

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

July 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 6:06 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: 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; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Technician; June Kalfsbeek; Sr. Confidential Secretary; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Ken Whittmore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Keith Holtslander, Director of Facilities & Construction

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the following administrative appointments for 2012-2013:

Rebecca Giacomini, Ohlone Elementary School Principal
David Gutierrez, Helms Middle School Assistant Principal
Marie Stephanie Serrano, Peres Elementary School Vice Principal

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the administrative appointments. 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.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of 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.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Adoption of Resolution No. 16-1213: In Support of Office of Public School Construction applications for Modernization and New Construction state funding

C.2 Harding Elementary School Foundation Ventilation Repairs Project Award of Contract

C.3 New Gompers High School and Leadership Public School Award of Contract

C.4 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Ellerhorst Elementary School Re-roof Project

C.5 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Richmond High School Emergency Lighting Replacement Project

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.5. 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.

President Ramsey called for a brief recess.

President Ramsey called the meeting back to order at 6:25 p.m.

D. ACTION ITEMS

D.1 Parcel Tax Survey

Superintendent Harter introduced Mr. Bryan Godbe, of Godbe Research, who was contracted to conduct a random sample survey regarding a possible November parcel tax measure. During the same period of time, For the Children of West County, a community political action committee, contracted with Godbe Research to conduct a separate survey regarding both a parcel tax and bond measure for the November ballot.

Mr. Godbe presented a report on the survey results and provided statistics regarding a potential November ballot measure for a bond measure, a parcel tax measure, or both. Mr. Godbe responded to questions.

Public Comment:

Thomas Prather, Catherina Mercurio, Ben Steinberg, Cathy Garza, Bobbie Dowling, Sharon E. Fogelson, Charles Cowens, Carolyn Day Flowers, Mary Shaughnessy, Robert Studdiford, Sarah Butler, Todd Groves, Dennis Cody, Jennifer Loughrey

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked about the phrasing of questions to those polled about support of both a parcel tax and a bond measure. Mr. Godbe responded that the questions were asked by two distinct questions for each ballot measure. Mr. Thurmond continued with questions about methodology in asking about multiple measures. Mr. Godbe responded that the survey questions did not reference the community college of soda tax measures, but did reference the State wide ballot measures.

Mr. Medrano asked whether the survey explained the purpose of bond and parcel tax measures. Mr. Godbe responded that the survey language referenced both measures as programs and projects for the District.

President Ramsey asked why the senior citizen exemption from the first measure was excluded from Survey One and included on Survey Two. Mr. Godbe responded that only the parcel tax measure contained a senior exemption.

Mr. Thurmond asked clarification of Mr. Godbe's statement regarding data not be extended to include a bond and a parcel tax renewal with an additional 3¢ per square foot. Mr. Godbe responded

President Ramsey confirmed that \$360 million was requested for the bond measure initiative for a ten year program.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about how the survey was completed for two different areas. Mr. Godbe explained random sampling into demographic subgroups including the entire district with age, gender, and other factors. Survey Two looked into a 2013 ballot measure.

Ms. Kronenberg commented that Mr. Godbe's margin of error has always been correct.

Ms. Merriweather suggested that the bond measure to be placed on the March 2013 election ballot. President Ramsey responded that bond measures can only be on general election ballots. If the district didn't seek a bond measure in November 2012, the next opportunity would be in 2014.

Mr. Thurmond commented on the poor state of the economy and that citizens have been generous. At the current state level of funding the district needs to ask citizens for their support in both bond and parcel tax measures on the ballot for November 2012.

Mr. Thurmond asked Mr. Godbe when funds would be received from a parcel tax measure. Mr. Godbe responded that it depended on the fiscal year. If the parcel tax passed by the end of the fiscal year, it would be on the tax roll of the next fiscal year.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of a \$360 million Bond Measure and a Parcel Tax Renewal Measure for 5 Years with no increase. 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.

E. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – August 1, 2012

F. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

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

BH:rjk

Min 7-23-12 sp

AAM
Approved 8/15/12