

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

September 3, 2014

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 6:30 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: Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg, Charles Ramsey

Ms. Merriweather was away from her seat during roll call.

Staff Present: Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Denise Cifelli, Sr. Administrative Secretary; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Bob Evans, DeAnza High School Principal; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Allison Huie, Kennedy High School Assistant Principal; Phil Johnson, Kennedy High School Principal; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Director Educational Services; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Alfred Machacon provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School.

Ms. Merriweather returned to the meeting.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint the following interim administrators:

Wendy Gonzalez, Elementary Assistant Principal – District Wide

James Allardice, Elementary Assistant Principal – District Wide

Finy Prak, Secondary Assistant Principal – District Wide

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to appoint administrators Wendy Gonzalez, James Allardice and Finy Prak. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey requested that the Consent Calendar be moved after Agenda Review and Adoption and Item D.3 follow Item D.1.

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

C. BUSINESS ITEM

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

- C.2 Contracts**
- C.3 Approval of District’s Response to Grand Jury Report on Capital Appreciation Bonds**
- C.4 Mandated Cost Block Grant**
- C.5 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3 – Waivers and Consent**
- C.6 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.7 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders – M&O**
- C.11 Resolution 16-1415: Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month**

MOTION: Mr. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 - C.11. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Student Representative Alfred Machacon (advisory vote only), and Ms. Kronenberg voted yes, with President Ramsey abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

B.7 Minutes: August 11, 2014; August 13, 2014

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of August 11, 2014 and August 13, 2014. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Alfred Machacon (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment
Jorge Lopez, Angela Cox and Anthony Ramirez

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Report on Young Scholars Program

Mr. Greer gave an update on the Young Scholars Program (YSP) and achievements over the past four years highlighting the increased success of African American male students, also raising the graduation rate to 70%. Mr. Greer introduced Ms. Jacqueline Rushing who presented information on the “Help A Brother Go 2 and Through College” program that the District is partnering with. Ms. Rushing also presented President Ramsey with a T-shirt from Howard University. James Carter, senior at DeAnza High School shared his views on the attributes of the program and what he’s learned. Damon Henderson and Jonathan Brown, also members of the YSP joined at the podium. Mr. Evans, Principal De Anza High School, expressed his appreciation for the program and commented positively on the work the students have done.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

D.2 Sprint Project Connect Grant
This item was moved to follow item D.3.

D.3 2014 Summer School Programs, Data, and Learning

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Ms. Liz Torio who provided information on the curriculum and key learnings of the Summer School, Extended Learning and other summer programs that took place this summer. Assisting in the presentation was Ms. Sonja Neely-Johnson who shared experience and insight from the campuses. Jamey Williams, senior at Richmond High, attended the Cal Berkeley Upward Bound Program and spoke about his positive experience and learnings. Student work was displayed in the back of the room for the Board’s and public’s viewing pleasure.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

D.2 Sprint Project Connect Grant

Ms. Phillips provided background on the Project Connect Sprint Grant which awarded 65 Kennedy High students, currently without technology in their home, free laptops and internet access to use both at home and at school. Kennedy Principal Phil Johnson and Assistant Principal Allison Huie provided details on the program and criteria for selection. Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia congratulated the Board for forming the partnership with Sprint. Chris Brydon, Sprint Area Director of Northern California presented a check for \$100,000.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Community Bond Oversight Committee. Chairperson Yvette Ricco reported on recent CBOC activities highlighting an electronic report and calendar now available in order to request information from the District and the addition of three new subcommittees: Training Subcommittee, Pinole Valley High School Subcommittee, and Change Order Subcommittee.

Safety and School Climate Committee. Ms. Merriweather stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 9 at DeAnza High School.

Youth Commission. Ms. Kronenberg advised the next meeting is September 15 at Hercules High School.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Merriweather reported the next meeting will be held on September 9 at DeAnza High School.

Ivy League Connection. President Ramsey reported that Yale University will be sponsoring an admissions essay workshop at El Cerrito High School on October 2 from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.

Facilities Subcommittee. President Ramsey said the committee reviewed the upcoming auditor selection at the recent special meeting. The committee will begin working on the next bond issuance at future meetings.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.3 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent Harter recognized the contributions of members of the community who have passed away. President Ramsey asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Selection of the Independent Performance Auditor for the Bond Program

Superintendent Harter recapped the revision to item F.1 adding that the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee has requested the opportunity to review the scope and recommend amendments, and authorizing the Superintendent to finalize the scope of the audit after CBOC's final review. Dr. Harter recommended approval of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Company, LLP (VTD) as Performance Auditor.

Public Comment:
Yvette Ricco, Peter Chau

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked whether the audit could be complete prior to the March 31, 2015 deadline. Ms. Terry Montgomery, Office Managing Partner for VTD, agreed it should be complete by end of November with time to run through the various committees by December and January, meeting the March 31 deadline. President Ramsey made note of the depth and scale of the audit as much more detailed than in other districts. Ms. Montgomery agreed that the level of detail is much more involved than any other district she has worked with over a 15-20 year period.

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the Selection of the Independent Performance Auditor for the Bond Program. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, Student Representative Alfred Machacon (advisory vote only) abstained, and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Updates on Seismic Upgrades and Effort for Additional State Seismic Funding

Mr. Abdalla and members of the construction team provided an update on the seismic upgrades at various school sites. A presentation by Matthew Pettler from School Facility Consultants provided information on state seismic programs, funds available and status of potential funding for the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey had various questions about the project which the team responded to with information and/or clarification.

Mr. Enos commented that students are the District's first concern and the Board and District are their best advocates for safety.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Kronenberg thanked Ms. Rushing for her incredible work on the Young Scholars Program. She commended everyone for their work on the summer programs and felt they did an incredible job.

Ms. Merriweather commented on the summer program and how impressed she was with the District's work. She said that she believed the District will be a model for other districts.

President Ramsey hoped that the District is addressing the needs of all students and was pleased with the progress being made. He also asked the Board to consider more outreach to remind families of programs offered that will keep children occupied and outdoors.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the names of former Board members Karen Pfeifer, Dave Brown and Audrey Miles.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 17, 2014

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

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

BH:dc

<u>TAG</u> Approved 9/17/14
