

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

**December 7, 2011**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:31 P.M.

**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.4 Roll Call**

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

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Sandi Brown, Food Service Supervisor; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Wendy Forrest, Principal Montalvin Elementary; Julio Franco, Principal Richmond High; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Chris Hanna, Network Operations and Data Center Manager; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Linda Jackson, Retired Executive Director; Marcella McClinton-Jamerson, Teacher; Barbara Jellison, Director Food Service; Sue Kahn, Pinole Valley Principal; Cecilia Mendoza, Executive Director; Reyna Ortiz de Toureil, Translator; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical and Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhausen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

President Ramsey announced receiving the CSBA Golden Bell award for the Ivy League Connection, and displayed the award for the audience.

**B.3 Annual Organization Meeting**

President Ramsey invited Clerk Kronenberg to begin with her nominations.

**Election of President**

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to nominate Mr. Ramsey to continue in the position of President of the Board. Mr. Thurmond seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, Mr. Medrano voting no, and no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.**

**Election of Clerk**

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to nominate Mr. Medrano to serve as Clerk of the Board. Mr. Thurmond seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voting yes, and no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

A separate motion was taken to appoint the Superintendent as Secretary, authorize the President to sign documents, the Clerk to sign in the absence of President, affirm the board meeting dates and establish the Board calendar for 2012.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to affirm the appointment of the Superintendent as Secretary, authorize the President to sign documents, the Clerk to sign in the absence of President, affirm the board meeting dates, and establish the Board calendar for 2012. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms.**

**Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

President Ramsey asked for a motion to approve committee assignments:

High School Family Assignments

El Cerrito High School – Charles Ramsey  
Hercules High School – Tony Thurmond  
Kennedy High School – Madeline Kronenberg  
Pinole Valley High School – Charles Ramsey  
Richmond High School – Antonio Medrano  
DeAnza High School – Elaine Merriweather

Committee Assignments

Academic – Madeline Kronenberg, Chair; Elaine Merriweather  
Citizens Bond Oversight – Madeline Kronenberg  
Community Budget Advisory – Antonio Medrano, Charles Ramsey  
Facilities – Antonio Medrano, Chair; Charles Ramsey  
Linked Learning – Antonio Medrano, Chair; Madeline Kronenberg  
Safety – Tony Thurmond, Chair; Elaine Merriweather  
Youth Commission – Tony Thurmond, Chair; Madeline Kronenberg  
Select Committee on High Schools – Charles Ramsey, Chair; Antonio Medrano

Liaison to Five City Councils

El Cerrito – Madeline Kronenberg  
Hercules – Tony Thurmond  
Pinole – Charles Ramsey  
Richmond – Elaine Merriweather  
San Pablo – Antonio Medrano

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to approve committee assignments. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.5 Presentation of Student Board Representative from DeAnza High School**

Mr. Jacob Barnett provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School.

**B.6 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the December 7, 2011 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #004.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of December 7, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 - #004. 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.7 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with moving items F.4 and G.1 to follow D.4 and A Youth Commission report. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Jacob Barnett (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.8 Minutes: November 2, 2011 as corrected; November 16, 2011**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of November 2, 2011 as corrected, and November 16, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Jacob Barnett (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 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.4 Contracted Services**
- C.5 Notification of Claims Approval and Settlement Payments**
- C.6 Routine Personnel Changes – Certificated**
- C.7 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3**
- C.8 Call for Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly**
- C.9 Resolution No. 75-1112: Certificate of Signatures**
- C.10 Chevron Tax Appeal Resolution No. 76-1112**  
This item was pulled for public comment.
- C.11 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.12 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.13 Approval of Additional Program Management General Conditions Reimbursable Expenses**
- C.14 Approval of the District Deferred Capital Improvement Projects**
- C.15 Approval of the Relocation of the CCS Program**
- C.16 Approval of Stege Elementary School Construction Document Design Fees**
- C.17 Pinole Middle School Miscellaneous Repairs**
- C.18 Kennedy High School Quad Renovations**
- C.19 Riverside Elementary School Restroom Resurfacing Project**
- C.20 Religious/Cultural Celebration**  
This item was pulled for public comment.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.9, C.11 – C.19. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Jacob Barnett (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**C.10 Chevron Tax Appeal Resolution No. 76-1112**

**Public Comment:**

The speaker declined to address the Board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.10, Chevron Tax Appeal Resolution No. 76-1112. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Jacob Barnett (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**C.20 Religious/Cultural Celebration**

**Public Comment:**

Billy Alexander

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey and Ms. Merriweather addressed Mr. Alexander's concerns regarding Kwanza.

**MOTION:** Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.20, Religious/Cultural Celebrations. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Jacob Barnett (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**D.6 Standing Report**

**Youth Commission.** Ms. Kathleen He provided an update of Youth Commission activities including recruitment of new members, planning activities for the new year, and strategies for anti-bullying activities.

**D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**D.1 Recognition of Richmond High’s Robotics Team**

Principal Julio Franco and Executive Director Cecilia Mendoza introduced the robotics team students and their exhibition of Chompy the robot. Teacher and robotics coach, Mr. Luciano Del Rio, provided a brief history of the eleven years of the program. Students demonstrated Chompy’s skills.

**D.2 Recognition of CIF Champion Stephanie Lin, Pinole Valley High**

Mr. Greer introduced Stephanie Lin and the Pinole Valley High School marching band that honored Ms. Lin by playing the school fight song. Principal Sue Kahn presented a certificate to Stephanie for her academic and athletic accomplishments. Ms. Lin thanked the Board and her family for their support.

**Public Comment:**

Al Kirkman

**D.3 Recognition of Vickie Tukeva, Eukel Trust Teacher Award**

Superintendent Harter recognized Ms. Tukeva and spoke of her accomplishments at Richmond High School, as well as coaching the RHS cheerleaders. The cheerleading squad performed a routine to honor Ms. Tukeva.

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey offered congratulations for her award on behalf of the Board.

**F.4 Integrity Educational Center Charter School Petition**

Ms. Linda Jackson offered the District’s findings but said that the petitioner had left the meeting, declining to address the Board.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval the recommendation to deny the petition of Integrity Educational Center Charter School. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Jacob Barnett (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**G.1 Richmond Charter Academy Middle School**

Ms. Jackson presented information about the Richmond Charter Academy Middle School petition. Mr. Jorge Lopez presented further information regarding the petition.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked about statistics of student performance and low achieving students. Mr. Lopez responded. Mr. Thurmond further asked about sharing facilities with Richmond College Prep (RCP) charter school. Ms. Peppina Chang, CEO of RCP affirmed a conversation with Mr. Lopez about providing space adjacent to their facility. Ms. Kronenberg asked about sharing the school’s strategies with other schools in the District. Mr. Lopez responded saying that his staff will be open to working with district representatives. Ms. Merriweather asked questions about class size at the Oakland charter academy. Mr. Lopez responded that they are committed to maintaining small classes. Mr. Medrano asked about parent participation. Mr. Lopez spoke of the family advisory council, training and an open invitation to parents. Ms. Merriweather asked a further question about the enrollment process. Mr. Lopez said that open enrollment occurs with conditional acceptance of an application. The registration period is a time for parents to submit required information. A lottery would be necessary if a large number of applications were received. President Ramsey asked whether Mr. Lopez would be committed to the school and the community. Mr. Lopez affirmed that he would be. President Ramsey asked Ms. Jackson about the next steps in the process and the issue around sharing facilities. Ms. Jackson spoke about the Education Code’s requirement for assessing and analyzing the petition for compliance. Mr. Ramsey asked which firm reviewed the petitions. Ms. Jackson responded Lozano Smith. Ms. Jackson also spoke about the legal requirement for a facility to be conducive to learning, and whether a charter is placed on the campus of another school, and necessary guidelines to be followed. She concluded by saying that the petition would return January 18 for Board action.

Mr. Lopez spoke about a January date for submission of charter school grant funding applications.

President Ramsey asked to amend the agenda to hear item D.6 in order to accommodate Local 1 members in the audience. Board members were in agreement.

#### **D.6 Standing Reports**

**Local One.** Scott Brown introduced Vickie Vargas who spoke about a personal experience. Mr. Brown continued to speak about respect and dignity, and asked for District representatives to return to the negotiating table. Ms. Reinlagen reported that the Board gave direction to set up a date to return to negotiations.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi said that the next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 6:30 p.m. at Helms Middle School.

**Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.** Robert Studdiford thanked committee members for their work over the busy year. He spoke about the growing membership with 16 members. He also said that minutes for the current year have been posted on website and spoke about approval of administrative regulations allowing the committee to develop bylaws. He thanked Alex Gomez for his service over the last 4 years and welcomed new members Joe Fisher and Gerard Boulanger. The next meeting is scheduled in January 2012.

**School Supervisors Association.** Sandra Falk, Executive Director, distributed information regarding employee costs for health insurance. She spoke about the meaning of appreciation and that current employees feeling depreciated because of the impact of lost benefits.

**United Teachers of Richmond.** Diane Brown spoke about appreciation of employees. She said that UTR supports Local One and all workers of the District. She spoke about the language arts textbook adoption and the process outlined in the contract agreement with the teachers' union.

**Select Committee on High Schools.** Mr. Greer spoke about the special Board session scheduled for December 12 to look at instructional and operational practices of El Cerrito, Pinole Valley and Richmond High. Mr. Medrano asked questions about the organization of the meeting. Mr. Greer responded. Mr. Thurmond asked about the committee structure and opportunity for Board members to note items of interest.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting for January.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting for December 14 at Richmond High School, 4:00 p.m., and will look at improving school attendance to help students and bring in more ADA revenue. The committee will also look at efforts around disaster preparedness and safety concerns. He thanked Ms. Kronenberg for her service over the last two years and welcomed Ms. Merriweather to the committee.

**Ivy League Connection.** President Ramsey asked Mr. Don Gosney to speak about the District's efforts and impact being noticed statewide and nationally by the Golden Bell award. Mr. Gosney spoke about the ILC starting up for next cohort of students. He talked about the students as ambassadors for the District and their fellow students. He would like to expand the outreach program for as many students as want to apply. Mr. Medrano asked about qualifications. Mr. Gosney responded. President Ramsey thanked Mr. Gosney for his volunteer work. President Ramsey presented Dr. Harter with the award for display at the District office. Superintendent Harter spoke about participating in the awards ceremony and his appreciation of all Board members who attended. He also expressed gratefulness to the external funders for the success of this program.

#### **D.4 Transitional Kindergarten Implementation**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Janice Thompson, Director of the preschool program, who spoke about transitional kindergarten (TK), and the new grade level requirement for all California school districts. Dr. Thompson introduced Elizabeth Maki, the District's first pre-K teacher, and Barbara Kitagawa, a member of the early child education committee. Dr. Thompson spoke about the developmental appropriate practices and transitional kindergarten as a two year kindergarten program. The program will be fully implemented with voluntary enrollment. The program is currently being piloted at Coronado Elementary School. Ms. Maki spoke about the program at Coronado.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Merriweather spoke about this as an historical event of adding a new grade, the first new addition in California since the 1800's. She spoke about the benefits for children starting early in an effort to close the achievement gap. Mr. Thurmond asked questions about ages of child for TK in 2014 for joining traditional vs. transitional kindergarten as well as questions about the schedule for the full day schedule. Dr. Thompson responded that conversations are being held regarding half day and full day programs and the benefit to students. Ms. Merriweather spoke about many districts already implementing full day kindergarten programs. President Ramsey thanked staff for presentation.

The Board took a brief recess at this time.

Student Representative Jacob Barnett left the meeting for the evening.

**D.5 180° Program**

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the program bringing character development training to each secondary school site. The facilitator at each site would teach the program and be responsible for case maintenance with involved students. Students will be monitored regarding attendance, grade point average, and discipline. She said this would be an opportunity to enhance core counseling.

Mr. McMillon spoke about the program and opportunity to bring a funded initiative with services and a strategy to fund case managers in working with students on a comprehensive character development program. He said the program, currently implemented in Oakland schools, includes a curriculum that emphasizes values clarification, goal setting, behavior, attitude toward education and other areas.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Medrano asked for a printed copy of the presentation.

Ms. Merriweather said she is familiar with the program and asked how the three hours per week at the school site would be handled. Mr. McMillon said the program would be part of the extended day, but other schools have integrated it as an elective program into the regular day. She continued to ask about data collection. Mr. McMillon responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked about supervision of facilitators and outreach to middle schools in the District. Mr. McMillon responded with information.

Ms. Kronenberg said this is an opportunity for the District to have a completely funded program with proven results. Mr. Greer said that District is encouraged about the potential partnership for intervention with students and would like to partner with 180° to see progress over the next two years.

President Ramsey suggested this should go to Academic Subcommittee first for review and then come to the Board with a recommendation. He supported that this be brought back for the agenda when the program has been reviewed so that the Board does not have to make a quick decision.

Ms. Kronenberg said she supports the program and feels it would be worthwhile.

Discussion followed about the capacity of the 180° Program, the need to review material, time considerations and review by the Academic Subcommittee.

Mr. Thurmond said he would like to learn more, but suggested ending the conversation at this time.

**D.6 Standing Reports**

This item was moved to follow G.1.

**D.7 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

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

President Ramsey asked the Board to modify the agenda and move item F.2 to follow D.7.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of moving item F.2 to follow item D.7. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.2 K-6 RLA Instructional Materials Adoption**

Teacher Marcella Jamerson who spoke about the adoption of the K-6 reading language arts adoption. Principal Wendy Forrest spoke about the consistency of the intervention programs for all schools, summer school capacity and alignment for ELD learners. Director Lyn Potter addressed the process for implementation and reported that the selection committee recommended adoption.

**Public Comment:**

Diane Brown, Amanda Henderson, Holly Ruff, Eric Reed, Betsy Bashor, Wendy Phillips, Thomas Prather, Michael Gonzales

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the K-6 RLA Instructional Materials Adoption. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed for lack of a second.**

**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 events in the District.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Rick Alexander, Michael Beer

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 First Interim Report, 2011-2012**

Ms. Gamba presented financial information regarding the First Interim Report with a positive certification.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey expressed concern about multi-year projections. Ms. Gamba responded with information. Discussion continued regarding the funding for school resources officers.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the First Interim Report, 2011-2012. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.2 K-6 RLA Instructional Materials Adoption**

This item was moved to follow item D.5.

**F.3 Archiving for Portola Middle School**

Mr. Fay said that this item was brought to the Board as a result of a stakeholder request to support archiving historical items from the old Portola campus. Mr. Fay said he is seeking the direction of the Board regarding funding out of Measure J bond funds. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the project as it honors the history of the school, similar to the archiving project done for El Cerrito High, which was funded by private donations.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Merriweather asked whether this was approved by the Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey said that the committee did not agree that bond funding was an appropriate use for this project. Mr. Medrano said he felt that the community could fundraise for this project and that it was inappropriate to use bond money.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Archiving for Portola Middle School. Mr. Thurmond seconded.**

Mr. Thurmond asked whether there had been a staff analysis of whether this was an appropriate use of bond funds. Superintendent Harter said a legal opinion was not sought. Mr. Thurmond urged a legal determination of validity. In the meantime, he asked the maker of motion to amend her motion to delay action for a legal opinion. Ms. Kronenberg said she agreed to delay action. Superintendent Harter said he would not recommend general fund use because this was not done for other schools.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg amended the original motion to delay action on approval of Archiving for Portola Middle School to allow time for a legal opinion. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Tony Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.4 Integrity Educational Center Charter School Petition**

This item was moved to follow item D.4.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Richmond Charter Academy Middle School**

This item was moved to follow item F.4.

**G.2 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction**

Mr. Magdy Abdalla provided a status report of construction activities in the District.

**Public comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey asked about the plan for the temporary move of Coronado to the Kennedy campus. Mr. Abdalla replied with information from the Laurel Park Neighborhood Council meeting.

Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about moving the portable buildings from the Downer soccer field and relocating Ford back to the new campus. Mr. Abdalla responded that the design phase for the field could begin by early February. Mr. Abdalla also reported that the Helms marquee was working properly.

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

None

**I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Ms. Kronenberg wished everyone a Happy New Year and suggested following the Governor and CTA's budget proposals.

Mr. Medrano wished happy holidays to everyone. He reported that he enjoyed the San Diego conference and gave high praise for our financial team who has worked to prepare the District for possible budget triggers.

Mr. Thurmond reflected on the conversation about the Reading Language Arts adoption. He continued to speak about relying on staff to vet out materials and justify concerns. He concluded by offering congratulations to Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Medrano. He also thanked Ms. Kronenberg for her leadership over the past year.

Ms. Merriweather said as she looked back over the year, the Board has accomplished a great deal. She said she appreciated working with her colleagues and staff, looking forward to serving in 2012.

Mr. Medrano talked about looking at textbooks for errors and biases.

Mr. Ramsey reminded everyone of the Board meeting scheduled for December 12. He wished everyone happy holidays.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**



Lovonya DeJean Middle School – January 4, 2012

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in appreciation of Don Gosney at 11:12 P.M.

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

BH:dh

**AAM**  
Approved 1/4/12