

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

August 17, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:45 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 arrived at 7:32 p.m.

Staff Present: Mike Aaronian, Coordinator Linked Learning; Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director/Bond Finance; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-12 Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Antoinette Henry-Evans, Executive Director K-12; Josh Herrera, Electronics Technician; Tashaka Merriweather, Student Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhausen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer, Mike Wasilchin, Coordinator Disaster Preparation/Safety

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the following administrative appointments for 2011-2012:

Timm MacDonald – Interim Assistant Principal, Pinole Valley High School
Renee Lama – Assistant Principal, Kennedy High School
Ann Marie Marinakis, K-12 Instructional Specialist, Lake Elementary School
Philip Daniel Gonsalves, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session to approve the administrative appointments for 2011-2012. 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.

B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

Mr. Ramsey requested that D and E items be moved to follow item B. 6 to accommodate speakers.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with the moving of D and E items to follow B.6. 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.

B.6 Minutes: July 27, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Minutes of July 27, 2011. 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.

D.1 Presentation from Jonathan Bernstein on “Not In Our Town” efforts to stop hate crimes

Ms. Merriweather introduced Mr. Jonathan Bernstein who provided background about the program to counter hatred, bigotry and bullying through the power of positive stories empowering communities.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather said she is hopeful for a community viewing in the area.

D.2 Bond Sales

Ms. Gamba introduced Dave Olson of KNN Public Finance, Kris Vaca of GCR LLP, Richard Calabro and Christopher Bessette of Piper Jaffrey who all participated in a presentation. Mr. Olson reported on a very successful bond sale that took place the week of August 8, 2011 with the intent of issuing new bonds at lower interest rates in order to repay old bonds that have higher interest rates thereby saving taxpayer money and reducing taxpayer costs by \$7.35 million.

Discussion continued about improving the District outlook as compared to other districts where bond ratings are concerned.

Mr. Olson and Ms. Vaca were asked about the Teeter Plan and the county’s ability of allocating for delinquent property tax revenues, disclosure for the next round of bond sales, and a way to persuade investors regarding information relevant to the District. Ms. Vaca responded.

President Ramsey asked Ms. Vaca for an opinion about payoff of the existing state loan in terms of disclosure requirements. Ms. Vaca responded.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the positive aspect of the financial history of the District with early repayment of the state debt.

President Ramsey spoke about the false illusion that the District is run by the Trustee and that Board members manage the District.

Public Comment:

None

Mr. Thurmond arrived.

Discussion continued regarding split ratings by financial ratings organizations

President Ramsey asked Ms. Gamba about keeping state legislators and other stakeholders apprised about any payoff development regarding the state loan.

Mr. Jael Myrick, representative for State Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, said that his office is looking forward to discussion about how to move the District forward.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether the Board had given any direction to paying down the debt. Ms. Gamba provided an outline of action which requires an audit and a final payoff dollar amount from the Infrastructure Bank. She said she anticipates the amount in the debt service fund could be equal to the principle needed to pay off the loan. She was hopeful to bring information on a resolution with plans to accomplish this action before close of this fiscal year.

Mr. Medrano asked for clarity about the debt service fund. Ms. Gamba said it was established in 1991 by the Education Code for proceeds from the sale of property to go into this fund and remain there for loan payoff. The dollar amount has grown over time and is now approximately equal to the principle of the outstanding debt.

Mr. Thurmond had further questions about debt payoff. Mr. Myrick reiterated that Assembly Member Nancy Skinner is committed to assisting WCCUSD.

Mr. Ramsey asked for a status update at each future meeting until this matter accomplished.

D.3 Standing Reports

Public Employees Union, Local One. Scott Brown, supervising business agent, introduced himself and spoke in remembrance of Terence Martin as representing the best of employees in the district. Mr. Brown continued to speak about sacrifices by current employees. He said he looks forward to working on behalf of Local One members with this Board and Superintendent.

Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee. Chairperson, Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting for August 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1300 Potrero Street in Richmond. The public is invited.

Ivy League Connection. President Ramsey spoke about the recent mentor event and said that the students are now home from their summer programs. An October fundraiser is being planned. University of Chicago representatives will be in District on September 29.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the September 1st meeting at the Alvarado Adult Education Campus.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the summer institute training with over 300 teachers participating in a week long training. She acknowledged teachers and staff for their commitment and participation.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond said that the committee will meet on September 14, 6:00 p.m. at King Elementary.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the August 9th meeting where the group recommended acceptance of the Valley View reconstruction master plan. He also reported on other discussion items. President Ramsey added that a community wide meeting will be held with the Laurel Park Neighborhood Council in mid-September to discuss the temporary housing for Coronado during construction.

D.4 Comments of Remembrance, Terence Martin Day – August 23, 2011

President Ramsey recalled the heroic act of Mr. Martin in the effort to protect another member of the community. Superintendent Harter spoke about the Board's action to remember Mr. Martin and in 2008 to rename the maintenance building as the Terance Martin Building.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about efforts to encourage teachers to commemorate this remembrance with the opening of school.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the Martin family for sharing with the District.

President Ramsey asked the audience to observe a moment of silence.

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Stanley Walker, Vannessia Macon Walker, Charles Cowens, Robert Studdiford

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Donations

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.4 RFP #1011-03 Pupil Transportation Services

C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.6 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.7 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

C.8 Approve Job Description: Fiscal/Project Accounting Analyst

C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.11 Facilities Consulting Services, Jack Schreder & Associates Contracts

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.12 Ohlone Elementary Phase I Reconstruction Construction Management Services

C.13 Crespi Middle School Gym Floor Replacement Project Award of Contract

C.14 Richmond High School Art Building Fire Alarm & Security System Project Award of Contract

This item was pulled for public comment.

C.15 Lupine Hills Elementary Window, Wall, & Roof Repairs Project Award of Contract

- C.16 Approval of updated District Standards for Elementary Renovations and Reconstructions**
- C.17 Approval of Board Members to attend Conferences**
- C.18 Manzanita Operating Memorandum of Understanding**
- C.19 Special Education Memorandum of Understanding with Manzanita Charter School**

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.10, C.12, C.13, and C15 - C.19. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.14 Richmond High School Art Building Fire Alarm & Security System Project Award of Contract

Public Comment:
LaTonya Morris

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of C.14 Richmond High School Art Building Fire Alarm & Security System Project Award of Contract. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.11 Facilities Consulting Services, Jack Schreder & Associates Contracts

President Ramsey introduced Ms. Cheryl King of Jack Schreder & Associates who spoke about school facility eligibility and tracking updates for all school attendance areas.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
President Ramsey asked about funding for Leadership Public School for preplanning which has been held up by the State of California Office of Public School Construction. Mr. Savidge responded with information about the design phase apportionment for approved charter applications. Mr. Savidge explained that the State indicated that the District would have to be the body that accepted the loan on behalf of the charter school. He said that staff is developing options and strategies to present to Office of Public School Construction. Ms. King responded that her firm handles the eligibility applications. President Ramsey expressed concern about bad information that could cost the District \$3 million from the bond program for Leadership Public Schools. Ms. King continued with further information about state eligibility and school enrollment projections.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of C.11 Facilities Consulting Services, Jack Schreder & Associates Contracts and that the District will talk with Schreder & Associates regarding the LPS/Gompers matter. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Presentation from Jonathan Bernstein on “Not In Our Town” efforts to stop hate crimes

This item was moved to follow B items.

D.2 Bond Sale

This item was moved to follow B items.

D.3 Standing Reports

This item was moved to follow B items.

D.4 Comments of Remembrance, Terence Martin Day – August 23, 2011

This item was moved to follow B items.

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 B items.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment
This item was moved to follow B items.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Contra Costa County School Boards Association Representative
Ms. Kronenberg has volunteered to be the District representative.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked that this be re-agendize at the next meeting for Mr. Medrano to be appointed as an alternate representative.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval to appoint Ms. Kronenberg as Contra Costa County School Boards Association Representative. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Policy Modification – Board Policy 7214.2
Mr. Don Gosney spoke as chairperson of Administrative Regulations Subcommittee of the Citizens' Bond Oversight committee. He took opportunity to review changes that have taken place.

Public Comment:

Charles Cowens

Board Comment:

Dr. Harter spoke about the general policy and the specific administrative regulations dealing with the membership of the committee and the Board as the authority to appoint the members. He recommended that those specifics be in the policy rather than the regulations. He said this item is for discussion for the Board which will act on this policy at a later meeting.

President Ramsey had questions about points regarding committee selection and composition as well as other details. He said that this will be brought back to the Board for adoption at a later date.

G.1 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction
Mr. Savidge provided a status report of construction activities in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked questions about the Stewart remodel, the Dover sewer problems and Riverside field projects. Staff provided responses.

Mr. Medrano asked about the Richmond High sidewalk and drainage problems. Mr. Freese responded.

President Ramsey asked about an assessment of Ford School and a timeline for occupying the new campus. Mr. Savidge responded.

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)
None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano said he liked the idea of paying off the state loan. He also reported on talks with teachers at Helms regarding the performing arts, engineering, and multimedia houses that will eventually become academies.

Ms. Merriweather said she had opportunity to visit the summer institute and saw good work going on with teachers. She was impressed at the number of teachers participating. She said she also attended the leadership professional development for administrators held last week. Mr. Ramsey acknowledged her son as the new coach for the Richmond High football team. She said that he played for the Arizona State Sun Devils, bringing his skills and looking forward to being head coach.

Mr. Thurmond welcomed back students and parents, staff and administrators, looking forward to a good school year.

Ms. Kronenberg welcomed everyone back and greeted new employees and those in new positions. She underscored importance of volunteers in the District. She said she has also talked with City of El Cerrito about partnering with the District to encourage volunteerism and bringing communities together to support students.

President Ramsey pointed out his recent visit to King Elementary. He was pleased to see kindergartners' excitement, as well as teachers working to prepare for the opening of school. He concluded with encouraging words about the District regaining control from the state as part of the financial recovery plan.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 7, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MK</u> Approved 9/7/11</p>
