

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

**April 25, 2012**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

Clerk Antonio Medrano called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session.

Clerk Medrano called the Public Session to order at 6:30 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Clerk Medrano led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

Clerk Medrano offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Tony Thurmond. Charles Ramsey arrived at 6:50 PM.

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Olanrewaju Ajay, Principal Olinda Elementary School; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent 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 Holtslander, Director of Facilities; David Johnston, Director General Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Daniela Parasidis, Director Business Services; David Ranch, Principal Highland Elementary School; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Ann Reinlagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Vince Rhea, Executive Director K-12; Greg Santiago, Principal Hanna Ranch Elementary School; Reyna Ortiz de Tourel, Translator; Katie VonHusen, Coordinator Curriculum & Instruction; Liz Torio, Academic Intervention

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Gompers Continuation High School**

Edgar Rosales provided a report of activities at Gompers High School.

**B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the April 25, 2012 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #004 and suspend those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendation of April 25, 2012 for expulsion cases #001 – #004. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, and Mr. Thurmond voted yes, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the appointment of four principals for the 2012-2013 school year as well as nineteen Extended Learning principals for the 2012 program:

Patricia Evans, Grant Elementary School  
Gabriel Chilcott, Mira Vista Elementary School  
Elaine Brady, Shannon Elementary School  
Matthew Burnham, Portola Middle School

**Extended Learning Principals**

Greg Santiago, Downer Elementary  
Wendy Forrest, Montalvin Elementary  
Olanrewaju Ajay, Nystrom Elementary  
Marcos Garcia, Riverside Elementary

Eddie Scruggs-Smith, Stege Elementary  
Kim Moses, Peres Elementary (Site-Base)  
Jawan Eldridge, Verde Elementary (Site-Base)  
Galen Murphy, Fairmont Elementary (Special Ed.)  
Denise Weis, Tara Hills (Special Ed.)  
Jose DeLeon, Principal, Helms Grades 7-8  
Summerlyn Sigler, Assistant Principal, Helms  
Pat Martin, Principal, Crespi, Grades 7-12  
Jessica Price, Assistant Principal Crespi  
Gabriel Chilcott, Principal, Portola, Grades 7-12  
Rene Lama, Assistant Principal, Portola  
Julio Franco, Principal, Richmond High, Grades 9-12  
Armando Torres, Assistant Principal, Richmond High  
Kibby Kleiman, Assistant Principal, Richmond High  
Jen Bender, Assistant Principal, Richmond High

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the administrative appointments for 2012-2013 and Extended Learning. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, and Mr. Thurmond voted yes, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the agenda, including moving items D.1 and D.2 to follow B.4. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only), voted yes, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.7 Minutes: April 3, 2012; April 4, 2012**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of April 3, 2012 and April 4, 2012. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and Student Representative Edgar (advisory vote only) voted yes, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**D.2 Recognition of Highland Elementary School as a recipient of 2011-2012 Academic Achievement Award**

Mr. Rhea introduced Principal David Ranch who told of the expertise of the staff at Highland School and their hard work to achieve the California Department of Education recognition for the Title I Academic Achievement Award. Student speakers told of aspects they valued about Highland.

President Ramsey arrived and assumed the gavel.

**Public Comment:**

None

Mr. Thurmond congratulated the students and staff for a job well done and remarked about the student comments. Ms. Kronenberg echoed Mr. Thurmond's words and thanked the families for their hard work as well.

Mr. Medrano said he will proudly speak of Highland at upcoming city council meetings.

Ms. Merriweather said this is a very special award and thanked the teachers, instructional leaders and parents who worked as a team.

President Ramsey spoke about the community and the strength of their team commending former principal Sara Danielson and current principal David Ranch for their hard work.

**D.1 Recognition of Hanna Ranch and Olinda Elementary School as 2012 California Distinguished Schools.**

Mr. Rhea introduced Olinda Principal Olanrewaju Ajay and the staff, students, and parents in the audience. Ms. Ajay spoke about the signature practices at Olinda Elementary. She highlighted the staff's collaborative practices and community involvement. Students shared what they liked about their school.

**Public Comment:**

Ayanna Wagner

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the extraordinary efforts and standards achieved by Olinda.

Ms. Merriweather offered congratulations.

Mr. Medrano thanked parents and the community for their hard work. He complemented the eloquent student speakers.

Mr. Thurmond spoke of the great job by the student speakers and offered congratulations for this distinctive honor.

President Ramsey praised the positive outlook and pride of staff who have worked so hard. He also thanked the City of Richmond for its conviction to keep the school open by providing monetary funds.

Mr. Rhea introduced Principal Greg Santiago who spoke of the work and dedication of the staff and families of Hanna Ranch School.

**Public Comment:**

Ann Palmer

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond offered congratulations and thanks to the students, staff, teachers, and families for their dedication.

Ms. Merriweather encouraged them to continue to hold onto the vision.

Student Representative Edgar Rosales offered congratulations and commended the student speakers.

Ms. Kronenberg said that Hanna Ranch is a high performing school that brings everyone in the community along.

Mr. Medrano said he will look forward to sharing praise for the three schools at West County Times monthly meetings.

President Ramsey spoke of the work of former principal Anita Hayward and the continued work of Principal Santiago lift the school to high standards.

President Ramsey asked the Board to consider moving item D.3 up on the agenda.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of moving item D.3 up on the agenda. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no abstentions. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**D.3 Teacher of Year/Ed Fund Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition**

Ed Fund program director Robert Bunce and retired principal Roz Plishner proudly presented awards to four teaching excellence award winners:

Joshua Hastings

Maria Saxton

Abigail Sims-Evelyn

Tracey Singh-Poole

Mr. Bunce also recognized Citizen of the Year award winner, Mr. Todd Groves.

Board members personally congratulated award winners who were also presented with certificates of recognition.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Medrano said he was impressed with quality of character of these award winners.

President Ramsey thanked and congratulated the award winners.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Rebecca Robinson, Christian Anderson, Kathryn Bressemer, Miya Woodhouse, Ron Ricks, Sandra Falk, Missael Rodriguez, Cheryl Patterson, Gloria Santizo, Terra Smith, Daniela Saavedra, Melany Izrraras, Chester Murry, Nathan Murry, Teresa Smith, Diane Brown, Jo Sherich

Mr. Ramsey left the dais. Mr. Medrano assumed the gavel for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Ramsey returned and resumed presiding over the meeting.

Mr. Thurmond asked staff for clarification about the concerns raised regarding Vista Independent Study. Mr. Greer responded by saying that the academic subcommittee reviewed the concept of regionalizing the Independent Study program with teachers assigned to high school families while leaving a core group at the current location. The intent is to better meet the needs of students throughout the District. The committee agreed with the process. President Ramsey said he will agendaize this item for discussion at the May 9 meeting.

Mr. Thurmond asked the Board to consider moving item G.1 up on the agenda.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of moving item G.1 up on the agenda. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no abstentions. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

#### **G.1 Leadership Public High Schools Petition Renewal**

Superintendent Harter introduced Superintendent Louise Waters, Principal Shawn Benjamin, and Director of Operations Soo Zee Park, who presented the Leadership Public High School (LPS) charter petition renewal. The presentation reflected the growth and performance over the last five years as well as plans for the next five.

##### **Public Comment:**

Claudia Rios, Aaron Williams

##### **Board Comment:**

President Ramsey said the District is supportive and has an investment in facilities to be provided for LPS. Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and about any parent involvement requirement. Ms. Benjamin reported that students are required to perform 30 hours of community involvement but that there is no parent involvement requirement. Ms. Merriweather asked questions about the curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and the ethnic breakdown of the LPS students. Ms. Waters responded. Student representative Edgar Rosales spoke about his freshman year at LPS and remarked about his brother and friends graduating from the school.

#### **C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**

##### **C.2 Acceptance of Donations**

##### **C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**

##### **C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**

##### **C.5 Contracted Services**

##### **C.6 Resolution No. 102-1112: California “Day of the Teacher”**

##### **C.7 Resolution No. 101-1112: National “Day of the School Nurse”**

##### **C.8 Approval of Sabbatical Leave Requests for 2012-2013**

##### **C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

This item was pulled for discussion.

##### **C.10 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

##### **C.11 Coronado Elementary School Interim Campus at Kennedy High School Award of Contract**

This item was pulled for discussion.

##### **C.12 Kennedy High School Replacement Softball Field Award of Contract**

##### **C.13 Nystrom Elementary School Temporary Campus Site Work Project Award of Contract**

Mr. Fay read the following into the record:

*Trinet Construction has been deemed non-responsive. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Alten Construction. The staff recommendation is to award the contract to Alten Construction, Inc. for \$1,834,007.*

##### **C.14 Portola Middle School Demolition Award of Contract**

Mr. Fay read the following into the record:

*Evans Brothers, Inc. has been deemed non-responsive. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Alten Construction, Inc. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Alten Construction, Inc. for \$2,191,176.*

**C.15 Resolution No. 98-1112: To Support the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act 2012**

**C.16 Naming Peres Dental Clinic for Dr. Dan Tanita**

This item was pulled for discussion.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.8, C.10, and C.12 – C.15. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

President Ramsey added information for clarification regarding deferred maintenance funds used for Lake, Grant, and Collins Elementary.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C.11 Coronado Elementary School Interim Campus at Kennedy High School Award of Contract**

Mr. Fay read the following into record:

*BHM has withdrawn their bid due to a clerical error. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Vila Construction Co. Staff recommended the award of contract to Vila Construction Co. for \$1,890,000.*

Discussion was held about the quality of modular buildings and learning environment for students.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.11 Coronado Elementary School Interim Campus at Kennedy High School Award of Contract. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C.16 Naming Peres Dental Clinic for Dr. Dan Tanita**

Superintendent Harter spoke about the recommendation to name the dental facility after Dr. Dan Tanita. Principal Jean Hansen spoke about the suggestion as a wonderful tribute to a man who has given so much of his time to the clinic. Mr. Abdalla answered questions about the location and layout of the dedication plaque.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.16 Naming Peres Dental Clinic for Dr. Dan Tanita. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Edgar Rosales (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

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

**D.1 Recognition of Hanna Ranch and Olinda Elementary School as 2012 California Distinguished Schools**

This item was moved to follow B.7.

**D.2 Recognition of Highland Elementary School as a recipient of 2011-2012 Academic Achievement Award**

This item was moved to follow B.7.

**D.3 Teacher of the Year/Ed. Fund Excellence in Education Award Winner Recognition**

This item was moved to follow B.7.

Student Representative Edgar Rosales left the meeting for the evening.

**D.4 Standing Reports**

**School Supervisors Association.** Sandra Falk spoke about the situation at Vista High and elimination of the office manager position.

**United Teacher of Richmond.** Diane Brown spoke about the teacher transfer process at Vista High and also the disruption of the program and work day at Lupine Hills.

**Public Employees Union Local One.** Julio Arroyo spoke about staffing at the Facilities Operations Center.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting planned for May 16, 6:30 PM at DeJean Middle School. Ms. Merriweather spoke about the presentation by San Pablo Vice Mayor Leonard McNeil about Full Service Community Schools and Helms Middle School at the recent meeting.

**Select Committee on High Schools.** Mr. Medrano reported on the recent meeting held at Richmond High where the WASC committee report and parent interest were discussed. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the impact of the loss of QEIA funds for Richmond High. The next meeting will be held May 16 at El Cerrito High.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Thurmond and Ms. Kronenberg reported on the commission's graduating seniors and recruitment of new student leaders. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 PM at the Round Table Pizza in Pinole.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi reported on the recent meeting where benchmark assessments and the GATE program were reviewed. The next meeting will be an Academic Town Hall meeting with a focus on math to be held May 22, 6:00 PM at DeJean.

**Community Budget Committee.** Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting for April 26 at Alvarado.

**Facility Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano announced the next meeting planned for May 8, 4:00 PM.

**Ivy League Connection.** President Ramsey spoke about the scholarships received from the University of Pennsylvania for three students to attend the summer program. He also said that the ILC has received over \$40,000 in scholarship funds this year from colleges. Forty-two students will attend six academic institutions during the upcoming summer. These students will be recognized at the May 23rd Board meeting.

**E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**  
(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

**E.1 Superintendent's Report**  
Due to the lateness of the hour Dr. Harter deferred his report.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**  
This item was moved to follow item D.3.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 103-1112: Authorization to Eliminate and/or Reduce Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees**  
Superintendent Harter spoke of the recommendation to eliminate classified positions based on reduction of funds experienced by the District.

**Public Comment:**  
Sandra Falk, Mariela Lopez

**Board Comment:**  
Ms. Merriweather asked questions about calling people back if grant funding becomes available. Ms. Rashidchi responded that even with any grant funds, the District will still be at deficit funding for the current program. Mr. Thurmond asked whether any other positions on the resolution impact Vista Independent Study. Ms. Reinhamen responded.

Superintendent Harter recommended withdrawing the Office Manager Position and the School Security Officer Position as related to Vista from this action.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 103-1112: Authorization to Eliminate and/or Reduce Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees as amended. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with 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.**

**F.2 Resolution No. 97-1112 Directing Preparation of Annual Report - MRAD**

Ms. Gamba presented information about the preparation of the annual engineer's report for the Maintenance Recreation and Assessment District.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
None

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 97-1112 Directing Preparation of Annual Report - MRAD. 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.**

President Ramsey requested moving item G. 2 up on the agenda.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of moving item G.2 up on the agenda. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no abstentions. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

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

Mr. Abdalla provided a presentation of projects at Helms Middle School and King Elementary. The respective architects and project managers were also available to offer additional information.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Board member comments and questions were addressed by staff.

**F.3 Resolution No. 99-1112: Approving a Form of the Preliminary Official Statement in Connection with the 2012 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (the “Bonds”) (Refunding all or a portion of outstanding (i) 2002 Measure D Bonds and (ii) 2000 Measure M Bonds, the “Refunded Bonds”)**

Ms. Gamba introduced the finance team in attendance that provided information for the preliminary official statement. The team included Dave Olson, Jeff Barrata, Scott Henry, Kris Vaca, and Catrina Cartegena.

Mr. Olson provided information regarding the resolution to approve the form of the preliminary statement. Discussion included adding Measure J bond funds to this resolution. After additional discussion, it was determined to move forward with the current resolution.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Mr. Thurmond said he appreciated the recommendation to take a conservative approach and maximize the best savings for taxpayers.  
Ms. Kronenberg appreciated the presentation. Mr. Medrano and Ms. Merriweather agreed.  
President Ramsey spoke of lessons learned to understand the recommendations of bond counsel and underwriters.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 97-1112 Directing Preparation of Annual Report - MRAD. 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.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Leadership Public High Schools Petition Renewal**

Item moved to follow item E.2.

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

Item moved to follow item F.2.

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

None

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

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about attending the Chevron 2012 grant award ceremony and the commitment to STEM education. She read the list of award winners in Richmond.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 9, 2012

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 11:34 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AAM</u></b> Approved 5/9/12</p>
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