

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

May 23, 2012

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:30 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 arrived at 6:38 PM.

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources Certificated Personnel; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; 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; Linda Jackson, Executive Director Emeritis; Nicole Joyner, Administrator Grants/Special Projects; Ken McDaniel; Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Vince Rhea, Executive Director K-12; Reyna Ortiz de Toureil, Translator; Michael Wasilchin, Director Classified Personnel

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

Ms. Amanda Calvo provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the May 23, 2012 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #002 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 May 23, 2012 for expulsion cases #001 – #002. 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.

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

Reappointment of 27 current administrators
Assistant Superintendent Human Resources, Kenneth Whittemore
Executive Director K-12, Adam Taylor
Elementary Principal, Itoco Garcia

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding administrative appointments. Ms. Merriweather 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 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda including moving item F.3 to follow consent items. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Student Representative Amanda Calvo (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.7 Minutes: May 9, 2012
This item was moved to follow item G.1.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.2 Acceptance of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.3 Contracted Services**
- C.4 Adoption of Resolution No. 114-1112: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**
- C.5 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.6 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**
- C.7 Resolution No.105-1112: Credential Assignment Options**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Harding Elementary CR Wing Envelope and Foundation Ventilation Repairs Project Award of Contract**
This item was withdrawn from the agenda by staff.
- C.11 Modification to Board Policies 5131 Conduct and 6163.4 Student Use of Technology**
- C.12 2012-2013 Designation of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Representatives to the League**
- C.13 Students from El Cerrito are attending the Heritage Music Festival-May 24-27, 2012**
- C.14 Approval of Board Members Attending Conferences**

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.9, C.11 - C.14. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Student Representative Amanda Calvo (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Mr. Thurmond arrived at the meeting.

F.3 Resolution No. 113-1112: Tier III Categorical Flexibility – Public Hearing
Ms. Gamba presented information about Tier III funding and the 2009 budget act which enacted a series of budget reductions to all school district revenues and opportunity to seek relief by repurposing funds. The application of this has been reflected in Tier III fund sweeps. In 2012 new legislation was enacted requiring that board action be taken separately from the annual budget adoption. Ms. Gamba shared information about budget planning as previously approved by the Board for the 2012-13 school year.

Public Comment:

Gayle Louie, Robelia de Leon, Raul Diaz, Maria Aguayo, Elisa Alzaga, Toni Favilia, Jose Terrozes, Kim Huhta, Julio del Rio, Pat Miles, Belinda Sifford, Kristen Pursley, Genesis Torres, Claudia Jimenez, Alverto Vita, Roberto Reyes, Julie Lamoine

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked about the alternative credentialing program. Ms. Gamba responded that the program was formerly funded through grant funding. Ms. Merriweather also asked about the arts and music block grant for restoring some afterschool programs. Ms. Gamba detailed the decisions about identifying alternative funding sources to assist programs that have experienced cuts.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 113-1112: Tier III Categorical Flexibility. Mr. Thurmond seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Amana Calvo (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

A brief recess was taken.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, De Anza High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Middle College High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League Universities

Mr. Vince Rhea spoke about the opportunity to open new doors for students. This year's chaperones representing the various high school campuses were introduced; Sewellyn Kaplan, John Crosby, Jaclyn Timmes, Katherine Williams, Cheryl Lilhanand, Alfredo Chan-Law, Ian Lawrence, Mike Mannix, and Igor Litvin. Each chaperone introduced the students in their cohort groups.

Yale University sophomore and former Ivy League Connection (ILC) participant Austin Long spoke of the importance of the program and students bettering themselves. Ms. Terilyn Chen, also a former Ivy League Connection participant, and incoming Harvard University freshman, spoke about expecting the unexpected and a sense of learning to deal with the unexpected.

Financial sponsors and the parents of the Ivy League students were also recognized.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey spoke about the growth of the program and the reciprocal benefit to other students in the District. Ms. Kronenberg recalled the relationship with Dartmouth University as the start of the ILC program. She said she looked forward to the opportunity to visit a number of other schools during the summer.

Mr. Medrano said he was very proud of these students and that he enjoys telling people throughout the state about the ILC.

Mr. Thurmond offered congratulations, saying he is very impressed with the accomplishments. He thanked the sponsors who have made this program possible.

Ms. Merriweather offered congratulations to the students and spoke of the wonderful opportunity and state of the arts program.

President Ramsey reported that this year's group of students represented every District high school.

Brief recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 8:16 PM

Student Representative Amanda Calvo left for the evening.

President Ramsey asked the Board to move item G.1 up on the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano approved moving item G.1 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 absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G.1 West County Community High Charter Renewal Petition

Ms. Linda Jackson presented information regarding the West County Community High School renewal petition to establish an additional five years performing as a charter school. Mr. Francis Spruit, President of the charter school and Ms. Nicole Jimenez, Director of Education, presented information about their school and charter renewal petition.

Elaine Guarnieri-Nunn, Managing Director of the California Charter School Association addressed the Board with a recommendation to not renew the petition based on the school's record of academic under performance.

Mr. Thurmond left the meeting for the evening.

Public Comment:

Mars Tremor, Will Flamenco, Roslyn Spruit, Galey Flamenco, Cassie Marshall, Morgan Valdivies, Dules Jas, Norma Jolley, Daniel Cifuentes, David Salde, Richard Saechao, Andrew Wolverton, Alejandro Cruz Diaz, Daniel Radhakrisfana, Luzdary Mora-Reyes, Dante Spruit, Gencerdo Alejo, Salvador Godoy, Ricky Edmiston, Adam, Julia Huekstra, Brenda Santos, Sue Britson, Danielle Asher, Tim Banelos, Kathy Casares, Christopher Schuette, Suzanne Camp, Nate Clark, Cheyenne Kreger, Elias Reyes, Brenda Bermudez, Francisco Verduco

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked speakers and said this item will return to the Board for action following staff's review.

B.7 Minutes: May 9, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Minutes of May 9, 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.

Mr. Ramsey corrected a date error in the Ivy League Connection presentation regarding the Brown University Women and Leadership program dates of July 2 through July 20, 2012.

D.2 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation regarding the Governor's May Budget Revisions and activity to take place between June 5 and June 15 when a state budget is required by law. She further commented on the potential effects of a failure of the November tax initiative as disastrous for schools. She reported that her main message tonight is that the District is working very hard to solve financial problems and the importance that the community hears and understands the message.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

D.3 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the Academic Town Hall meeting held May 22 with the focus on mathematics. She said the meeting was well attended and that everyone was able to view an important video clip showing students and teachers working with their newly developed skills through the math reform initiative. Feedback from those in attendance was very positive. Ms. Rashidchi said the town hall meetings will continue into the 2012-13 school year. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 11 at Helms Middle School, 6:30 PM.

Community Budget Advisory. Ms. Gamba reported that the next meeting will be held May 31st at the Alvarado Adult Education Campus.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg reported on the recent Academy Awards where the high school academies were recognized. Supporters for the academies as well as community partners were also recognized. Mr. Medrano reported that Congressman George Miller attended, as well.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported on the last meeting where students spoke about high school restroom policies, as well as a report from CHA service providers. She announced the next meeting for June 12, 6:30 PM at Pinole Middle School.

Select Committee on High Schools. Mr. Medrano reported on the recent meeting at El Cerrito High. Five students talked about their school with 15-20 parents in attendance. The next meeting will be at Pinole Valley High School. President Ramsey said he was troubled by a lack of African American parent participation and would like outreach to this segment of the population.

Public Employees Union Local One. Peter Tiernan acknowledged the District's repayment of state loan. He said the union thinks this occasion deserves great credit. Their members look forward to the loan payoff event with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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 activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Bob Menzimer

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution No. 112-1112: Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2012-13, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing

Superintendent Harter presented information and corrected a typographical error by stating that the correct date for the public hearing will be June 27, 2012. Ms. Gamba asked the Board to approve the resolution.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 112-1112: Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2012-13, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.2 Leadership Public Schools (LPS) Charter Renewal Petition and Resolution No. 116-1112: Conditionally Approve the Renewal Charter School Petition for Leadership Public High Schools

Ms. Linda Jackson presented information regarding staff findings and the proposed resolution to conditionally approve the charter school's renewal petition.

LPS Superintendent Louise Waters spoke about contingencies of the renewal. Superintendent Harter responded about access to the school's online resources, procedures for the reclassification of EL students, and a copy of the school's plan for serving high achieving students as all being important to the District. He said the information would be helpful to the District as well. He asserted that the staff recommendation stands.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Leadership Public Schools Charter Renewal Petition and Resolution No. 116-1112: Conditionally Approve the Renewal Charter School Petition for Leadership Public High Schools. 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.

F.3 Resolution No. 113-1112: Tier III Categorical Flexibility – Public Hearing

This item was moved to follow item consent items.

F.4 State Loan Payoff – Resolution No. 115-1112

Superintendent Harter announced a loan payoff ceremony for June 1, 2012 at Ford Elementary School. Ms. Gamba provided information regarding the audit, underlying paperwork and approval by the State of California. She presented an amended resolution as provided by the Infrastructure Bank with no substantive changes in nature. She reported there were no edits to the prepayment agreement. The schedule of events to follow approval includes documents to be sent to the I Bank and an electronic transfer to take place on May 29 with the State depositing their share of funds as well. An escrow account has been set up because the bonds originally issued in 2005 were issued with a call date of 2015. By depositing funds to an escrow account the loan is considered paid off for the purpose of releasing the State Trustee. In 2015, the bonds will be called and paid in full. The result is the return of full governance to the Board without any oversight from a State Trustee.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked questions about the resolution and payoff documents. Ms. Gamba provided clarified. Ms. Gamba spoke about the amount of principal and interested also owed by the State of California. Mr. Ramsey thanked staff for their hard work. He continued to speak about this being the last Board to deal with this debt. Ms. Kronenberg recalled her own children attending school in the District at the time of the initial loan that has hung over the District all these years. Ms. Merriweather recalled being a parent at Harding Elementary and how other parents felt. She said she was elated with the hard work that has been done to get the District to this point. Mr. Medrano echoed giving credit to the sacrifices made to keep the District afloat. He said it is a good feeling to finally accomplish this landmark event. President Ramsey said this is an exciting time. He thanked all the cities and families who have sacrificed. He gave special mention for the group March for Education that went to Sacramento to seek a lower interest rate in order to save the District millions of dollars.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of State Loan Payoff – Resolution No. 115-1112. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.5 Resolution No. 106-1112: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to approve staff's recommendation which is something not used frequently, but necessary to have on file.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 106-1112: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers. 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.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 West County Community High Charter Renewal Petition

This item was moved to follow item D.1.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Medrano thanked members from the county who elected him to serve on the California School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly. He spoke about our District's history with the state takeover. He also spoke about the opportunity to translate for Congressman Miller who attended the recent reclassification ceremony.

Ms. Merriweather thanked the parents who attended the recent Academic Town Hall meeting. She concluded by wishing all graduates the best for their future.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the voters in Moraga not passing a recent parcel tax measure. She urged voters to approve Measure K on the June ballot to provide funding for District students. She also presented an award from the Contra Costa School Boards Association to Mr. Ramsey for his years of service.

President Ramsey spoke about the upcoming graduation ceremonies. He closed the meeting with comments about local control and encouraging voters to get out and vote. He remarked on the passing of County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, representative to the area.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 13, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:37 P.M.

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

BH:dh

AAM
Approved 6/13/12