

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

**January 9, 2013**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:31 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Kronenberg led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

President Kronenberg offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay; Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance/Operations; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Antoinette Henry-Evans, Executive Director K-12; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities Planning; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Adam Taylor, Executive Director K-12; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; Katie VonHusen, Coordinator Academic Intervention; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Pinole Valley School**

Ms. Hannah Pablo provided a report of activities at Pinole Valley High School.

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

None

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Board members amended the agenda with the following changes: move F.5 to follow F.2; move Standing Reports to follow Agenda Review and Adoption; move D.3 to follow D.1.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda with the modifications. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**D.5 Standing Reports**

**Public Employees Local One.** Supervising Business Agent Scott Brown thanked the Local One members present in the audience for their show of support. He said that negotiations have been taking place since November and are at logger heads because of an impending January 20<sup>th</sup> increase in medical benefit costs. Union members Sylvia McClafin, Debbie Dickerson, Anthony Walker, and Donald Aeschbacher spoke of the harsh economic times and the impact on Local One members of the steep increases in the cost of benefits.

**United Teachers Richmond.** President Diane Brown said that UTR stands in solidarity with Local One. She said the future of the District depends on employees and UTR classroom teachers. Ms. Brown recapped her remarks to the Board at its January 5th retreat regarding reports from the State's Legislative Analyst Office with its predictions of financial improvement in the state's economy.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting for January 22, 2013, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School where agenda items will include Common Core Standards and writing training for teachers.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Ramsey reported on the January 8 meeting where agenda items included the time line for Portola Middle School project as well as the Peres Dental Clinic. He announced a special meeting will be held January 22nd at 2:00 PM at the Facilities Operations Center where the agenda will include a report regarding the program budget. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2013.

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Ramsey reported that student interviews for the Cornell, Brown, and Vanderbilt University programs have taken place. Next week interviews will continue for the Columbia summer programs. The Yale and Brown University mentor programs will begin later this month.

**College and Career Readiness Academies.** President Kronenberg said she recently visited DeAnza's health academy as it is going through its certification process. Teachers, parents and the business community joined in meeting with evaluators. She spoke highly of the program.

**Safety Committee:** Ms. Merriweather reported on the upcoming meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Richmond High, 9:00 AM. She said the agenda will include chronic absences and tardiness. She invited the public to attend.

**B.7 Minutes:** December 12, 2012

The Board inadvertently skipped over the approval of the minutes. The December 12, 2012 minutes will be placed on the January 23, 2013 agenda for approval.

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

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

**C.2 Acceptance of Donations**

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

**C.4 Contracted Services**

**C.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 57-1213: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**

**C.6 Notice of Completion: Bid 1121341-01 Coronado Interim Campus at Kennedy High School**

**C.7 Notification of Claim Rejected**

**C.8 Certified Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3**

**C.9 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**

**C.10 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**

This item was pulled for discussion and separate action.

**C.11 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

**C.12 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.13 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Harding Elementary School Foundation Ventilation Repairs**

**C.14 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Helms Middle School Sports Fields and Landscaping**

**C.15 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School Site Drainage**

**C.16 Resolution 60-1213: Facilities Use Agreement with Seneca Family Agencies at El Sobrante Elementary School Site**

**C.17 Services Agreement with Seneca Family Agencies at El Sobrante Elementary School Site**

**C.18 Resolution No. 58-1213: Right of Entry Agreement for Use of Parking Area Located At Nystrom Elementary School between the West Contra Costa Unified School District and Providence Baptist Church**

Mr. Fay read a correction into the record regarding the title of the resolution.

**C.19 Resolution No. 56-1213: Level II and Level III Developer Fees**

Mr. Fay read a correction into the record regarding a typographical error of 48¢ which should read 84¢.

**C.20 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report**

**MOTION:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.9, C.11 - C.20. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

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

**D.3 Foreign Exchange Student Program**

Ms. Henry-Evans introduced High School Counselor Finy Prak who presented exchange students Elena Rosellini from Italy and Morena Suttee of Switzerland. Both students attend classes at Hercules High School. They spoke of their experiences, their hopes that District students appreciate the advantages, and diversity in the District. Certificates of recognition were presented.

**D.1 Olinda Students Report on Fundraising Efforts**

Student Gabrielle Carvalho introduced her classmates and told of their work to raise \$1,042.86 to donate to Red Cross for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Teacher John Ryder and Custodian Rick Alexander spoke of the compassion and humanitarianism of the students.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey acknowledged the tremendous accomplishment of the students in showing their compassion for others. Mr. Enos congratulated the students for becoming more involved in the world. He recognized Mr. Alexander as a caring individual.

Ms. Merriweather thanked the students for taking the steps to do this, setting an example for other students.

Mr. Groves acknowledged how hard this project was to accomplish saying he respected the student's efforts and thanked them.

President Kronenberg spoke about visiting their class and her own visit to the East Coast to witness first-hand the devastating effects of the storm. She knows the people affected are appreciative of efforts such as theirs.

**D.2 Update from Student Board Representative from Youth Commission**

Mr. Taylor introduced the members of the Youth Commission; Chairman Jaysen Fort and Commissioners Tayler Ward, Audrey Webb, Loraina Rodriguez, Oyinkansola Ajayi, Marina Queiroz, Aurora Ford. Mr. Fort spoke of the goals of the Commission as a voice for students while improving student life. The students were presented with certificates of recognition. Mr. Fort also announced the next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2013 at Helms Middle School, 6:30 PM.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked about the Commissions goals particularly for students of color. Mr. Fort spoke about motivation to see opportunity and improving communication with school counselors, school spirit, and safety and health for all students.

Mr. Groves said he looked forward to working with the commissioners.

Ms. Merriweather said she was glad to meet the students who are role models and leaders for other students in the District.

Mr. Enos said he was very happy to meet the students and hoped to have opportunity to talk with them individually.

President Kronenberg said that she looked forward to joining the upcoming meeting.

**D.3 Foreign Exchange Student Program**

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

**D.4 Strategic Planning Process**

Superintendent Harter spoke about the need to update the District's strategic plan with external funding, community involvement and input from stakeholders to develop a revised plan for strategic priorities. Superintendent Harter gave a summary of priorities set by the Board at its January 5th meeting where Board members reviewed community input from the December 19th Board of Education special meeting on priority setting. The Board determined three key priorities for this year including technology and information technology development, targeted learning for the Common Core State Standards, and sustainable funding. Dr. Harter will bring a recommendation back to January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for the selection of a strategic planning facilitator.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey had questions about the Board's interest in increasing technology. Superintendent Harter responded.

Mr. Enos spoke about oversight and concern regarding development and implementation of the plan. He spoke of the targets for change such as the digital divide and disparity among students. He talked about aligning the plan with the state's Common Core requirements.

Ms. Merriweather said she looks forward to the task with a facilitator as well as engaging the surrounding cities and community stakeholders. She spoke about investing in this plan for the next five years.

Mr. Ramsey commented on the financial and operations section of the proposal. He said he would also like to hear student voices in the development of the plan to improve learning.

Mr. Groves said he was excited about Common Core as an opportunity to fundamentally change the way learning takes place in the District.

President Kronenberg talked of hearing the student voice as important. She further spoke of aligning the strategic plan and Board goals to Common Core Standards. She invited the community to voice ideas over the upcoming months.

#### **D.5 Standing Reports**

This item was moved to follow item B.6.

#### **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 on Parental Involvement**

Mr. Billie Alexander addressed the Board about Resolution No. 45-9596 regarding the Kwanza celebration and the benefit to African American students.

##### **E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Eric Reed, Debbie Willis, Diane Maddox, Diane Brown, Al Kirkman, Lorraine Gray, Elin Hansen

Mr. Enos left the dais.

#### **C.10 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**

Mr. Groves had questions regarding the mentorship for student teachers, quality of those teachers and any potential fit for teaching in the District. Mr. Whittemore responded.

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

None

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

None

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Item C.10 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Enos absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

Mr. Enos returned to the dais.

#### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **F.1 Presentation of the 2011 – 2012 Audit Report by Crowe Horwath LLP**

Charles Raibley, audit manager for Crowe Horwath presented information regarding the 2011-2012 independent audit report.

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

None

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

Mr. Ramsey had questions and comments. Mr. Raibley and Superintendent Harter provided information for clarification. Mr. Ramsey asked that corrections and commentary footnotes be added to the document. Mr. Coyne provided additional information for clarification.

Mr. Groves had questions about the associated student body fund sighting and categorical funds. Mr. Raibley and Mr. Coyne responded.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about the recommendations made for associated student body funds. Mr. Greer and Mr. Coyne responded with information about trainings for secondary schools cashiers and principals.

President Kronenberg asked that a follow up report come back to the Board about the training and procedure implementation.

Ms. Merriweather had further questions about cafeteria food purchases. Mr. Coyne said that he would research and provide information.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the 2011 – 2012 Audit Report. Ms. Merriweather seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.2 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association**

Superintendent Harter asked President Kronenberg to open the public hearing regarding the initial bargaining proposal.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

**Public Comment:**

None

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Adoption of the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.5 Authorization for Survey**

Mr. Bryan Godbe from Godbe Research provided information to the Board regarding a survey of the community voters about a possible parcel tax measure for a June or November election and what should be considered in the survey.

**Public Comment:**

Alicia Minyen

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey commented about long term sustainable funding. Mr. Godbe spoke about the topics to test when polling constituents as well as the possibility of a mail-in ballot.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the sample size. Mr. Godbe responded. The consensus of the Board was that a sample size of 800 would be best to determine the interest of the community.

Mr. Groves had questions about the duration of the tax and possible increased revenues from the state. He spoke about a two or three year bridge before increased revenues from the state can be expected. Discussion continued about other impacts to a possible tax measure.

Mr. Enos said he would like to see the data to base discussion and decisions.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Authorization for Survey with modifications to the original recommendation. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Hannah Pablo (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked President Kronenberg to appoint two Board members to work on a committee. Mr. Enos and President Kronenberg volunteered.

Board Representative Hannah Pablo left the meeting for the evening.

**G.1 Project Status Report**

Mr. Abdalla provided a report of construction progress in the District.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked about progress of the DeAnza construction and Kennedy projects. Mr. Abdalla responded. Ms. Merriweather asked for a copy of the report regarding security cameras. Mr. Groves asked about grading and noise disrupting student learning at the Portola site. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Enos had questions about the elevator at Kennedy High. Mr. Abdalla said he will look into it and return with information.

**F.3 Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Request for Bond Waiver**

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

**Public Comment:**

Aquacena Lopez

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

**Board Comment:**

None

**F.4 Resolution No. 55 -1213: Intent to Seek Debt Limit Waiver from State Board of Education for Sale of remaining General Obligation Bonds as approved by voters under Measure E 2012**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to approve an application to the State Board of Education for a debt limit waiver to the increase the assessed property valuation to 5% for twelve years to enable the District to issue the bonds of Measure E 2012.

Members of the bond council including Dave Olson of KNN Public Finance, Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffrey & Co., Scott Henry of E.J. De La Rosa & Co., Attorney David Casnocha of Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth were present to provide information about the bonding capacity of the District. Mr. Olson presented information about the statutory bonding capacity and why a waiver of the limit is needed. He related this information as it affects the District's school building program.

Attorney David Casnocha gave his opinion about the presumption of the State Board of Education approving the waiver with no cause of any adverse consequences. Mr. Ramsey asked about an appeal process if denied. Mr. Casnocha spoke about the law protecting safeguards for the taxpayers.

**Public Comment:**

Alicia Minyen, Robert Studdiford, Soo Zee Park

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey had questions about the building fund. Mr. Coyne responded. Mr. Ramsey continued to speak about the unanimous support from public entities such as local city councils and various special districts. Mr. Ramsey continued to speak about the schools yet to be reconstructed and equity for all students. Mr. Baratta and Mr. Henry provided their opinion about the success of the debt limit waiver request.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 55 -1213: Intent to Seek Debt Limit Waiver from State Board of Education for Sale of remaining General Obligation Bonds as approved by voters under Measure E 2012. Mr. Groves seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F.5 Authorization for Survey**

This item was moved to follow item F.2.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Project Status Report**

This item was moved to follow F.5.

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

None

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

Mr. Groves invited the public to participate in the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. parade in El Cerrito which will march from the Department of Motor Vehicle parking lot to El Cerrito High School on Monday, January 21, 2013.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the opportunity for the public to hear the Board's priorities. She said the Board is relying on the community to be engaged in the process of developing a new strategic plan.

President Kronenberg announced the El Cerrito High Gaucho dance company performance on Friday night.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – January 23, 2013

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:27 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CTR</u></b> Approved 1-23-13</p>
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