

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

January 18, 2012

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 6:42 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.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Steve Collins SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Business Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Keith Holstlander, Director of Facilities; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Andrew Mixer, Bond Facilities Project Manager; Reyna Ortiz de Toureil, Translator; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical and Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinlagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Janice Thompson, Director Preschool, Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Katie VonHusen, Coordinator Education Services

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

Mr. Ervin Soberano provided a report of activities at Hercules Middle High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the January 18, 2012 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #005 and suspend those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendation of January 18, 2012 for expulsion cases #001 - #005. 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 administrative appointment of Gabriel Chilcott, Interim Principal Mira Vista Elementary.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the administrative appointment of Gabriel Chilcott, Interim Principal Mira Vista Elementary. 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey stated that staff pulled item C.3 from the agenda. He further asked the Board to move items E.1, E.2, the Youth Commission Standing Report, E.3 and E.4 up on the agenda to follow item B.5.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda with the noted changes. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Ervin Soberano

(advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of events in the District.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Billy Alexander

Mr. Alexander addressed the Board about the use of federal and state funds to supplement Kwanzaa and the need to provide African American students access to a program for teaching history. He asked Board members to appoint staff to talk with him about his concern. President Ramsey appointed Mr. Greer to meet with Mr. Alexander.

E.3 Request to Address the Board – Nancy L. Barker

Ms. Barker spoke about the proposal she presented to Board members from Seniors in Action Now and the opportunity to share black history with students in the District.

D.4 Standing Reports

Youth Commission. Beilul Naizghi spoke about activities for students in the District and recruiting new members. The Commission's committees include academics, finance, recruitment, event planning, and communications. She said the group hopes to host a youth commission and board member luncheon in the coming year. Mr. Thurmond said he looked forward to learning how to better serve students. Ms. Kronenberg said she would like to see participation from all high schools.

E.4 Public Comment

Mark Gill, Ritchie Cook, Jan Christiansen, David Weirich, Debbie Weirich, Calvin Trampleasure, Doug Marques, Thomas Prather, Tiffany Chieudjui, Stephanie Wagner, Eric Reed, Mel Collins, Bea Leiberman, Amanda Henderson, Christi Thomas, Georgina Sanchez, Diane Brown, Roseanna Mathers, Margaret Browne, Lippy Henry, David Milano, Diane Maddox, Sandra Falk

D.2 Out-of School Time Initiative/Summer Learning Loss Report

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Joel Mackey, Ed Fund Executive Director and Jennifer Peck, Partnership for Children and Youth Executive Director. Ms. Peck spoke about afterschool program funding and the learning needs of children in the summer suffering due to inadequate summer programs and opportunities for children. A video presentation was played depicting the educational summer learning loss differences between children from middle income and low income families. Mr. Mackey shared information of how the Ed Fund is supporting the initiative to develop a comprehensive out-of school time plan with the financial support of community stakeholders.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked what the District could do to take advantage of their research considering the current financial situation. Ms. Peck responded with information about recently submitted applications for 21st Century grants.

B.7 Minutes: January 4, 2012; January 7, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Minutes of January 4, 2012 and January 7, 2012. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Ervin Soberano (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 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.2 Adoption of Resolution No.79-1112 Replacement of Outdated Warrant

C.3 Enterprise Resource Planning/System Software

This item was pulled by staff.

C.4 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3

- C.5 Approve the following Reclassification of Assessment Supervisor, Schedule 4, Range 68 in the Assessment Department and revised job description
- C.6 Resolution No. 82-1112: Recognition of West Contra Costa Unified School District Job Shadow Day February 2, 2012 and Recognition of February 2012 as National Job Shadow Month
- C.7 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs)
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- C.9 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- C.10 Approval of Richmond High School Construction Document Design Fees
- C.11 Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act: Adopt Resolution 81-1112 Authorizing Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for and Approval of the Coronado Relocation to Kennedy High School Project
- C.12 Restroom Surface Repairs at Washington Elementary School
- C.13 Resolution No. 78-1112: Level II and Level III Developer Fees
- C.14 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report
- C.15 Approve Assigning Contract with SGI to SGI-CM
- C.16 Community Outreach Consultant
This item was pulled for public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.2, and C.4 - C.15. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Ervin Soberano (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.16 Community Outreach Consultant

Public Comment:
Shelby Chapel

Board Comment:
Mr. Ramsey asked Dr. Harter about senior citizen exemptions. Dr. Harter responded.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.16 Community Outreach Consultant. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Ervin Soberano (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voting yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

- D.1 **Report on the Teach for American History (TAH) Grant Award by the Department of Education**
Mr. Greer introduced social studies teachers who have persevered in the implementation of this grant. Ms. Natalie Wojinski spoke about the project and its primary goal. Ms. Victoria Vasquez shared information about her experience as a new teacher participating in the program for professional development with colleagues. Mr. Steve Hoffman spoke about researching history for its significance and allowing his Middle College students to search out artifacts. Mr. Ryan Shaw shared information about the grant and the use of technology to support classroom teaching. Ms. Mallory Byrne shared information about teacher conferences and the importance of continued professional development.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
President Ramsey commended the presenters.
Ms. Kronenberg asked for information about the website mentioned. Ms. Wojinski responded.

Student Representative Ervin Soberano left the meeting for the evening.

F.1 Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Janice Thompson who provided information about the two-year kindergarten program and options for the 2012-2013 school year mandated implementation. Ms. Rashidchi said staff recommended Option #1 with a 3.5 hour program, contingent on funding from the state budget.

Board Comment:

President Ramsey spoke about the delay of the state budget until June 2012 and the difficult situation for the District. Ms. Merriweather spoke about the law creating a situation that will disenfranchise children and their education. She spoke about the unfairness of the state refusing to fund this program. She said the decision is placed with the Board to consider the education of the children in order to close the achievement gap.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to consider funding for the 3.5 hour program. He spoke about flexibility from May through June to determine whether the state will provide funding.

President Ramsey spoke about the importance of allocating for the program at a funding loss to other programs.

Mr. Medrano asked about the cost of a 3.5 hour program. Ms. Rashidchi responded that the cost would be approximately \$834,000.

Ms. Kronenberg also spoke about additional state budget cuts to special education transportation and other programs. She said it is important to make this decision in context of other program cuts.

Ms. Merriweather talked about 209 children who will not be served and the reduction of teachers if this program is not implemented. She said she does not want to play a waiting game while letting children sit at home.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the difference in cost for a 3.5 hour day and a full day, and maximizing dollars for a fuller impact. He asked about using federal dollars from the Head Start program. Ms. Thompson said that Head Start funding is used for the preschool wraparound program and not eligible for use for the TK program. Discussion continued about funding and the legal obligation.

President Ramsey continued to express concern about what would be left unfunded by this implementation.

Mr. Medrano asked if this could come back at the next meeting with possible funding scenarios. Ms. Gamba responded.

MOTION: Ms. Merriweather moved to bring the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Options back to the February 1, 2012 meeting along with a budget context. 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.2 Out of School Time Initiative/Summer Learning Loss Report

This item was moved to follow Public Comment.

D.3 Presentation of the 2010-2011 Audit Report by Crowe Horwath LLP

Ms. Gamba introduced Matthew Nethaway who provided a review of the 2010-2011 audit report and compliance.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Nethaway for the presentation.

Mr. Medrano asked about student body accounts not being a part of the audit. Mr. Nethaway responded.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to accept the 2010-2011 Audit Report. 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.

D.4 Standing Reports

Ivy League Connection. Don Gosney provided an update regarding student applications and the upcoming interviews for this year's program. President Ramsey spoke about the compilation of data regarding student college applications, campus selections, and the number of applications to out of state colleges.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford reminded the public of the January 25th meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Facilities Operations Center, 1300 Potrero St., Richmond.

United Teachers of Richmond. Diane Brown said she is glad to hear of the TAH program and its good work. She continued speaking about the proposed parcel tax and upcoming community budget meetings.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting for February 8, 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School. He said the agenda will include updates on disaster preparedness and addressing safety issues in the community.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting on January 19 at the Alvarado Adult Education campus at 6:30 p.m. She said the agenda will include review of provisions of the Governor's budget.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the last meeting held on January 10 where a functioning district advisory committee voted to fill the chair and co-chair positions. She said discussion included the Title I parent involvement policy, Single Plans for Student Achievement, and parent representation. The next meeting is planned for February 14, 6:30 p.m. at Helms Middle School where the agenda will include the QEIA action plan and more details about a middle school mathematics initiative.

Select Committee on High Schools. President Ramsey spoke about the first meeting and loss of QEIA funding for Richmond High School. Mr. Medrano said he would like to make available the presentation given that night which illustrated the devastating effects of loss of QEIA funding.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano spoke about the recent meeting where discussion included approval of the resolution of school facilities needs analysis, approval of the Gompers field plan, restroom renovation projects, and Pinole Valley High cameras and traffic lights, as well as removal of the Pinole Middle School portables. The next meeting is planned for February 14, 2012.

D.5 In Memory of Members of the School Community

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey remembered George Livingston and his own appointment to the Richmond Planning Commission. Mr. Thurmond recalled Mayor Livingston and his work in establishing the I-80 corridor partnership and his personal mentorship.

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 item B.6.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Billy Alexander

This item was moved to follow E.1.

E.3 Request to Address the Board – Nancy L. Barker

This item was moved to follow E.2.

E.4 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item was moved to follow E.3.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

This item was moved to follow D.1.

F.2 Resolution No. 80-1112: 2002 Measure D and 2000 Measure M Bond Refunding

Ms. Gamba asked the Board to adopt a resolution to potentially refund some bonds. Ms. Gamba pointed out a correction to the bond purchase contract and read the correction into the record regarding item 4 of page 10 of the document. The Disclosure Counsel Opinion will be with GCR, LLP not Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth.

Dave Olson, of KNN Public Finance, introduced the bond finance counsel team members; Jeff Barrata of Piper Jaffery, Scott Henry of De La Rosa & Company, David Casnocha of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, and Kris Vaca of GCR, LLP. Mr. Olson presented information regarding the potential issuance of refunding bonds and a need for flexibility in managing future tax rates for the bond program.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked about the frequency of issuance. Mr. Olson responded.

President Ramsey asked about dates in the resolution as compared to dates noted in the purchase contract.

Ms. Kronenberg asked additional questions about this. Mr. Casnocha responded that revisions to the purchase contract will be prepared by the underwriters for the specific terms of sale. Mr. Casnocha suggested a motion to strike the years for maturity dates of Appendix A on page A-1, subject to the sale of the bonds.

Mr. Thurmond asked Ms. Gamba and Superintendent Harter to give a summation. He also suggested that future resolutions be written in simple language for taxpayers. Ms. Gamba said this action will potentially save taxpayers money and shares concern with Mr. Olson about future flexibility. Superintendent Harter also responded that the unprecedented financial times make for an ideal market for this kind of transaction in order to save taxpayer money and preserve flexibility for the future.

Mr. Thurmond asked about adding a statement to the resolution noting the anticipated savings to taxpayers. Mr. Casnocha responded that this can be built into the Point of Sale resolution with a statement of intent of the Board.

Ms. Merriweather asked about expenses to the District. Ms. Gamba responded.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 80-1112: 2002 Measure D and 2000 Measure M Bond Refunding with the amendment to Exhibit A on page A-1 of the purchase contract striking maturity dates. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano spoke about upcoming events he planned to attend.

Ms. Merriweather congratulated DeAnza High School and Helms Middle School for being awarded SIG grants.

President Ramsey reminded the Board of the importance of leadership during the challenges of bargaining, letting constituents know that the Board hears their concerns.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – February 1, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:31 P.M. in memory of George Livingston.

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

BH:dh

AAM Approved 2/1/12
