

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

June 1, 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 6:30 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: Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Susan Dunlap, Coordinator Ed Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; 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; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Barbara Jellison, Director Food Services; Joe Mayes, Manager Building & Maintenance; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Sonya Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Ed Services; Lyn Potter, Director Ed Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhausen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

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

Ms. Fabiola Gutierrez provided a report of activities at Kennedy High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the June 1, 2011 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 through #003.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of June 1, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 through #003. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the dismissal of a classified employee.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the dismissal of a classified employee. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the following administrative appointments for 2011-2012:

Elementary School Principals:

Jay Dowd – Valley View
Marcos Garcia – Riverside
Valerie Garrett – Verde
Nivia Smith-Kirknis – Bayview

Linda Takimoto – Harding
Cynthia Taylor – Lupine Hills
Eric Peterson – Dover
Haidee Foust – Stewart
Harlan Kerr – Shannon

Middle School Principal:

Denise VanHook – Pinole Middle

Interim Middle School Principal:

Matthew Burnham – Portola

Middle School Assistant Principals:

Morenike O’Neal – DeJean
Gabriel Chilcott – Helms
Guthrie Fleischman – Hercules
Deborah Narasaki – Crespi
Jerrold Scheidt – Pinole
Ladonna Williams – Hercules

Adult Education Principal:

David Luongo

Alternative Education Principals:

Paul Shatswell – North Campus
Sherry Bell – Vista

High School Assistant Principals:

Jennifer Bender – Richmond
Yolanda Bulls – Pinole Valley
Terri Ishmael – Hercules
Nancy Ivey – El Cerrito
Phillip Johnson – De Anza
Kibby Kleiman – Richmond
Ryan Kolb – Pinole Valley
Reginald Marsh – Kennedy
Armando Torres – Richmond

K-12 Instructional Specialist:

Olanrewaju Ajayi – Lake
Elaine Brady - Nystrom
Jawan Eldridge – Lincoln
Tracie Manipis – Bayview
Alison Makela – Dover
Jessica Smith-Kennan – De Anza

Executive Director of K-12 Schools:

Cecilia Mendoza

Coordinator of Educational Services:

Carol Butcher
Katie VonHusen
Susan Dunlap
Sonja Neely-Johnson
Humphrey Kiuruwi – Interim

Administrator Special Education:

Darlene Almeida – Administrator

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding administrative appointments for 2011-2012. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda with moving item F.1 Affirmation or Reconsideration for Shannon’s Closure to follow B.7 Minutes. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Gutierrez (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: May 18, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of May 18, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Gutierrez (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Affirmation or Reconsideration for Shannon’s Closure

Superintendent Harter provided context regarding the 2009 school closure plan for eight schools over a three year period due to enrollment declines throughout the District. He said that Shannon was scheduled to close at the end of the 2010-11 year. Community meetings were held to introduce the new boundaries that included Collins, Montalvin and Tara Hills schools for the displaced Shannon students. It has since come to the attention of the Board that the total expenditure for additional housing at those three schools is estimated to be \$1.2 million in capital facilities funds designated for that use and would be offset against a savings of approximately \$325,000 per year. The Board will weigh the financial benefit from the closure versus the capital cost in adding capacity at the other schools.

Public Comment:

Debbie Long, Heather Hernandez, Roy Swearingen, Blake Holtzclaw, Mari Tanaka, Christopher Myers, Maria Poblano, Charles Cowens, Carlton Hale Jr.

Board comments:

Mr. Medrano asked what circumstances had changed in the last two years that might cause the Board to reconsider the previous decision to close the school. President Ramsey responded with information about achievement test scores as well as the original intent and purpose of the school closure decision.

Mr. Medrano asked staff about Montalvin’s capacity to absorb additional students. Superintendent Harter responded with information about the 2009 plan to add some capacity at some schools to house students from closures, but with the initial three schools that was not necessary. Staff anticipated a general elementary redistricting at the time of closures, but in the Shannon case reassigned students to the three closest elementary schools.

Mr. Thurmond said that he saw this discussion about doing something more cost effective for students. The Board should consider whether it is better to keep the school open at a cost savings. He said that he supports moving forward with keeping the school open.

Student Representative Gutierrez said she felt that the effects on the community are significant and supports keeping the school open.

Ms. Merriweather said she agreed that keeping the school open is good for the children and the community.

Ms. Kronenberg made a motion in terms of the limitations set by the State Trustee for the Board to consider the cost benefit of the closure and keep Shannon open for the 2011-2012 school year.

President Ramsey passed the gavel to Ms. Kronenberg in order to second the motion. He then said that the Board is staying within the guidelines set by the State Trustee for keeping the school open for another year. He said that time will allow development of issues in the best interest of the community. He was hopeful to keep the school open for next year and beyond even though he originally supported the closure.

Mr. Thurmond commented about any action taken by the Board possibly being reversed by the State Trustee. He urged the community to stay vigilant in having its voice heard.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of keeping Shannon Elementary School open for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Ramsey passed the gavel in order to second the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Fabiola Gutierrez (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voting yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

The Board recessed at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened at 7:28 p.m.
Mr. Thurmond left the meeting for the evening.
Student Representative Gutierrez left the meeting for the evening.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Acceptance of Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.3 Approval of Fund Raising Activities**
- C.4 Contracted Services**
- C.5 Notices of Completion: Bid J068252 Verde Elementary School Restroom Surface Repair and Bid J068249 Lupine Hills Elementary School Restroom Surface Repair**
- C.6 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44328**
- C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.8 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**
- C.9 Resolution No. 71-1011: Credential Assignment Options**
- C.10 Educator-on-Loan Agreement with Alameda County Office of Education**
- C.11 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education**
- C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.14 Measures J and D 2010 Bond Program Budget**

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.14. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Preliminary Budget for 2011-12

Ms. Gamba provided an overview of the Governor’s May revision and its effect on the preliminary budget for the 2011-2012 school year.

Public Comment:

Janet Duckart, Alvin Herring, Kristen Pursley, Maria Prado, Charles Cowens

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of Ed Jobs and Tier III Flexibility. Ms. Gamba responded.
Ms. Merriweather asked about Ed Jobs funds. Ms. Gamba responded with clarification.

G.1 Shining Crescent Charter School

Executive Director Linda Jackson presented information regarding the charter school petition, providing background information regarding the material revisions. Ms. Jackson introduced Ms. Nabeehah Sabree-Shakir as a spokesperson who provided information about the culturally relevant pedagogy and educational implementation.

Public Comment:

Shabana Shahbaz, Khizer Subhant, Hayla Albagal, Firas Jandali

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked the speakers.

President Ramsey afforded a group from Montalvin Elementary School opportunity to address the Board.

Public Comment:

Christopher Myers, Patricia Mejia, Yulisma Lopez, Gisselle Hernandez, Sheila Pineda, Jose Lopez, Lucia Lopez, Deysi Oytiz

G.2 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey had questions about the deferred capital projects budget. Mr. Savidge responded with clarification and an example.

Ms. Gamba clarified that these kinds of expenditures are under the bond program budget for use on capital projects. Discussion continued about Tier III Flexibility, deferred maintenance and the fund sweep into the general fund over the last two years.

President Ramsey continued with questions about the Hercules architect selection process and scheduling for the Coronado and El Cerrito phase II projects. Mr. Savidge responded with information.

Mr. Ramsey asked further questions about portable classrooms. Mr. Savidge clarified that portables for Madera and Mira Vista will be purchased but not for Montalvin, Tara Hills and Collins. Mr. Savidge reported that King Elementary plans to move administrative staff into the new building during the week after school is out and that demolition of remainder of facility will begin after the removal of hazardous materials in July and August.

Mr. Fay announced a preview reception for the community at the new King campus scheduled for June 2nd.

E.2 Request to address the Board - Community Garden – Kelli Barram

Ms. Barram introduced students from Washington Elementary school who shared the importance of school gardens.

E.3 Public Comment:

Andrew Woo, Winston Long, Mark Ohlmann, Marc Phillip Mart, Marco Mallque, William Bryce, Austin Long, Michael Wilson, Kimberly Johnson, Billy Alexander, Maria Magana, Juma Donaldson, Ana Maria Ramirez

D.4 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi gave an overview of topics discussed at the last meeting. The next meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg reported on the second Annual Linked Learning Academy Awards to recognize students and business community supporters. Mr. Medrano said he enjoyed awarding the plaques of recognition to students and their parents.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Chairperson Robert Studdiford reported on the May 23rd meeting with a tour of the King Elementary campus. The meeting resumed at the Facilities Operations Center where local construction workers spoke about their difficulty acquiring work in the District and asking questions about the Local Building Capacity hiring guidelines. He concluded by saying this was a valuable meeting with information for the members and community.

Youth Commission. Mr. Greer reported on the year end event, June 6th at Albany Bowl.

Safety Committee. Mr. Greer announced the next meeting scheduled for June 12th at the Richmond City Emergency Operations Center.

Community Budget Advisory. Ms. Gamba reported on the May 26 meeting where discussion included the preliminary budget information and plans for an upcoming schedule of events. She invited the public to join in discussion at its meetings.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported that Jake Sloan will meet with a group of workers from Richmond to follow up on their concerns expressed at the recent CBOC meeting.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Kronenberg reported on a meeting with participants to review details of their trips. She also announced a mentoring program with Brown University students and alumni. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the mentors working with students on college applications. He also reported that an Ivy League poets and writers group will work with a local publisher in the fall. He commented that 160 students have been served since the program began.

D.2 Report on Student Demographics

Ms. Gamba provided information about the ten year demographic study by Davis Demographics, how the information was gathered and projections for use.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.3 WCCUSD Seamless Summer Feeding Program

Food Service Director Barbara Jellison reported on the summer feeding program for students. She said this is the 22nd year that the Food Services division has provided meals for students in the community. Meals are provided throughout the summer at no charge for students 18 years of age and younger.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.4 Standing Reports

This item was moved to follow E.3.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

E.1 Superintendent's Report

This item was moved to follow F.3.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Kelli Barram, Growing West County School Gardens

This item was moved to follow G.2.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item moved to follow E.2.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Affirmation or Reconsideration for Shannon's Closure

This item was moved to follow B.7.

F.2 Resolution No. 75-1011 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2011-12, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing

Ms. Gamba provided information for adoption of the resolution and notice to the public for a June 28 public hearing. Maintenance Recreation and Assessment District (MRAD) is a funding source for grounds keeping, lighting, and assistance in maintaining school cleanliness.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 75-1011 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2011-12, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.3 Resolution No. 72-1011: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers

Ms. Reinlagen presented information regarding the possibility of hiring substitute teachers who have not taken or passed the California Basic Skills Educational Test (CBEST).

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 72-1011: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Shining Crescent Charter School

This item was moved to follow D.1.

G.2 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction

This item was moved to follow G. 1.

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

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Merriweather reported that she recently attended the Middle College graduation and recognized the outstanding students in the District. She said that two Middle College students were awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship. She also plans to attend the DeAnza and Kennedy graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Medrano remarked that over half of the Middle College graduates also received their Associate of Arts Degree. He said he will attend an awards assembly at Richmond High and the graduation next week. He concluded by speaking about a career advancement academy at Contra Costa College supported by Devi Jamison. Qualified students will receive free textbooks and tuition for attending.

Ms. Kronenberg congratulated the graduates and their teachers. She said she will attend the El Cerrito and Adult School graduations and be in the audience for others as well. This is an important time for families to celebrate. She wished a happy Father's Day to the fathers in the audience.

President Ramsey recognized Mr. Thurmond and his family in dealing with personal issues. Mr. Ramsey further commented about finding creative ways to keep schools open. He said he hopes that Richmond voters will rally around Measures C and D in support of their community. He concluded by adjourning the meeting in the names of Linda Jackson who is retiring and Mario Miranda, one of the original Ivy League chaperones.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – *Tuesday, June 28, 2011*

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:47 PM.

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