

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

May 1, 2013

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session.
President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:33 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; Cheryl Cotton, Director Human Resources; Linda Delgado, Coordinator Ed Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance/Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debora Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director of Facilities; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Daniela Parasidis, Director Business Services; Lyn Potter, Director Curriculum/Instruction; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Adam Taylor, K-12 Executive Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from North Campus High School

Nellie Rodriguez provided a report of activities at North Campus High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint Extended Learning Summer School Principals for 2013:

Olanrewaji Ajayi at Stege Elementary
Wendy Forrest at Montalvin Elementary
Lisa Levi at Washington Elementary
Kim Moses at Ford Elementary
Greg Santiago at Grant Elementary
Julio Franco at the 7-12 program at Richmond High School
Rene Lama at the 7-12 program at Kennedy High School
Patrick Martin at the 7-12 program at Crespi Middle School
Alison Makela at the Special Education program at Tara Hills Elementary
Eric Peterson at the Special Education program at Fairmont Elementary

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to appoint Extended Learning Summer School Principals for the 2013 program. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Mr. Ramsey, Ms. Merriweather, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda to include moving items D.1, D.2 and F.1 up on the agenda. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Nellie Rodriguez (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D.1 Recognition of Crespi Middle School Science Team Participation in the Morgan Garrett Sustainable Energy Project

Mr. Adam Taylor introduced the talented students who represented the District and their school in a national competition regarding transportation. Teacher Ms. Gail Pavlich and the students shared experiences related to their entry for producing ethanol from cellulose products. Principal Patrick Martin presented the students with certificates of recognition.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members congratulated the students individually and offered congratulations.

D.2 Report on Young Scholars Program

Mr. Thomas Scott introduced several students who spoke about their experiences with the Young Scholars Program and their impressions of college visits. Speakers included El Cerrito High Juniors Juanita Stephen and Jovontae Carleton, Pinole Valley High Senior Blake Evans, and Kennedy High Senior Charles Rhodes. Mrs. Pamela Carter, parent of DeAnza 10th grader James Carter, spoke about the commitment, honor and privilege to participate in this program. Mr. Douglas Sanders, YSP Mentor, commended Mr. Scott and program founder Jacqueline Rushing.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members individually congratulated the students and spoke of their impressions of these young people as ambassadors for the District.

F.1 Caliber Schools Charter Submission Staff Recommendation

Superintendent Harter reported that following publishing of the District's findings, Caliber Charter submitted a written response to those findings. He then read into the record two modifications to the District's Finding of Fact. The first modification pertained to Exhibit "A", Section I, Subsection A #1 (d):

It is unclear from its budget what loan amount the Charter Schools assumes it will receive. Subsequent to submission of the Petition, the Petitioners informed the District that the Charter School will receive a maximum loan amount of \$775,000 by December 2017, and referenced a pledge letter from the Beller/Moses Family foundation, Inc., as evidence that they will receive such loan funds. The fact that the Charter School will be dependent on a private loan to keep it from deficit spending in the first 5 years of operation is problematic.

The second modification Dr. Harter referenced pertained to Exhibit A, Section II, Subsection H, with the removal of paragraph #2.

Amended copies were provided to the Board and the audience.

Dr. Linda Delgado, Coordinator Ed Services, provided detailed information regarding the staff review and findings of the charter school petition. She informed the Board that the staff recommendation is to deny the Caliber School petition.

Lead Petitioner Allison Akhounkh spoke on behalf of Caliber Schools saying the school continues to want to work in partnership with the District and is committed to creating a school that will prepare students for success in competitive four year colleges. She spoke of the strong community support and demand, the team's demonstrated track record of success, an innovative school design to meet needs of all students, and a solid financial plan. She continued by saying that they have prepared a detailed response to each of the District's findings and respectfully requested the Board to approve their charter petition.

Public Comment:

Laura Villanueva, Katie Vasquez, Yasmin Barraza, Kimberly Rodriguez, Amureli Rivera Mejia, Hillary Harmssen, Matt Arciniega, Ebony Lovely, Nancy Mojica, Jacqueline Trimmer, Diane Brown

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked questions of the Caliber representatives regarding personal learning and an adaptive online curriculum. Caliber staff described their self-directed learners approach to include a winter break camp to address learning loss during the summer months and modification to the traditional school year calendar.

President Kronenberg had questions regarding budgeting funds available.

Mr. Groves said he appreciated that this group wants to help students of West County. He said he thought that with further work they could return to ask the Board to consider a sound educational program.

Ms. Merriweather spoke of her concerns and staff's thorough review of all elements of the plan. She felt that just meeting legal requirements is not enough, a very sound program is necessary.

President Kronenberg spoke about Caliber's opportunity to withdraw the petition and rework in order to address the District's findings. She was saddened that the opportunity was not taken to remedy the concerns.

Mr. Ramsey said he strongly believed in District staff's capacity to be fair and reasonable. He spoke about the District's relationship with existing charter schools. He emphasized that a charter school must be prepared and thorough when presenting a charter petition. He supported the staff recommendation to deny the charter.

MOTION: Mr. Enos motioned to adopt the staff findings and deny the Caliber Schools Charter School Petition. Ms. Merriweather seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Nellie Rodriguez (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Notice of Completion: Bid 3601211-12 Kennedy High School Quad Renovations**
- C.2 Board Policy 6153.1 – School Sponsored Study Trips: College Going Culture**
- C.3 Presentation of Initial Bargaining Proposal from WCCUSD to Public Employees, Local**
- C.4 Presentation of Initial Bargaining Proposal from Local One to the West Contra Costa Unified School District**
- C.5 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.6 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.7 Approval of Program and Construction Management Contract**
- C.8 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract (CUPCCAA): JFK Park Restoration – Landscape Design Build**
- C.9 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract (CUPCCAA): JFK Park Restoration - Paving and Fencing**
- C.10 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract (CUPCCAA): Olinda Elementary School Roofing**
- C.11 Oregon Shakespeare Festival**
- C.12 Approval of Board Members Travel**

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.12. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Nellie Rodriguez (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 Recognition of Crespi Middle School Science Team Participation in the Morgan Garrett Sustainable Energy Project**

This item was moved to follow item B.6.

- D.2 Report on Young Scholars Program**

This item was moved up on the agenda.

- D.3 Report on the District's Families in Transition**

Ms. Julie Luera, Student Support Services Supervisor, provided a report on foster care youth, group homes and homeless families. She said that the District has partnered with community organizations such as Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP). Lynna Magnuson-Parrish and Sallie Vilaysak, Outreach Community Specialists with

GRIP, spoke about meeting the needs of students, providing school transfers if applicable, bus passes, school supplies, and more. They also told of success stories regarding families in need of shelter.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves thanked staff for the important and delicate services provided for community.

President Kronenberg remarked on the extraordinary work to meet the needs of the numbers of students and families.

D.4 Report on Student Demographics

Ms. Gamba provided a report on the ten year student population projections.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

D.5 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba reported on preparation of the 2013-14 year budget.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked about expenditures regarding the community schools program. Ms. Gamba responded.

D.6 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting for May 14, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School. Discussion topics will include a response to instruction and intervention, and sharing the Common Core State Standards plan.

College and Career Readiness Academies. Superintendent Harter reported on the recent pathway quality review commending and certifying the Health Academy program at DeAnza.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported on the last meeting where the committee approved a resolution indicating they have reviewed the expenditure report of parcel tax. This will be brought to the Board on May 15 as a part of annual certification for the parcel tax language. She reported that committee members will attend the Budget Revision Conference in lieu of a May meeting.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather announced the next meeting for May 2nd at DeAnza High School, 9:00 AM. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet with the group.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey announced the next meeting for May 14 where the committee will look at architect selections for Shannon, hear updates on construction plans for Stege and Wilson, the Richmond Children's Foundation and vacant property. He asked staff to support the Portola community's request for a ground breaking on Sunday, June 2. He concluded by speaking about the State Department of Education and the State Superintendent's recommendation for a 5% interest rate for 12 years regarding a debt limit waiver.

Student Representative Nellie Rodriguez left meeting at 8:46 PM.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported on students' college acceptance at colleges across the country. He also spoke about upcoming alumni events.

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

None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 CaliberSchools Charter Submission Staff Recommendation

This item was moved to follow item D.2.

F.2 Amended Resolution No. 89-1213: Credential Assignment Options

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Amended Resolution No. 89-1213: Credential Assignment Options. 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.

F.3 Amended Resolution No. 90-1213: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Amended Resolution No. 90-1213: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers. 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.

F.4 Presentation and Public Hearing of Initial Bargaining Proposal from the West Contra Costa Unified School District to School Supervisors Association

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Initial Bargaining Proposal from the West Contra Costa Unified School District to School Supervisors Association. 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.

F.5 Public Hearing and Adoption of Initial Bargaining Proposal from the School Supervisors Association to West Contra Costa Unified School District

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Adoption of Initial Bargaining Proposal from the School Supervisors Association to West Contra Costa Unified School District. 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.

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 Portola and scheduling the ground breaking ceremony. Mr. Fay responded that he will work with the community to move the event forward. Mr. Ramsey also announced a Special Board Meeting on June 19, 2013 to include updates with program managers in terms of budgets and review of construction projects.

Ms. Merriweather asked about a final walkthrough for the new DeAnza campus. Mr. Abdalla responded that a walkthrough with the school's PTA is scheduled for May 7. He said that the furniture will arrive in early June. Ms. Merriweather also asked about summer repair projects. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Fay responded that summer is traditionally a heavy time for maintenance projects, working around the Extended Learning programs.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Merriweather spoke of the various programs, preparing students for college pushing students toward goals for the future. She is excited about the construction projects such as the new DeAnza campus. She appreciated all the work to make schools beautiful.

Mr. Enos emphasized congratulations regarding the DeAnza pathway evaluation.

Mr. Ramsey reported on the Law Day in San Francisco with the California Supreme Court Chief Justice and DeAnza Law Academy students. He also remarked about the District's first year of budgeting and operations since completion of the state trustee assignment.

Mr. Groves reported on attending a conference in San Francisco regarding youth rights and the right for every child to have a superb education. Mr. Groves said he would like to work toward this ideal.

President Kronenberg reported on the new technology committee as a way to support District technology. She also announced an upcoming Board Meeting on May 7 with the El Cerrito City Council.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 15, 2013

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:23 P.M.

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

BH:dh

CTR Approved 5/15/13
