

Primary Teacher of the Year	Darcy Long, Third Grade Coronado School
Intermediate Teacher of the Year	Nanci Buckingham, Fifth/Sixth Combination, Fairmont School
Middle School Teacher of the Year	Morgan LaRue Social Science, DeJean Middle School.
High School Teacher of the Year	Athena Kraus, Biology, De Anza High School

Board members individually congratulated recipients.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.3 The Ed. Fund Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Robert Bunce from the Ed Fund who presented the Teachers of Excellence in Education award winners. The 2011 Excellence Award winners include: Jean G. Larocette (Coronado), Andrew deHoll (Pinole Middle), Jason Lau (DeJean Middle), Laura Buffi (Valley View), Morgan LaRue (DeJean Middle), and Sofia Close (Middle College). Also recognized were Michael Driscoll, Distinguished Staff Award Winner and Robert Studdiford, Distinguished Citizen Award Winner. Mr. Bunce also announced the 23rd Annual Teaching Excellence Award Banquet planned for May 20, 2011. Board members individually congratulated recipients.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.4 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation regarding the budget outlook and forecasts of the Governor's budget plan.

Public Comment:

Anna Maria Ramirez, Gayle Louie, Toni Favila, Janet Johnson, Carlos Rullier, Gustavo Flores, Kristen Pursley, Dulce Flores, Dulce Rodriguez, Cecilia Valdez, Diego Arias, Angelica Michel, Nancy Peer, Ken Ryan, Katherine Sanchez, Carla Villaseñor, Miguel Hernandez, Briana Hernandez, Chevez Ada, Patricia Ornelas, Lucia Acosta, Cecilia Ornelas, Irene Hernandez, Christina Tworek, Maria Amor Salmas, Ricardo Pascual, Jasmine Medina, Eufemia Aguilar

Board Comment:

None

D.5 Standing Reports

Public Employees Union, Local One. Marcus Mitchell spoke about the Bell Summer School program and efforts for collaboration in preparation of next year's program. He urged the District to think about what can be done now in preparation for next year's program to look at all options in helping students' success.

United Teachers of Richmond. Diane Brown provided a presentation about a survey given to their members in February regarding teacher working conditions and how to better serve students. She spoke about continued planning and building to support student potential.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford spoke about the reappointments of committee members. He also announced the next meeting at Dover Elementary, April 27, 6:30 PM. He said this would continue the tradition of holding spring meetings at school sites in order to tour the sites.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the last meeting where the committee heard presentations from three textbook publishers. The committee went through a review process to evaluate the various programs, with conclusive agreement about one program; McGraw Hill's Triumph, for both language arts and math.

Youth Commission. Mr. Greer reported on the recent meeting, where the group worked on planning their first fund raising event to take place in April. He further said that six schools will participate in the talent show as part of the fund raiser. The next meeting will be April 25, at the RYSE Center at 6:30 PM.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg announced the April 26 meeting, inviting the business community to partner with schools and academies. She said the proposed 21 academies will make the District one of the most robust programs in the state.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond reported that the next meeting is planned for May 12 at Kennedy High School, 6:00 PM where the ongoing theme of meetings will continue regarding prevention of safety threats such as crisis situations and critical incidents that affect safety of students and community.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting scheduled for April 28 at the Alvarado Adult Education campus. The agenda will include a review of the parcel tax expenditures for 2010-11 school year.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the April 12 meeting where action items included acceptance of the Fairmont Elementary master plan, tabling the Wilson Elementary master plan for revisions, updated program budgets, and schedule and cash flow projections for Measures J and D. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 3:30 PM at the Facilities and Operations Center. Mr. Ramsey added a statement for the record about a surplus in the bond facility program of over \$13.5 million which will allow further allocations to Richmond High School and decreases to the budget for Montalvin Manor Elementary to \$4.1 million in order to continue the standard of not using portables, but building six additional classrooms due to the closure of Shannon Elementary. These two modifications were approved by the Board earlier on this agenda.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey spoke of upcoming alumni events and potentially publishing poets and writers' workshop materials for high school students. He spoke about college visits to the District. He concluded by commenting that students are becoming ambassadors as they visit other college campuses and communities to speak

about the District. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the students working on blog sites linked to the District webpage, as well as the Getting into College website. Mr. Ramsey also commented on ten students recently attending a Pinole City Council meeting to make a presentation.

D.6 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent 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

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Diane Brown

Ms. Diane Brown, President of United Teachers of Richmond, addressed the Board regarding the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) call to action to make a conscious commitment to make students a priority. She stressed the need for clear communication for decision making with all employee groups. She gave examples of contract requirements overlooked for seniority criteria, grade level preferences for reconstituted sites, and the process for the turn-around models. She asked that the District promote transparency and integrity.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Joan Gallegos, Kristen Pursley, Cecilia Valdez, Carla Villaseño, Angelica Michel, Katherine Sanchez, Briana Hernandez, Patricia Ornelas, Lucia Acosta, Cecilia Ornelas, Christina Tworek, Eufemia Aguilar, Brigitte Perez, Somphone Southiphone

C.22 Highland Elementary School Reconstruction Architect Selection

Mr. Fay presented information about the architect selection process and introduced Mr. Steve Kwok of Quatatrocchi Kwok Architects, the firm selected for the project. Mr. Kwok spoke about his firm's qualifications and work in the District.

Public Comment:

Susan Brahan, David Ranch

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about local building capacity requirements.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged comments of the staff about the process for the decision making process. President Ramsey responded with information about required board policies being followed regarding the selection process. He continued to speak about the bigger picture to rebuild the elementary school. He said that he will go back to the Facilities Subcommittee to see that policies are followed carefully.

Mr. Thurmond said he is aware of the selected firm's work and would like the selection committee to know their recommendations are considered.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Highland Elementary School Reconstruction Architect Selection. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Mr. Ramsey asked the Board to amend the agenda to allow item G. 1 Community Roots Academy to follow item F.1.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution No. 61-1011: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees

Ms. Reinlagen introduced the resolution to eliminate classified positions and subsequent layoffs. She brought to the Board's attention a typographical error in the total number of full time equivalents (FTE's) which should read 14.12 positions, not 17.06. She further commented that the majority of reductions are the result of the closure of Shannon Elementary and closure of some special education classes.

Public Comment:

Marcus Mitchell

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 61-1011: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Community Roots Academy

Mr. Wesley Jacques, Director of School, and Dr. Francine Shakir, Director of Family and Community Partnerships, presented their charter school petition. Members of the design team and Board of Directors were in the audience as a show of support. Mr. Jacques presented information with hopes to open the school in 2012.

Public Comment:

Pastor Dana Mitchell, Ken Ryan, Paul Buddenhagen, Cecilia Ornales, Mark Alexander, Linda Delgado

9:20 PM - Mr. Thurmond left the meeting.

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked the group for their presentation.
Ms. Merriweather asked for a copy of the petition application to review.

G.3 El Cerrito High School Theater

Superintendent Harter spoke about the state of the art theater located on the El Cerrito campus and the provided staff report about community use. Principal Jason Reimann spoke about the importance of the use of the theater and resulting challenges while providing community and student access. Ms. Gamba spoke about the current facility use permit process and a fee based use schedule. Mr. Reimann shared information about focus groups that met to determine goals for theater use with student and site access as the priority. From this information a proposal was developed which would include a position for a fulltime employee to coordinate training, work with technical staff, manage inventory and equipment, and which could lead to a full performing arts teaching position.

Public Comment:

Karen Shebeck, Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey said he would like to see a commitment for a student theater arts program at El Cerrito High. He asked Dr. Harter to find funds to make use of the facility viable or he could not support construction of similar theaters at other high school sites.

Mr. Medrano said he applauded the idea of developing a full visual performing arts program. He expressed concern that the theater is used by outside agencies before student activity access. He is in support of students having first priority access.

Ms. Merriweather said she is a fan of the visual and performing arts and did not think that an access fee comparable to other similar venues would be an issue for outside groups wanting to use the facility. She supported the idea of a fulltime staff member to develop the program.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the current performing arts program at the school, someone to respond and monitor the technical requirements of operating the theater and providing opportunity for students to learn the technical side. She further spoke about the theater being a for profit center to help fund the position of an employee to support the theater and teach that part of the performing arts.

Superintendent Harter asked for direction from the Board for an allocation for the 2011-12 school year to cover the coordinator position to work in the development of the drama program. Thereafter, the resulting visual arts academy in 2012-2013 will use the regular allocation to fund the teaching position as well as all the technical side. He is also seeking Board direction to be able to bring back a modified fee schedule for outside users who should be paying competitive rates for use of the facility. This would then fund supplies and materials that would be necessary.

9:52 PM - Ms. Bourey left the meeting.

G.2 Bond Finance

Ms. Gamba introduced the bond finance team; Dave Olson of KNN Public Finance, Jeff Barratta of Piper Jaffary, Attorney Dave Casnocha of Straling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth, and Krishna Pettitt of the law firm GCR. Mr. Olson provided information about a productive year for the bond program, successful bond sales, facility bond projects, and re-establishing a firm foundation for the bond program. Members of the team provided input.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members had questions about bond sales, the refunding of bonds and available funds. Individual members of the finance team responded for clarification.

G.3 El Cerrito High School Theater

This item was moved to follow G.1.

G.4 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Savidge provided a presentation on the status of the Bond Facilities program.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked about services for the continuation school. Mr. Greer responded. Mr. Ramsey further asked about the Coronado site during construction. Mr. Savidge responded with information about the options under review. Mr. Savidge reported that the Ford staff is slated to move into the new facility in January 2012.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about Kennedy High School. Dr. Harter said he anticipates ongoing funding from the city of Richmond for Kennedy, Olinda and Grant. He anticipates that the District will be able to keep those schools open without an end date.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the King opening. Mr. Savidge responded that the moving of administration staff will begin during the summer. He is hopeful to get as much of the old building demolished as possible during summer while children are out of school.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano reminded the public of the Ed Fund Banquet, planned for May 20, 2011. He said he will also attend CSBA Legislative Action Day. He also encouraged the community to attend community budget meetings regarding funding. He also reminded the public of the Cinco de May celebrations with a parade scheduled for April 30 and the street celebration on May 1st on 23rd Street. He concluded with reminders about Open House dates.

Ms. Merriweather reported on visiting schools with Dr. Harter and the opportunity to see teachers at work, striving to make a difference for students.

Ms. Kronenberg reminded the public of the May 26 Linked Learning meeting for business partners. She concluded with birthday wishes for President Ramsey on April 14.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in honor of upcoming birthdays for Ms. Gamba and Ms. Merriweather.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 4, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 11:19 PM.

MK Approved 5/4/11
