

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

March 6, 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 6:42 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; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Linda Delgado, Coordinator; 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; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Tashaka Merriweather, Coordinator; Reyna Ortiz de Touciel, Translator; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Adam Taylor, K-12 Executive Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Darrin Zaragoza, Coordinator

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

Ms. Alyssa Balarbar provided a report of activities at Hercules High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve a settlement agreement with West Bay Builders for \$328,000.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session for a settlement agreement with West Bay Builders. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve release notices to temporary teachers.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to issue release notices to temporary teachers. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Mr. Enos abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to provide notice of reassignment to twelve administrators.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to provide notice of reassignment to twelve administrators. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to provide a notice of non-reelection to one probationary administrator.

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to provide notice of non-reelection to one probationary administrator. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather,

Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Kronenberg asked the Board to consider moving E.2 Public Comment to follow B.7.

C.15 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Kennedy High School Temporary Science Classroom Project

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reject all bids to item C.15, Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Kennedy High School Temporary Science Classroom Project. Mr. Enos seconded the motion. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Alyssa Balarbar (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

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

B.7 Minutes: February 6, 2013; February 13, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Minutes of February 6, 2013 and February 13, 2013. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Alyssa Balarbar (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Allison Akhouhn, Kristen Pursley, Vincent Matthews, Giorgio Cosentino, Anthony E. Jones

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 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.6 Notice of Completions: Bid 3601612-00 Kennedy High School Walk-In Cooler/Refrigerator, Bid 2121102-05 Pinole Middle School MPR Audio-Visual Project, Bid 1321204-03 King Elementary School Security Raceway Infrastructure, Bid 2101101-01 Helms Middle School MPR Audio Visual, Bid 2121102-09 Pinole Middle School Security Raceway Infrastructure and Bid 1321204-02 King Elementary School Site Drainage

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.8 Resolution No. 69-1213: Week of the School Administrator – March 3-9, 2013

Public Comment:

Giorgio Cosentino

C.9 Resolution No. 72-1213: California Adult Education Week – March 11-15, 2013

C.10 Resolution No. 70-1213: Women’s History Month – March 2013

C.11 Resolution No. 71-1213: Arts in Education Month – March 2013

C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.14 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Vista High School Portable Tech Lab 1 and 2 – Civil Work

C.15 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Kennedy High School Temporary Science Classroom Project
This item was acted upon earlier in the agenda.

C.16 Modification of Board Calendar to Include Joint Meetings with CBOC

C.17 2013 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election

C.18 Approval of Board Members Travel

C.19 Collaboration with City of El Cerrito to Explore Possible Uses for the Current Portola Site

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.14, and C.16 – C.19. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Board Representative Alyssa Balarbar (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.1 Letters of Intent

Mr. Greer introduced Executive Director Adam Taylor and Athletic Coordinator Darrin Zaragoza who have been working with student athletes to raise academic standards. Mr. Taylor introduced the student scholar athletes. Board members personally congratulated each student.

Raephel Jackson Jr., Stephanie Munoz, Marcellus Pippins, Stephane Lin, Sydney Shipley, Takkarists McKinley

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey offered congratulations to the scholar athletes for their academic achievement. He commented that they are part of only 3% of all high school student athletes in the country to receive Division I scholarships. He concluded by acknowledging their parents and family support.

Mr. Enos spoke of the opportunity for these students to be role models to others and offered congratulations.

Ms. Merriweather spoke of the pride of their parents and families. She remarked about the support their families will provide.

Mr. Groves offered congratulations and urged the students to remember where they came from. He spoke of the hard work ahead and the opportunity to do great things.

Mr. Ramsey commented about Ms. Merriweather being the parent of a Division I athlete who attended college in Arizona.

President Kronenberg added her congratulations to the students and their families saying their college experiences will define their future. She said this is important to everyone in their community and hoped they would come back and share their experiences with other students.

D.2 Report on the Full Service Community Schools

Superintendent Harter recalled the Board's adoption of a resolution to develop Full Service Community Schools and the progress in that direction. Mr. Greer introduced Mr. Tashaka Merriweather for an update of the Full Service Community Schools program.

Mr. Merriweather provided an update of the Community Schools district wide initiative. He said that staff has been charged to align current services and move forward in expanding the services beyond the health services at the high schools. He related the group's experiences in attending a recent national conference held in New York where they learned a great deal. This experience also reinforced the good work already in place in the District. The implementation team has developed best practices and will relate the process for moving forward.

Dr. Jennifer Lyle of Building Block for Kids Collaborative spoke of their work focused on cradle to college and career success for young people in the community. She said the collaborative's efforts include health and wellness, digital literacy, early childhood learning and development, and community engagement advocacy. She spoke about developing the plan for organizing systems, engaging and recruiting, and implementation of the work in schools. She commented on the community organizations, city and county officials, parents and other partners invested in this program.

Mr. Gabino Arredondo, Health and Wellness Coordinator for the City of Richmond, spoke about the education of children as a responsibility of the larger community in support of schools. He said the group's work was divided into three teams including a Site Level Team, a Steering Team, and a Community Team. The City of Richmond's Health

Equity Partnership is actively involved with the Community Team. The team has a goal to efficiently deploy services and incorporate new partners coming to Richmond.

Chavez Principal Jeanette Ramirez talked about the community need to see that children are socially and academically healthy for educational success. Principals are responsible to encourage community partnerships to participate. While this work will take a great deal of effort, it is important.

Mr. Merriweather concluded by saying that the work is moving forward in the right direction. He provided copies of the Community Schools newsletter detailing progress made with the initiative.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey thanked staff for the comprehensive presentation saying he was mindful of the collaboration work toward success for children.

Mr. Enos commended the team's level of effort to bring students to a higher competitive level. He encouraged them to continue the work with the Board's support.

Student Representative Alyssa Balarbar left for evening.

Ms. Merriweather spoke of the stages of development knowing that this initiative is maturing toward benefitting all children with improved achievement.

Mr. Groves spoke of the hard work ahead saying the Board is a facilitation partner so that there are no gaps between schools and the community.

President Kronenberg said she had no doubt that this is a model for the future of the District. She commented on the work and looked forward to future reports.

D.3 Report on Health Advisory – Student Bill of Rights

Mr. Greer introduced representatives from the advisory board for the six school based health centers. The students spoke about their Student Bill of Rights for the District's commitment and student expectations.

Ms. Josephine Leiva, a Contra Costa College student and graduate of Kennedy High School spoke about working as a youth advocate consultant at the Kennedy health center. She told of her experiences as a student and her involvement with the youth advisory board that developed the Student Bill of Rights.

Hercules Junior Tiffany Farmer spoke about how the health based center at Hercules has helped students. She said the Bill of Rights is posted in all District health centers to assure students' rights to have their opinions and suggestions taken seriously and to be treated as equals.

El Cerrito Senior Louisa Jackson spoke about the James Morehouse Project Health Center. She told about her participation in the Ladies of Literature program where students recited poems based on personal experiences. She said the health coalition is very important for students' rights.

Cynthia Leon, Youth Coordinator for the California School Health Center Association spoke of working with the students from the District. She is helping to facilitate the collaboration for the six school based health centers coalition. She invited the Board Members to visit any of the school health centers.

Mr. Greer recognized DeAnza Health Coordinator Deb Espinoza, seated in the audience.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke of empowering students, giving them a stake in their future toward independence.

Mr. Enos thanked everyone for their work saying it is valuable for these leaders to be determined to share this information.

Ms. Merriweather thanked the presenters and said she knows that when students see other students going to the health centers it impresses them and makes a difference.

Mr. Groves said that he had an experience at the Morehouse Health Center and saw that students felt secure in that space. He commended the student leaders for their great work and thoughtful document.

President Kronenberg echoed the words of her fellow Board Members and said that she shared with Fisk University representative Anthony Jones that every District high school has a health center. She said the centers are an important element to the entire school community. She concluded by reading the Bill of Rights into the record.

D.4 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba provided a budget update with information about the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and federal sequestration as it relates to the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather reported hearing similar concerns.

Mr. Groves asked whether the County Office of Education might have firmer figures to review. Ms. Gamba responded.

President Kronenberg spoke about the speculation and different approaches by legislators and organizations.

D.5 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported the next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School where the discussion will include out of school time.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Ivette Ricco reported that she was recently elected chairperson for committee when the former chair resigned. She said during her two years on the committee, she has seen the struggle to keep committee members focused and involved. Those members who do attend regular meetings are dedicated. She asked the Board to assure resources and support as defined by Education Code in order for the committee to be effective and responsible. She is hopeful to see more focus and timeliness in the function of the committee.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting will be held at Alvarado School on March 28.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey said the next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 4:00 PM at the Facilities Operations Center.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported that 38 students have been selected for this year's program. He said that Brown University's partnership and scholarship support is higher than previously expected which may result in more student scholarships. He said that selection of chaperones is progressing. This is the eighth year of the Ivy League Connection.

College and Career Readiness Academies. Mr. Greer reported on last week's discussion held at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts regarding school reform and linked learning. Dr. William Daggett was the keynote speaker and four student speakers shared about their growth into young adulthood with the assistance of linked learning. Mr. Greer recognized Dr. Linda Delgado and her work on the reform initiative to be presented to the Board at a later date. Mr. Enos reported on a meeting with the Contra Costa College President where discussion took place regarding student skills as they enter college.

President Kronenberg reported on a recent College Access Network meeting sponsored by the McKesson Corporation. She said that many middle school families were in attendance and had opportunity to learn about next steps toward college for students.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather announced that the March 7 meeting will be held at Kennedy High School in Room 502 at 9:00 AM. The agenda will include a county health presentation regarding their support of health centers and updates on suspensions and traffic.

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

This item was moved to follow item B.7.

F. ACTION ITEMS

None

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Project Status Report

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey had questions about the Gompers project. Mr. Abdalla responded for clarification. Mr. Fay also provided information about a meeting with management and a general contractor. Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about the Helms project and environmental impact inspections. Mr. Abdalla spoke of soil analysis and Department of Toxic Substances Control involvement. Mr. Ramsey expressed concern to the Board about a contractor creating a potential claims situation resulting in delays. Superintendent Harter said that staff will take this concern under review and report back to Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey concluded with questions about the opening schedule for DeAnza High School and work done at Coronado Elementary. Mr. Abdalla responded with information.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey said this was the first year since the late 1990's when no pink slips are issued to lay off teachers. He commended the superintendent, fiscal management and human resources staff.

Mr. Enos recalled layoff meetings from past years and said that he sees progress and morale building. He would like to begin work on improving classroom teaching. He concluded with remarks about recent visits to elementary schools where he saw students engaged and very positive teachers.

Ms. Merriweather said she ran into Mr. Enos at the Lupine at Read Across America event where she visited a 5th grade class. She remarked about how important it is for every child to have opportunity to succeed. She reminded the audience that March is Women's History Month and encouraged everyone to take time to reflect on the great women in their lives.

Mr. Groves congratulated the Portola Math Club which placed fourth in a recent middle school challenge. One student will be going on to the State math competition at Stanford.

President Kronenberg was happy to have opportunity to celebrate students at this meeting. She also spoke about the Board's actions recently reported in the news. She read a letter of response to the editor of the Contra Costa Times and said that it is also available for viewing on the District website. She read the response letter into the record.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 20, 2013

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CTR</u> Approved 3/20/13</p>
