

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

**October 1, 2014**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

Clerk Todd Groves called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. Clerk Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:37 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Superintendent Harter led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

Clerk Groves 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

**Board Members Absent:** Charles Ramsey

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, District Engineering Officer; Denise Cifelli, Sr. Administrative Secretary; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Valerie Garrett, Adult Education Principal; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Cliff Dorton, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Nicole Joyner, Director Accountability; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Liz Torio, Director Educational Services; Reyna M. Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Gompers Alternative High School**

Ms. Mayloni Despanie provided a report of activities at Gompers Alternative High School.

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

None

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Superintendent Harter advised the Board that Item D.2, Public Hearing for Amethod Charter Management organization: John Henry High School (9-12) had been withdrawn and is tabled for a future meeting.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the agenda noting the removal of Item D.2 from the agenda. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and Student Representative Mayloni Despanie (advisory vote only) voted yes. There were no abstentions and President Ramsey was absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**B.7 Minutes: September 17, 2014**

**MOTION:** Mr. Enos moved approval of the Minutes of September 17, 2014. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and Student Representative Mayloni Despanie (advisory vote only) voted yes. There were no abstentions and President Ramsey was absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**B.8 Request to Address the Board – Andrés Soto, Hazardous Product Railway Transportation**

Mr. Soto, organizer for Communities for a Better Environment, provided information about the hazardous materials currently being transported on rail lines in Richmond and the potential impact. He is interested in working with the District to draft a resolution to stop companies from bringing combustible materials into the area.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**B.9 WCCUSD Public Comment**

**Public Comment:**

Toby Proeschler

**Board Comment:**

None

Item D.1 was taken out of order.

**D.1 Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2014 – October 15, 2015 through WCCUSD student performances**

The Board and staff joined the audience to enjoy performances by students from Downer Elementary School, Helms Middle School, and Richmond High School.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**C. BUSINESS ITEM**

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

**C.2 Acceptance of Donations**

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

**C.4 Contracts**

**C.5 Notice of Completion: Bid 1451612-04 Olinda Elementary and 1541223-11 Shannon Elementary Fire Alarm Replacement**

**C.6 CalPERS Retiree Benefit Resolutions**

**Resolution No. 17-1415 – Unrepresented Classified Confidential**

**Resolution No. 18-1415 – Public Employees Union (Local One)**

**Resolution No. 19-1415 – School Supervisors Association (SSA)**

**Resolution No. 20-1415 – Unrepresented Classified & Certificated Management**

**Resolution No. 21-1415 – West Contra Costa Administrators' Association (WCCAA)**

**C.7 CalPERS Retiree Health Care Resolutions – for those retiring prior to January 2007**

**Resolution No. 22-1415 – Unrepresented Classified Confidential**

**Resolution No. 23-1415 – Public Employees Union (Local One)**

**Resolution No. 24-1415 – School Supervisors Association (SSA)**

**Resolution No. 25-1415 – Unrepresented Classified & Certificated Management**

**Resolution No. 26-1415 – United Teachers of Richmond (UTR)**

**Resolution No. 27-1415 – West Contra Costa Administrators' Association (WCCAA)**

**C.8 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3 – Waivers and Consent**

**C.9 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**

**C.10 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**

**C.11 Approve the following Reclassifications and New Job Descriptions effective July 1, 2014:**

**Staff Secretary**

**Operations Technician**

**Attendance Enrollment Technician**

**Special Education Technician**

**C.12 Approve the following Revised Job Description: Internal Auditor**

**C.13 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

**C.14 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.15 Ohlone Elementary School Multi-Purpose Building**

- C.16 California Clean Energy Jobs Act Contract**
- C.17 Red Ribbon Week Board Resolution No. 29-1415**
- C.18 Naming Building 10 at DeAnza High School**

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 - C.18. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Mayloni Despanie (advisory vote only), voted yes. There were no abstentions and President Ramsey was absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

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

**D.1 Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2014 – October 15, 2015 through WCCUSD student performances**

This item was moved to follow item B.9.

**D.2 Public Hearing for Amethod Charter Management Organization: John Henry High School (9-12)**

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

**D.3 Public Hearing for Two Schools: Aspire Richmond Technology Academy and Aspire Richmond California College Preparatory Academy**

Linda Delgado shared that on September 5, 2014 representatives from Aspire submitted petitions to open two Charter Schools in the fall of 2015; Aspire Richmond Technology Academy which is K-5 and Aspire Richmond California College Preparatory Academy serving grades 6-12. Kimi Kean, Aspire Superintendent, Bay Area, presented information for the Aspire group. Elise Darwish, Chief Academic Officer of Aspire, Professor Frank Worrell of UC Berkeley, and Javier Cabra, Principal of Aspire California College Preparatory Academy assisted with the presentation.

President Ramsey joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

J.P. De Oliveira, Verence Velazquez, Colin Ehara, Judith Ojeda, Ismail Pina, and Nada Gugssa

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey requested statistics on out of state schools where students are enrolled, not just admitted.

Mr. Groves requested information on Aspire's record of serving students with disabilities based on district's in which the schools are located, and whether or not the school will be requesting parcel tax dollars.

Mr. Enos asked how many of the schools' teachers are fully credentialed in the State of California, not only credentialed by the charter schools.

Ms. Kean committed to researching and providing answers to Board members questions.

Mr. Groves questioned how Aspire handles Public Records Act requests and whether or not they follow Brown Act guidelines. Ms. Darwish replied that they respond to requests according to the law, as well as Brown Act guidelines.

President Ramsey wanted to know where the Aspire Board meets and the number of members. Ms. Darwish responded.

Mr. Groves questioned Aspire's admissions policy, which Ms. Darwish explained.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about the persistence program to which Ms. Darwish and Mr. Cabral provided a response. She also wanted to know what innovations their programs brought to other districts, the length of time teachers have been with the local Aspire schools, and whether their teachers were unionized. Aspire staff provided clarification.

Ms. Merriweather wanted to know about the transitional kindergarten program. Ms. Kean advised they were currently piloting a program. Ms. Merriweather also questioned the stability of their financial plan to which Ms. Kean answered.

Mr. Groves questioned their coding curriculum. Ms. Darwish responded.

Student representative Mayloni Despanie left the meeting for the evening.

**D.4 Response to Fiscal Audit of Adult Education Program**

Mr. Greer introduced Dr. Valerie Garrett who presented information on the actions taken by the Adult Education program based on the recent audit findings. Dr. Garrett reviewed the findings and discussed some of the processes being implemented.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Groves wanted to know about automated attendance. Dr. Garret provided information on the internal software program ASAP and how staff is using it. Mr. Groves also asked whether Adult Education was compliant with all conditions of federal funding received and whether or not social media was utilized. Dr. Garrett explained all the avenues being using to expand outreach.

Ms. Kronenberg stated that her interest lies in career-technical education and wanted to hear about planning to assist graduates in moving on to community college. Dr. Garrett explained and invited Ms. Kronenberg to attend one of the consortium meetings.

Dr. Harter introduced Dr. Garret’s Vice Principal, Nicole Ruiz.

**D.5 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goals & Progress Indicators Report #1**

Superintendent Harter introduced Nicole Joyner who provided updates on the LCAP Progress Indicators. The next District LCAP meeting is scheduled for March 2015.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Groves thanked everyone for all the hard work and acknowledged the challenges to pull all the information together. He recommended that the language around the targets be changed to reflect “at least” as opposed to a straight number or percentage.

President Ramsey noted that the data isn’t worth much if something wasn’t done with it.

**E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**E.1 Standing Reports**

**United Teachers of Richmond.** President Robert Mann provided background on himself as he is new in his role with the organization, but taught in the District for the last eight years. He reported that the teachers have significant concerns around charter schools and will be at the next meeting to address on those concerns.

**Safety and School Climate Subcommittee.** Ms. Merriweather advised that the next meeting will be held October 9, 2014 at Lupine Elementary School and will begin at 9:00 am.

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips advised that the next meeting will be held October 13.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Groves reported the next meeting planned for October 6 at Helms Middle School beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Facility Subcommittee.** President Ramsey stated that the next meeting will be October 14.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi advised that the next meeting is planned for October 14 at DeAnza High beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba stated that the next meeting will be October 23.

**Ivy League Connection.** President Ramsey talked about the need to get better at engaging students to attend meetings. He said that Yale admission representatives will be at El Cerrito High on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and stressed the importance of seniors attending.

**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 Public Hearing and Resolution 31-1415: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

Dr. Harter provided background on the item. Ms. Liz Torio provided results from the teacher's survey which verified receipt of all textbooks and instructional materials. She reported that all deficiencies were addressed leaving the District 100% textbook compliant. Ms. Torio then requested the Board open the floor for public comment on the item.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of Resolution 31-1415: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Mr. Enos 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.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

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

None

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

Mr. Enos remarked about teachers who work well with the students and wanting to ensure that they are retained.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked the students and their families for the extraordinary performance they gave and reminded parents of Back-To-School Night for the high school students. She also invited the public to attend the upcoming Board Candidate Forums.

Ms. Merriweather stated how much she enjoyed the students' performances. She also thanked the staff for all their hard work.

President Ramsey had questions for Mr. Abdalla about meeting deadlines with construction at Valley View Elementary. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Ramsey then asked Dr. Harter to furnish an updated schedule and expressed his disappointment in the lack of communication surrounding the extensions.

President Ramsey shared his appreciation to his colleagues for their service and working together. He adjourned the meeting in the names of his fellow Board members: Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather and

Mr. Groves. President Ramsey noted how difficult the job of a Board member was and expressed to any future members to remember and respect the work that has gone before them.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – October 15, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

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

BH:dc

**TAG**  
Approved 11/12/14