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

February 11, 2015

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Groves called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:37 P.M.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Groves offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting

B.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Liz Block, Valerie Cuevas, Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg

Staff Present: Mark Bonnett, Executive Director Bond Finance; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Linda Delgado, Vista High School Principal; Julio Franco, Executive Director K-12; Luis Freese, District Engineer; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Charles Johnson, Campus Safety Officer, Renee Lama, Hercules Middle School Principal; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent M & O/Bond Program; Mimi Melodia, Coordinator EL Services; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Education Services; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Liz Torio, Director Education Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Ms. Nichole Aiwaz provided a report of activities at Vista High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Vincent Meyer to the position of Executive Director Maintenance & Operations.

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Vincent Meyer to the position of Executive Director Maintenance & Operations. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg and President Groves 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 a settlement agreement regarding the Cal200 case.

MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve a settlement agreement regarding the Cal200 case. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Groves asked the Board to consider amending the agenda by moving items D.1, D.2 and F.5 to follow B.6.

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

D.1 African-American History Month School Presentations and Celebrations

Superintendent Harter introduced Dr. Desmond Carson, physician with Doctors Medical Center, who provided a motivational speech about African American History and living in the community. Ms. Rashidchi introduced Hercules Middle School Principal Ms. Renee Lama who served as mistress of ceremonies for the Black History program events of the evening.

Student performers from Ford Elementary, the Bright Futures Center, DeJean Middle, Hercules Middle, El Cerrito High, Pinole Valley High, and Richmond High Schools presented a diverse Black History celebration.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

Student Board Representative Nichole Aiwaz left the meeting for the evening.

D.2 Report on Rising Scholars a partnership with the Young Scholars Program

Mr. Greer introduced Ms. Jacqueline Rushing who spoke about the Rising Scholar program. She spoke of the five year commitment with District high schools in supporting young men of color to go to college. She detailed the various levels of support including scholarship, family, counseling and social/emotional support to students. Ms. Rushing talked about the association with the District as a part of a cohort of five districts. Mr. Thomas Scott spoke of his work with students in the program since 2012 and introduced several young men. He detailed the pullout program, as well as working with counselors and students to assist young men to get to and through college successfully. DeAnza Senior James Carter spoke about what the program has offered him.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Ms. Kronenberg offered congratulations to Ms. Rushing and spoke of the incredible work with young men, and the commitment of their families. She wished the students success on their upcoming college tour trip.

Mr. Enos spoke about the importance of supporting the young men and asked them to share the information they learn with the community upon return. He wished them well.

Ms. Cuevas wished the young people a successful trip. She said she hoped to see some of them seated on the Board of Education one day.

President Groves thanked Ms. Rushing and Mr. Scott, as well as those who support the young men and the investment in the community. He wished them a successful trip.

F.5 Renaming of Gompers High School

Superintendent Harter spoke about the recommendation from a Board subcommittee regarding the renaming of Gompers High School. Mr. Enos explained the process and the three public hearings held throughout the District. He said that selecting Mr. Sylvester Greenwood as the namesake of the school was a good idea and was supported throughout the process. Ms. Cuevas said that this issue had come to the Board and she was enlightened by speakers at the public hearings. She spoke about honoring a local hero who made a significant contribution to the students of the community.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of Renaming of Gompers High School as the Sylvester Greenwood Academy. Ms. Cuevas seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

President Groves asked the Board to consider moving item F.1 up to next on the agenda.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of amending the agenda to move item F.1 up. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Consider the Bid for Valley View Elementary School Interim Housing Project

Ms. LeBlanc provided a report about the planned replacement of the Valley View campus including temporary housing. She detailed the bond funds spent since 1998 and remaining bond authority to be available at some point in the future. She provided information about current construction projects as well as actively pending projects.

Public Comment:

Sherrod Blankner, Tracy LaFreniere, Mike Parker, Steve Chamberlain, Alexandra Buckner, Tony Aquilino, Saidah Said, Bill Lindsay, Alton Chinn, Ben Gill, Jeanine Cutino, Veronica Garcia-Luis, Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Ms. Cuevas asked about completed projects. Superintendent Harter responded that 41 construction projects were completed or currently under construction with a total $1.2 billion expended. She continued to discuss the cost of the proposed projects as well as the pending bonding authority and the need across the community. She spoke of fiscal prudence when assessing and prioritizing construction projects. Superintendent Harter said the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) had requested a scenario showing the funds now available and additional funds required to complete current projects as well as completing remaining schools. He said a preliminary report will be presented to the CBOC at their February 25th meeting. Superintendent Harter said this would be the first stage of a larger process involving the CBOC, the community and ultimately the Board in setting priorities about construction projects.

Ms. Gamba explained that an item coming up on the agenda addressed the preliminary statement regarding the March 2015 scheduled sale of bonds and noted that these funds were included in Ms. LeBlanc's presentation. Ms. Gamba detailed the upcoming bond sale as well as another bond sale in two years, explaining cash flow availability.

Ms. Block said she felt badly about the position of families at Valley View, Stege and Fairmont schools awaiting new campuses. She spoke of responsible Board members making fiscally sound decisions. She said that she had visited the sites and seen how much work was needed. She supported delaying action at Valley View and setting clear criteria for prioritization of rebuilding in order to make decisions in a fair, transparent way.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about being a longtime advocate for rebuilding schools. She said the community has banked $592 million in funds to rebuild schools. She said she was confident that the funds will be able to rebuild Fairmont, Stege, and Valley View. She spoke about tracking actual costs for construction at Pinole Valley High School verses estimated costs. She said she supported listing projects, matching to bond fund issuances with a time line. She said she supported moving forward with Valley View temporary campus project.

Mr. Enos recalled being a recreation leader at Valley View School in 1971. He said that he supported improving the Valley View campus.

President Groves asked about cost of leasing portables. Ms. LeBlanc addressed a possible delay in building the campus as well as accumulated lease costs for a temporary campus. She said that staff has drafted a list of needs at the current campus in order to keep it operational should the Board decide to delay the project. Ms. LeBlanc detailed the costs of leasing portables including delivery, installation and shut down costs for old campus.

Ms. Cuevas asked whether there was an assumption that a portable campus meant the site was next for rebuilding. Ms. Kronenberg said that a temporary campus would be an improvement for the deteriorating Valley View site.

Ms. Block said that she felt that approving a temporary campus would be driven by an inability to say no. She wanted to consider the District's reputation with the community and demand for transparency to show operating in good faith with tax dollars.

Ms. Gamba spoke about the assumptions that drive cash flow, increased assessed property values and tax rates. She explained that the prioritization should be a Board policy level decision.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Bid for Valley View Elementary School Interim Housing Project. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voting yes, Ms. Block, and Ms. Cuevas voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: January 21, 2015; January 28, 2015

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2015 and January 28, 2015. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.8 Request to Address the Board – Anton Jungherr
Mr. Anton Jungherr spoke of proposals he presented to the Board at its January 10 retreat and the positive feedback. He recommended that his proposals be placed on the April agenda for approval and acceptance.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

B.9 WCCUSD Public Comment
Joanna Pace, Robert Studdiford, Steve Chamberlin, Jen Kamoroni, Ben Steinberg, Lupita Villanueva, Ingrid Lopez, Dulce Galicia, Saray Rios-Hacegaba, Yolanda Lopez, Becky Raikow, Saidah Said, Bobbi Dowling, Jocelyn Rohan, Kristiana Schmidt, Jacqueline Tank, Abbie Schultz, Michael Levy, Mary Flanagan, Jennifer Kelso, Tomasa Espinoza, Dan Romero

Ms. Cuevas left the dais.

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 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports
C.6 Adoption of Resolution No. 55-1415: Replacement of Outdated Warrant
C.7 Notice of Completions: Bid 1421223-14 Murphy Elementary School Skylight Replacement, Bid 2101101-08 Helms Middle School Environment & Recycling Center, 3621377-02 Pinole Valley High School Interim Campus Site Work
C.8 Request for Allowance of Attendance and Days – Form J13A
C.9 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)
C.10 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified
This item was pulled for a separate vote.
C.11 Approval of Sabbatical Leave requests for 2015-2016
C.12 Approval of School Calendars for 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018
This item was pulled for discussion and separate vote.
C.13 New York Wind Band Festival, March 6-March 10, 2015
C.14 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Winter Sports
C.15 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
C.16 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
This item was pulled for discussion and separate vote.
C.17 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Christine Kelley
C.18 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Madeleine Jen Kin

C.19 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Anton Jungherr
This item was pulled for discussion and separate vote.

C.20 Resolution No. 53-1415: Disability Awareness Month – March 2015

C.21 Resolution No. 54-1415: Read Across America - March 2, 2015

C.22 Resolution No. 58-1415: Resolution on Local Reserves Cap SB 858, Section 27/California Education Code 42127.01

C.23 Approval of Board Member Travel

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.9, C. 11, C.13-15, C.17-C.18, and C.20 - C.23. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Cuevas absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Ms. Cuevas returned to the dais.

C.10 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified
President Groves asked for a separate vote on this item where he could abstain.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Item C. 10, Routine Personnel Changes - Classified. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, and Ms. Kronenberg, voted yes, President Groves abstained, with no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Ms. Block left the dais.

C.12 Approval of School Calendars for 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Public Comment:
Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor

Board Comment:
None

Ms. Block returned to the dais.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Item C. 12, Approval of School Calendars for 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Ms. Cuevas seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, Mr. Enos abstained, with no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

C.16 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Ms. Cuevas had questions about change orders and how often the District might receive a credit for change orders. Ms. LeBlanc provided details for clarification.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Item C. 16, Approval of Negotiated Change Orders. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, Ms. Cuevas voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

C.19 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Anton Jungherr

Public Comment:
Don Gosney, Robert Studdiford, Mike Mahoney, Dan Romero, Brant Fetter, Ben Steinberg

Board Comment:
Ms. Cuevas asked if any of the public speakers would currently serve with Mr. Jungherr. She also asked about his public records requests and whether making documents publically available would reduce the number of requests. She said that she supported the appointment as part of the democratic process of engagement.

Ms. Block spoke of high standards and suggestions for improvement. She said that Mr. Jungherr was a good representative to raise CBOC standards. She said she would like to see her nomination to go forward.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about a previous Board that did not support Mr. Jungherr's appointment to the committee. She said that she did not support renewing his appoint to the committee.

MOTION: Ms. Block moved Approval of Consent Item C. 19, Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Anton Jungherr. Ms. Cuevas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas Mr. Enos, and President Groves voting yes, Ms. Kronenberg voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 African-American History Month School Presentations and Celebrations
This item was moved to follow item B.6.

D.2 Report on Rising Scholars a partnership with the Young Scholars Program
This item was moved earlier on the agenda.

D.3 College and Career Readiness Update
Ms. Rashidchi introduced Executive Director Cecilia Mendoza who presented information regarding college and career readiness initiatives. She introduced Mr. Brad Stam, Vice President of Connect Ed, a college and career initiative in the State of California. He spoke of the District being on the leading edge of career technology for school district funding. Ms. Mendoza detailed the Linked Learning pillars to include rigorous academics and integration with technical skills courses, work base learning and support services. Ms. Becky Ross presented information regarding academy advisories and business partners. Ms. Sonja Neely-Johnson spoke about A-G process and courses. Ms. Finy Prak detailed high school counselor support for students.

Public Comment:
Ben Gill

Board Comment:
Ms. Block spoke about visiting classrooms at DeAnza and seeing engaged students. She said she learned that technology students held a community event promoting free computer repair. She continued to speak about attending the recent linked learning conference and commended Connect Ed for their support. She asked how the Board might support stability in developing academies as promoted through the Local Control Funding Plan. Ms. Mendoza provided further information.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about Linked Learning and the California partnership academies. Ms. Mendoza spoke about expanding the base of the partnership academies in order to identify at risk students. The intention is that the District's programs are desirable and accessible to all students, providing skills for all students. Ms. Mendoza spoke about the sunsetting of current SB70 funding in June 2015. Ms. Mendoza also spoke about the articulation of programs with community colleges.

Ms. Cuevas asked questions about program outcomes. Ms. Mendoza spoke about the A-G courses and students progressing steadily with 85% completion of pathways. Ms. Cuevas continued with remarks about supporting Common Core Standards. Ms. Mendoza said the District is ahead with performance tasks, problem solving, and team development as these activities are already actively taking place. She said it is important to align curriculum with 21st century skills.

D.4 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Actions/Services Report #3

Superintendent Harter asked Ms. Rashidchi to present the third report on updates of actions and services from LCAP. Ms. Rashidchi introduced staff who presented information regarding ten areas of the LCAP plan. Ms. Liz Torio and Mr. Julio Franco presented information regarding actions and services regarding assessment and use of data. They discussed ongoing training to support classroom teachers as well as new teacher support. Ms. Selena Jackson spoke about social emotional support for students and teacher training to assess. Mr. JG Larochette spoke about the Mindful Life Project used to empower students with skills to gain confidence, self-regulation and resilience. Mr. Franco also spoke about English Learner reclassification criteria and reclassification for students with the use of full service learning centers and the EL master plan.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Ms. Block commended staff's hard work. She remarked on the importance of social emotional health regarding student's ability to learn, as well as bench mark data and tablets used by students in classrooms.

Mr. Enos addressed the lateness of the hour for an already long meeting.

Ms. Cuevas thanked staff for the progress updates.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Chairperson Ivette Ricco provided an update to the Board representing activities of committee duties. She reported that an election of officers was held in January when she was reelected as Chair. Mr. Orlandus Waters was elected Vice Chair, and Peter Chau was elected Secretary. She provided subcommittee updates and spoke of a recent training video that was developed. The committee has recommended scheduling upcoming joint meetings with the Board. The next meeting of the CBOC is scheduled for February 25, 2015.

United Teachers of Richmond. President Robert Mann spoke about teacher issues at various sites and valuing teachers.

A brief recess for technical purposes was taken at this time.

E.2 Superintendent's Report
This item was postponed due to the lateness of the hour.

E.3 In Memory of Members of the School Community
This item was postponed.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Consider the Bid for Valley View Elementary School Interim Housing Project
This item was moved to follow item F.5 earlier on the agenda.

F.2 Resolution No. 56-1415 - Preliminary Official Statement for the Sale of the District's General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Election, 2015 Series C and its General Obligation Bonds, 2012
David Leifer of KNN Public Finance provided information regarding approval of the preliminary official statement, and further details about the upcoming bond sale. He affirmed the obligation to assure that information in Preliminary Official Statement was accurate, updated and current. He said once approved, it will be released to the investor community.

He addressed a question from Ms. Block about interest payments over a 40 year period.

Ms. Cuevas has questions about length of program and how funding will be used. Both Ms. Gamba and Mr. Leifer responded with clarification.

Mr. Enos left the meeting for the evening at 12:33 AM

Public Comment:
Steve Chamberlin

Board Comment:
Ms. Block expressed concern about the 40 year bond and additional interest asking what benefit there was. Mr. Leifer responded with information about assessed value limit and debt service in order to maintain the $48 tax rate at 4% growth. He explained that stretched out over a longer period of time allows access to principal earlier. Mr. Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffrey Investment Bankers said that the goal has been to deliver funds within the tax rate standard in order to lower annual costs. He spoke of the benefit to have access to funds in a low interest rate environment.

Ms. Cuevas asked about the recommendation before the Board. Ms. Gamba responded that the recommendation is to update the Preliminary Official Statement for the sale that had been approved by Board in November 2014.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 56-1415 - Preliminary Official Statement for the Sale of the District's General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Election, 2015 Series C and its General Obligation Bonds, 2012 Election, 2015 Series B. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Enos absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.3 Procurement of Tablets and Carts to Support the Common Core Curriculum
Ms. Philips presented an overview of the District Technology Plan approved March 16, 2014 and the use of computer tablets to integrate support for students in mastering Common Core State Standards. She said the purchase and use of tablets was also in alignment with the Local Control Accountability Plan. Tablets are being purchased and implemented in phases. Since technology changes very quickly staff has rigorously assessed the equipment currently available and based on pricing, features and user feedback recommends the Acer SW-5 for the phase two procurement.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Procurement of Tablets and Carts to Support the Common Core Curriculum. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Enos absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.4 Appoint a Board Member to Serve on the Richmond Promise Committee
Superintendent indicated that the City of Richmond is seeking two representatives to serve on the Richmond Promise steering committee.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Board members held discussion about serving on the committee. – Kronenberg and Cuevas nominated.

MOTION: Ms. Block moved to appoint Ms. Kronenberg and Ms. Cuevas to serve on the Richmond Promise Committee. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Enos absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

F.5 Renaming of Gompers High School
This item was moved to follow item D.2 earlier on the agenda.

F.6 Resolution No. 57-1415: In Support of the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards
This item was postponed.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Reducing the Number of Members on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee
This item was postponed.

G.2 Project Status Report
This item was postponed.

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)
None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT
Ms. Cuevas thanked her colleagues for the nomination to the Richmond Promise Committee. She also thanked staff for staying late.

Ms. Block expressed appreciation for the hard work of her colleagues and staff.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the meeting being productive and showing how hard everyone worked together. She hoped the public saw the commitment of the Board.

President Groves commended staff on an extraordinary meeting and how deeply the Board was able to work.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 4, 2015

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Groves adjourned the meeting at 1:17 AM.

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

BH:dh

R. Enos
Approved 3/4/15