

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

October 26, 2011

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

A.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

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

A.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Fiscal Services; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent School Operations; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; David Johnston, Director General Services; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Ann Reinlagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

B.1 Budget Discussion and Prioritization for Multi-Year Planning

Superintendent Harter introduced Ms. Gamba who provided a framework of the state's adopted budget, mid-year trigger cuts, and planning.

Public Comment:

Jan Duckart, Pat Miles, Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Joan Gallegos, Brigitte Perez, Jasmine Hernandez, Ken Ryan, Mari Tanaka, Kristen Pursley, Shelby Chapel, Anna Porter, Kristyn Jones, Martina Esperanza, Angel Castillo, Maria Alegria, Ana Smulian, Eric Swabeck, Sarah Butler, Deborah Lane, Martinez Jose Santos, Tammy Campbell, Maria Poblano, Jasmine Merina

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg suggested reviewing previous decisions and re-affirming those decisions.

Mr. Thurmond asked Ms. Gamba about estimates for class size reduction costs while keeping Lake and Shannon Schools open and the ratio of students to teacher. Ms. Gamba provided information. Mr. Thurmond addressed the Board about newly found savings and prioritizing for the future.

President Ramsey addressed concerns regarding parcel tax revenue, deferred maintenance funds, and the potential of funds returned to the general fund as a result of litigation and a declaratory relief action filed with the Superior Court regarding a general fund expenditure which paid for a bond expenditure. He also spoke about the surplus in the ending fund balance which could be reflected in ongoing operations.

Mr. Medrano said he supported maintaining Shannon and Lake Schools as well as adult education programing. He further spoke about closing the achievement gap to provide students with additional assistance, class size reduction, college going culture and advance placement classes. Ms. Gamba responded. Mr. Medrano said he also supported payoff of the IBM debt.

Ms. Merriweather said she agreed and reminded her colleagues of the previous commitment to class size reduction, adult education and school resource officers. She urged the Board to affirm those commitments. Ms. Gamba spoke about the good job of keeping the budget in balance but being prepared for state mid-year cuts.

President Ramsey relinquished the gavel to Clerk Kronenberg in order to propose the following motion.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to authorize use of the unaudited actual ending fund balance surplus plus \$700,000 to pay off the IBM loan in order to add \$625,000 to the operation for ongoing revenue. Mr. Thurmond seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to use \$600,000 of the identified \$3 million in savings to permanently remove Shannon and Lake Schools from the closure list. Mr. Thurmond seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey asked the Board to dedicate the use of \$2.4 million to K-3 class size reductions. Mr. Thurmond moved approval of this recommendation. Mr. Medrano seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey made a motion about developing the budget once state cuts are determined to dedicate further funds for additional K-3 class sized reduction, class size reduction at the secondary level, and instructional materials, while maintaining the proposed levels of funding for adult education, and school resource officers. Mr. Thurmond seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

President Ramsey resumed the gavel and continued to conduct the meeting.

President Ramsey asked whether Dr. Harter wanted to bring a message or share some information. Superintendent Harter spoke about the Board setting priorities to pay off the 20 year old IBM loan, and using \$2.4 million generated from the pay-off of the state loan to keep Shannon and Lake Schools open and off set class size reduction. The District will look for future opportunities to add funding to support elementary class size reduction, as well as add secondary teachers and purchase instructional materials.

C. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting:
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 2, 2011

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

<u>MK</u> Approved 11-16-11
