

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

August 1, 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 6:33 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 (arrived at 6:41PM), Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Pamela Blake, Director of Adult Education; Magdalena Browne; Translator; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Bill Fay; Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Keith Holtlander, Director Facilities and Construction; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Rhonda Haney, Coordinator Youth Development; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Nicole Joyner, Administrator Grants/Special Projects; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Ken Whittmore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda including moving item E.3 before D.1. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Merriweather absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

B.6 Minutes: July 11, 2012

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of July 11, 2012. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Merriweather absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Donations

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Contracted Services

C.4 Notice of Completions: Bid J1180095 Portola Middle School Shade Structure, Bid J068232 Portola Middle School Reconditioned Portable Purchase, Bid J068158 Ford Elementary School Increment 2 New School Building

C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.6 Recommendation for Preliminary Teaching Credential

C.7 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.9 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

This item was pulled for discussion.

- C.11 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.12 Approval of Board Member Attending Conferences**
- C.13 Masonic Lodge Request to Lay Symbolic Cornerstone at DeAnza High School**
- C.14 Resolution No. 15-1213: Resolution in Support of Propositions 30 and 38**
- C.15 Resolution 19-1213: Special Exemptions Act Resolution Proposition 32**

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.9 and C.11 – C.15. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Merriweather absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked Mr. Fay for a report regarding J. Majors and Associates, LLC, and their success in the outreach program and groups they have spoken to in the community for the next Board meeting.

Ms. Merriweather arrived at the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.10. 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. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

President Ramsey introduced Nancy Schiff, representative with the Center for Youth Development Through Law. The summer program graduation ceremony will be held August 17, 2012 at the UC Berkeley Law School. Judge Henry Ramsey will be assisting in the new program at El Cerrito High School working with the students.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked about the weekly hours for interns and the retention rate. Ms. Schiff responded.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Evelia Villa, James Graggs

Board Comment:

Superintendent Harter reported that an error was made by officials at Kennedy High School regarding the Steelers football program. The program has been reinstated on the site.

D.1 Recognition of Seville Group for 10 Years of Service

Superintendent Harter recognized the long standing partnership with The Seville Group as the program manager of the bond program for the past ten years. Superintendent Harter presented Lance Jackson, Senior Vice President of Seville Group, with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Jackson introduced Mr. Karim Nassab, Bond Program Manager.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg commented on the numerous opportunities to evaluate The Seville Group in annual performance audits. She further commented on the organization's attention to detail in their performance.

Mr. Thurmond spoke of the smooth partnership with the District. Many of The Seville Groups' employees have relocated to the area to better serve the District and The Seville Group has supported youth in the community such as the Ivy League Connection, the Ed Fund Board and other programs.

Ms. Merriweather thanked The Seville Group for its commitment with the District over the past ten years.

Mr. Medrano expressed his appreciation for The Seville Group's contributions to the Ed Fund and support at the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meetings.

President Ramsey shared about The Seville Group's introduction to the District in 2000, and what they have accomplished in the District.

D.2 Standing Reports

Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. Studdiford reported that there will be a joint meeting with the Board of Education on August 15, 2012.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported on the last meeting where the committee determined they would work on a resolution to support the parcel tax resolution that the Board will review this evening. The committee is currently working on a press release.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond reported the committee will meet in September 2012.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond requested staff to begin the process of recruiting future commissioners.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Kronenberg reported that she, President Ramsey, and a chaperon with four students from the District toured Yale University, Wesleyan University and Vassar College. Students will be sharing their experiences with fellow students in the District after school starts this fall.

President Ramsey reported his brother will assist in hosting an upcoming joint mentor program with Harvard and Yale Universities on August 26, 2012. Thirty students from Pinole High School, DeAnza High School, El Cerrito High School and Richmond High School will participate.

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 Request to Address the Board – Ben Steinberg
This request was withdrawn.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment
This item was moved to follow item D.1.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution No. 17-1213: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order
Superintendent Harter read the modifications to Resolution No. 17-1213 in to the record. He explained the changes as on page A-1 and B-1, under exhibit A and B, the words "science labs" were added; and page B-3, the technical language "as well as the refinancing of an outstanding obligation bond debt of the District" was added in the record.

Public Comment:
Eduardo Martinez, Ilona Clark

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked KNN representative Dave Olson and bond attorney Nick Heuer for clarifications. Mr. Heuer explained.

President Ramsey asked why the list of remaining schools was not listed for Exhibit B. Superintendent Harter responded that specific projects were not listed as a specific project list because the voters will be asked to approve the types of projects the District may apply across the board at schools, rather than to narrow the list to specific schools which might very well change over the life the bond measure, which is expected to be at least ten years

President Ramsey asked clarification of statement on page B-3 “as well as the refinancing of outstanding general obligation bond debt of the District.” Mr. Olsen responded that this would make sure for old programs that were built in a time of a better economy and pushed payments to the back are able to remain within their tax rate targets over the long term. This will allow the District to spend the new bond monies to pay down the tax rate, so it keeps the District’s commitments to voters from when they voted on past elections.

President Ramsey asked where the debt limit waiver is located in the resolution. Mr. Heuer responded it is located on the bottom section of page B-4.

Mr. Thurmond asked what the future interest rates would be for the measures. Mr. Olsen responded that while interest rates vary with the market, the assumption that underlies the projection is a conservative 5-3/4% interest rate. Mr. Thurmond said it is important for the public to know the District’s intent to rebuild Grant, Lake, Collins, Shannon and Olinda Elementary Schools, as well as Crespi Middle and Kennedy High School.

MOTION: Ms. Kronengerg moved approval of Resolution No. 17-1213 as amended: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order. 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.

F.2 Resolution No. 18-1213: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Calling and Election, Establishing Specifications of the election Order and Requesting Consolidation with Other Elections Occurring on November 6, 2012

Superintendent Harter recommended the Board put a parcel tax renewal on the ballot for November 6, 2012. Superintendent Harter read the revised modifications to Resolution No. 18-1213 into the record with a change on page 2, the third whereas clause, “2014” year correction.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey reported that the polling data stated the parcel tax measure would pass as a renewal at 74% if funded.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 18-1213 as amended: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Calling and election, Establishing Specifications of the Election Order and Requesting Consolidation with Other Elections Occurring on November 6, 2012. Ms. Merriweather 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

President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter to clarify for the record that \$35 million will be set aside for technology in Resolution No. 17-1213. Superintendent Harter responded that on July 23, 2012 the Board asked to include technology to update schools and security needs.

G.1 Project Status Report

Mr. Holtslander provided a report of construction projects in the District.

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

Public Comment:
Cheryl King

Board Comment:
None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Thurmond reported he attended a meeting with Ms. Kronenberg, Superintendent Harter and a resident regarding programs to assist in reducing behaviors in the classroom to focus on greater achievement. Mr. Thurmond asked Superintendent Harter to bring back his report to the Board regarding the many programs implemented in our schools that assist in eliminating behaviors that take away from classroom learning, and bring back the conversation to close the achievement gap.

Ms. Merriweather said she is happy that Coronado and Nystrom Elementary Schools will be prepared for the opening of school.

Ms. Kronenberg said she felt the evening was historical in proactive actions by the District for our schools, technology and students.

Mr. Medrano said he felt the Board listened to the community and has approved measures that the polling supports. He reported that the Richmond Vision organization has endorsed both the parcel tax and bond measures.

President Ramsey said the finance teams, architects and construction managers now attend the District's meetings and are accountable for the growth and evolution of the projects.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – August 15, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:04 P.M. in name of President Obama.

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

BH:rjk

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 8/15/12</p>
