

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

October 15, 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, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey

Staff Present: Jeff Carter, MIS Production Supervisor Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Linda Delgado, Coordinator Charter Schools; Luis Freese, Engineering Officer; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Reyna M. Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Ms. Adriana Soza 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 appoint administrators:

Shelly Fields, Assistant Principal, DeAnza High School
José Irizarry, Assistant Principal, DeAnza High School

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to appoint assistant principals Shelly Fields and José Irizarry to DeAnza High School. 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey requested that items F.1 and D.3 be moved up on the agenda.

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

F.1 Naming Building 10 at De Anza High School

Superintendent Harter provided background regarding the Board appointed committee to consider the naming of the new Linked Learning building at DeAnza High School in memory of Judge Henry Ramsey, Jr. He said that the committee met and supported the recommendation. He said the recommendation is that the Board approve the building name.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the naming of Building 10 at DeAnza High School to the Judge Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Building. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and Student Representative Adriana Soza (advisory vote only) voted yes, with President Ramsey abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

D.3 Public Hearing for Amethod Charter Management Organization: John Henry High School (9-12)

Ms. Delgado provided background regarding the submission of the charter school petition. She introduced Mr. Jose Lopez, Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Lopez commended Mr. Ramsey on his leadership to the District. He continued to discuss the charter's school approach to addressing the academic needs of inner city youth and securing a 9-12 campus in the Richmond community. He said that this campus would replicate their Oakland charter high school program and proceeded to provide details.

Public Comment:

Rosa Vargas, Yessenea Ulloa, Palo Osorio, Ricardo Paez, Albert Chun, Christopher Jimenez, Martha Jimenez, Christina Ochoa, Jordan Armendariz, Magaly Rojas, Paula Riddell, Nancy Sanchez

Board Comment:

None

Superintendent Harter said that this item would return at a future meeting for Board action.

B.7 Minutes: September 24, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the Minutes of September 24, 2014. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Adriana Soza (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

Ebonie Dorsey

C. BUSINESS ITEM

C.1 Acceptance of Donations

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.4 Notice of Completion: Bid 1101612-06 Collins Elementary School Restrooms Renovations, Bid 1101612-03 Collins Elementary School Floor, Door & Hardware Replacement

C.5 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.6 Suicide Prevention Policy BP 5141.52

C.7 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.8 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.9 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report

C.10 Approval of Board Member Travel

C.11 Resolution No. 35-1415: Recognizing Contributions of Veterans to the Country

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 - C.11. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Adriana Soza (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

A brief recess was taken at this time.

Student Representative Adriana Soza left the meeting for the evening.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Employee Service Anniversary Recognition

Mr. Whittemore invited the Board and Cabinet to join him in congratulating the individual employees for their longevity with the District. He said that they represented the 3,266 employees currently working in the District. Together these individuals comprise over 2,890 years of service to students and the District. Mr. Whittemore recognized the honorees by name as they were awarded with their respective 20, 25, 30 and 35 year service pins.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

Public Comment in Support of Naming Building 10 at De Anza High School:

Nancy Schiff

President Ramsey left the dais and Clerk Groves assumed the gavel.

D.2 Update on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Associate Superintendent Greer introduced Mr. Matt Weisner, an immigration attorney with Catholic Charities of the East Bay. Mr. Weisner spoke of partnering with the District in an effort to provide protection of unaccompanied immigrant children who come into the country primarily from Latin and Central America. He said that approximately one hundred students have come to the District in the last six months. He provided background for many of the children who are often fleeing violence and persecution. Mr. Weisner said that the goals for the proposed efforts are to help children; provide legal screening at no cost to District, provide legal representation, conduct rights presentations to the individuals and their families, coordinate health benefits, as well as refer and place children with pro bono attorneys when Catholic Charities of the East Bay cannot represent them.

Public Comment:

None

President Ramsey returned and assumed gavel.

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves asked whether other school districts are providing data. Mr. Weisner responded with information about helping identify and providing targeted outreach. Mr. Weisner explained that he was asking the Board for support to target five or six schools where the need is greatest with no cost to the District. Mr. Greer explained that if the Board is in support, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by both the District and Catholic Charities of the East Bay.

President Ramsey spoke of fulfilling the community schools spirit and providing needed services.

D.3 Public Hearing for Amethod Charter Management Organization: John Henry High School (9-12)

This item was moved to followed item F.1.

D.4 Affordable Care Act District Study

Ms. Gamba explained some of the financial impact of the federal Affordable Care Act. She detailed a study performed by Keenan and Associates showing data for all employees during the 2013-14 school year to review and prepare an impact study and workforce analysis. Ms. Gamba explained how a part-time employee could be eligible for affordable care and the District's responsibility to comply. She explained that by 2015 the District will be required to make sure that eligible employees are offered health care plans. She detailed the data reviewed for the 4000+ employees. She said that plans are in place to review the data quarterly and offer employee options.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Safety and School Climate Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported on the recent meeting and discussion of the School to Prison Pipeline and a report from the Office of Neighborhood Safety. She said the committee also took a look at the Local Control Accountability Plan's inclusion of school safety components. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2014 at Pinole Valley High School.

Technology Subcommittee. Ms. Kronenberg reported on October 13th meeting where members revisited the composition makeup of the committee. They also heard reports on technology equipment deployment as well as two programs to assist with teacher lesson planning. The next meeting scheduled for November 17.

Youth Commission. Mr. Groves reported on the October 6 meeting and robust discussion.

Academic Subcommittee. Mr. Collins recapped the October 14 meeting where the committee heard information regarding a focus on teacher training using the Illuminate program as well as online report cards. The next meeting will be held November 18 at DeAnza High School.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba said the next meeting will be held on October 23, 2014.

Facilities Subcommittee. President Ramsey recapped the recent meeting where committee members heard updates on fields projects, lessons learned on the Downer and Pinole Middle projects, as well as an update on the Tara Hills site needs assessment. He concluded by saying that the Valley View project will be going forward with bids in December.

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 the audience to stand for a moment of silence.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Naming Building 10 at De Anza High School

This item was moved to followed item B.6.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.2 Project Status Report

Mr. Freese provided an update of construction projects in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked for an update on the Downer and DeAnza fields projects at the next meeting.

G.1 Resolution No. 32-1415: Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2014 Series A, in an Aggregate Principal Amount not to Exceed \$135,000,000, Including Bond Subject to the Compounding of Interest, and Approving Certain Other Matters Relating to Said Bond

President Ramsey pointed out corrections necessary for the resolution and title. Attorney Lisel Wells of Nixon Peabody, LLP spoke about the form of the resolution and corrects. Discussion was held regarding corrections with the deletion of the word 'refunding' from the title. The correction was read into the record including language regarding General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Election, 2015 Series C, and it's General Obligation Bond 2012 Election.

Ms. Gamba introduced members of the finance team including Mr. Blake Boehm of KNN Public Finance, Ms. Lisel Wells of Nixon Peabody, LLP, Mr. Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffary Public Finance, Mr. Graham Beck of Nixon Peabody, LLP, Mr. Rudy Salo of Nixon Peabody LLP, and Mr. Scott Henry of Stifel Financial Corp.

The presentation included information regarding authorization for an issuance and sale of \$135,000,000 in general obligation bonds and the timing of such a sale. This information will return in November for action by the Board. Mr. Boehm's presentation included the proposed bond sale parameters, proposed amortization, and issuance schedule.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves had questions regarding indicators to market changes between November 2014 and March 2015. Members of the finance team offered their perspectives.

President Ramsey had questions about the Preliminary Official Statement (POS) document to which Mr. Salo responded. Discussion was held regarding property foreclosures and information for investors' consideration. Opinions were offered regarding the length of time to continue including information about the Securities and Exchange Commission subpoena and any resolution. Ms. Wells said that general consensus of the team was to leave the information in the POS as disclosure at this time but to discontinue referring to if no further action is taken to move forward. Additional discussion and comments were made by Board and staff.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about making her decision regarding the scheduling of the bond sale based on the timing and structure of the industry. She spoke in support of waiting for January 2015 as a stronger period.

Mr. Groves commended the finance team and agreed to heed their advice to delay a sale until after January 2015.

Mr. Enos agreed with waiting for the sale until the first of the year 2015, after the upcoming election and any changes to the makeup of the Board.

Ms. Merriweather also agreed to wait for the new year as well.

G.2 Project Status Report

This item was moved to follow item E.3.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Enos commended the medical staff at Kaiser who assisted his mother recently with a medical emergency. He said she is now at home recovering.

Mr. Groves spoke about the timeliness of the suicide prevention policy and its usefulness for staff to shoulder the burden for children.

Ms. Kronenberg said she was struck by the Catholic Charities presentation regarding undocumented students and schools responding to global issues. She said she was glad that the District will work with Catholic Charities to assist students.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about observing the PSAT and SAT performance and the focus of students taking the tests this week. She said that she saw students engaged in their work.

President Ramsey wished all the Board candidates well with the upcoming election. He spoke about how he started running for a school board seat as a young, unmarried man. He acknowledged the support of ex-wife Donna Ramsey

and daughters, Adrienne and Monica Ramsey, as well as his late father, Henry Ramsey, Jr. President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the names of his children and ex-wife.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 12, 2014

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:13 PM.

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

BH:dh