

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

**May 20, 2015**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**Public Comment Regarding Closed Session Items:**

Sandi Brown

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Groves called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:30 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 Business Services Bond Program; Denise Cifelli, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Luis Freese, District Engineer; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Gompers Principal, Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Darrell and Darnell Waters provided a report of activities at Gompers High School.

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve the appointments of Linda Wilkinson as Principal DeJean Extended Year, Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus as Principal Montalvin Extended Year; Eric Acosta-Verprauskus as Assistant Principal DeJean Extended Year, and Robert Evans as Coordinator Education Services Secondary Education.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve the appointments of Linda Wilkinson as Principal DeJean Extended Year, Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus as Principal Montalvin Extended Year; Eric Acosta-Verprauskus as Assistant Principal DeJean Extended Year, and Robert Evans as Coordinator Education Services Secondary Education. Ms. Block 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 the non-reelection of three certificated employees.

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve the non-reelection and release of three probationary certificated employees. 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.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve expulsion Cases 1-3 for 2015-16.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve the expulsion of Cases 1–3 for 2015-16. 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.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

President Groves recommended Items D.1 – D.3 be moved up after Item B.7.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
None

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the agenda including moving Items D.1 - D.3 after Item B.7. Ms. Cuevas seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representatives Darrell and Darnell Waters (advisory votes only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.7 Minutes: May 6, 2015**

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Ms. Block requested the Minutes reflect exact verbiage on her motion for Item B.7 which she provided in writing stating “that we would hire an independent attorney who hasn’t worked with the district before to identify three or four forensic auditors who will then present their plan for the investigation to the Board. The Board will choose from that group an auditor that they feel best matches the investigation we want to do and then we will hire them to do the investigation.”

**MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved approval of the Minutes of May 6, 2015 with the correction of item B.7 to included verbiage provided by Ms. Block. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representatives Darrell and Darnell Waters (advisory votes only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**D.1 Gold Ribbon Award / Gates Millennium Scholar Recognition**

Mr. Robert Evans, Principal DeAnza High School, recognized students, staff and parents for receiving the 2015 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award. He said that DeAnza High School was one out of eighty schools being honored. DeAnza student Jasmine Gil was also honored as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Only 1,000 students nationwide receive this scholarship.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Student Representative Darnell Waters congratulated DeAnza on their accomplishments.

Ms. Kronenberg congratulated the DeAnza community of students, staff and parents for their accomplishments and looked forward to celebrating with them.

Ms. Block stated how proud she was of Mr. Evans’ accomplishments and complimented him on his leadership abilities.

Mr. Enos expressed his appreciation for the work everyone has done and the positive influence.

Ms. Cuevas commented on the dedication to lead and build the success that students have achieved.

President Groves stated DeAnza had shown that they have the ingredients for successful focus, collaboration and hard work.

**D.2 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, De Anza High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Middle College High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League Universities**

Mr. Vincent Rhea provided a brief history of the program and thanked sponsors and contributors for their continued support and dedication to the program and students. He extended special thanks to Mr. Don Gosney and Mr. Charles Ramsey. He honored this year's chaperones who introduced the students they will accompany. The thirty-three students include:

<u><b>COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY</b></u>	
Izabel Rodriguez	Kennedy High
Alyanna Paulino	Kennedy High
Mark Bordas	De Anza High
Deborah Kyong	El Cerrito High
Saba Haile	Middle College High

<u><b>CORNELL UNIVERSITY</b></u>	
Shanti Shresha	Hercules High
Stephen Fong	De Anza High
Julie Lum	Hercules High
Thao Le Hoang	Hercules High
Justice delos Santos	Hercules High
Helen Gilbert-Snyder	El Cerrito High

<u><b>BROWN UNIVERSITY – I</b></u>	
Komal Kumar	Hercules High

<u><b>VANDERBILT</b></u>	
Gwen Gilbert-Snyder	El Cerrito High
Arnold Dimas	Richmond High
Katherine Phan	Pinole Valley High
Hummd Alikhan	El Cerrito High

<u><b>BROWN UNIVERSITY – II</b></u>	
Mahi Taban	De Anza High
Cindy Reyes	De Anza High
Diana Ramirez	Richmond High
Erin Cain	El Cerrito High
Gabrielle Meacham	El Cerrito High
Esmeralda Echavarria	Richmond High
Wendy Gonzalez	Richmond High

<u><b>UNIVERSITY OF PENNSULVANIA</b></u>	
Rudy Suarez	Kennedy High
Justeen Hipolito	Middle College High
Qian Jun Chen	Middle College High
Chiamaka Nwadike	Hercules High
Joanne Cheng	El Cerrito High
Elexis Webster	El Cerrito High

<u><b>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</b></u>	
Aisha Asif	El Cerrito High
Brandon Delacruz	Hercules High
Jae-An Wang	El Cerrito High
Tamika Whitenack	El Cerrito High

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the ten year history of the program and impact of over 300 students participating. She extended her appreciation to everyone who participated in making the program a success. She particularly thanked the funders and the Ed Fund for the commitment to college and career. She invited the public to follow student blogs on the internet while they are participating in summer programs.

President Groves thanked Ms. Kronenberg for ten years of dedication in volunteering with the program.

Ms. Cuevas acknowledged the ILC students and commended the opportunity to represent the community during the summer.

Ms. Block offered congratulations for the students' accomplishments. She said she looked forward to hearing about their experiences.

Mr. Enos encouraged the students to share their experiences with family and community.

Student Representatives Darrell and Darnell Waters left the meeting for the evening.

**D.3 District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Parent Committee Report**

Co-Chairs Stephanie Sequira and Maria Resendiz presented information on the work and focus of the LCAP parent committee.

**Public Comment:**

Marcia Williamson, Anvre Magy, Joan Binalinbing, Rigel Massaro, Lilly Chen, Rita Figueroa, Yuritay Gomez, John Irmingier, Enedina Mendoza

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Cuevas questioned their perspective as parent leaders regarding the committee's input for the District's budget. Ms. Resendiz spoke about the committee coming together as a new group and developing understanding of the process. Ms. Sequira said that there was more parent involvement where the members spoke openly and worked toward student success.

Ms. Block asked about the selection process for participants to become part of the committee. Ms. Sequira spoke about the requirement to be a parent of a student in the community and the application process. Ms. Block continued to ask whether the committee had addressed the needs and funding for EL students. Ms. Resendiz and Ms. Sequira spoke about the update of the EL Masterplan and seeing growth.

President Groves asked their thoughts on how to get more parents involved. The Co-Chairs spoke about parents reaching out to other parents through the Parent University ,as well as ELAC and Schools Site Councils at individual schools.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked the committee for all the work done in making it understandable. She continued to speak about the Parent University and partnering with parents in their own language as the LCAP information is shared.

Ms. Cuevas questioned committee diversity representative of the District. The co-chairs spoke affirmatively about the diversity.

Ms. Block spoke about the tremendous amount of work done, but questioned whether data for elementary students was under consideration. She hoped that additional data might be added for review throughout the year.

President Groves thanked the Parent LCAP Committee and Youth Commission for their volunteer hours, speaking up, and the work in progress.

Ms. Gamba spoke about adding budget funds from Graduate Tutors back to the LCAP. She said that the next step would be to add the line item back into the LCAP for Board consideration, an estimated at \$1.7 million. She asked for direction from the Board. The Board agreed in consensus.

Ms. Gamba provided additional information regarding the State's process about funding for the District's entire budget.

Discussion continued about policy level consideration and State requirements regarding budget development.

**B.8 Request to Address the Board – Ken Ryan**

Teacher Ken Ryan spoke about teaching in the District, including a Parent University class. He spoke on behalf of his adult school colleagues urging consideration for restoring adult education funding to pre-2009 levels, raising pay and benefits equal to K-12 teachers, and including Adult Education teachers in the implementation and response to the recent FCMAT report.

President Groves stated that Public Comment would be limited to thirty minutes allowing and one and one-half minutes for each speaker. After thirty minutes the Board will move on to attend to Business Items, then will return to Public Comment for any remaining speakers.

**B.9 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Pat Miles, Kristen Pursley, Bob Mandel, Dean Williamson, Karen Wilairat , Lourdes Hidalgo, Sylvia Hopkins and Socrates, Christina Tworek, Janet Johnson, Marge Essel, Mike Parker, Amanda Henderson, Rita Barouch, Wendy Phillips, Ulrike Bauer, Bea Lieberman, Sonja Kaufman, Elin Hansen, Sarah Creeley, Vitalee Giammalro, Ben Steinberg, Rosa Martinez, Kristen Cason, Carolyn Muth, Janette Magallon

**C. BUSINESS ITEM**

**C.1 Acceptance of Donations**

**C.2 Contracts**

**C.3 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**

**C.4 Notification of Claim Rejected**

**C.5 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**

- C.6 **Approve the following New Job Description: Director, Contracts Administration**
- C.7 **Reasonable Accommodation - Revised Board Policy 4032 – Personnel**
- C.8 **Approval Greenwood Academy Calendar for 2015-16 Only**
- C.9 **Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.10 **Ratification of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.11 **Hanna Ranch Elementary School Energy Management Controls Replacement Project Award of Contract**
- C.12 **Ratification of Appointments to Governance Subcommittee**
- C.13 **Appointment to the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.13. 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.

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

**D.1 Gold Ribbon Award / Gates Millennium Scholar Recognition**

This item was moved to follow item B.7.

**D.2 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, De Anza High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Middle College High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League Universities**

This item was moved earlier on the agenda.

**D.3 District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Parent Committee Report**

This item was moved earlier on the agenda.

**D.4 LCAP Data Dashboard**

This item was tabled.

**E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**E.1 Standing Reports**

**Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.** Chairperson Yvette Ricco spoke about the establishment of the Data Review Subcommittee to compliment the District's investigation surrounding recent allegations concerning school bond expenditures and management. The next meeting joint meeting with the Board of Education will be held June 17, 2015.

**United Teaches of Richmond.** President Amanda Henderson spoke about the welcome received by teachers at a recent meeting. She talked about attending the Labor Management Symposium held in San Diego with the President, Superintendent and representatives from other labor groups about common goals and collaboration. She found the experience to be valuable in the dialogue of making the schools better.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi reported on the recent meeting regarding evaluation of the collaboration colloquium, areas for growth, and discussion of topics for the committee in the 2015-16 year.

**College and Career Readiness.** Ms. Rashidchi spoke about recent events including the Pathway workshop at the San Leandro Kaiser Innovation Center. Simulation models were used and discussed for potential use in the classroom to support workbased learning experiences. The District was featured, along with Contra Costa College, in a best practices session. The May 13<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards ceremony was held to recognize teacher teams and student successes.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba reported that committee members attended recent May Budget Revision workshops. The next meeting will be held prior to the starting of school in August.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Ms. Kronenberg reported on the recent meeting and presentation from Caliber Beta Academy regarding a new long term site proposal. Discussion items included construction updates on Valley View, Korematsu, Nystrom, and discussion of the long range facilities plan. The next meeting will be June 9, 2015.

**Safety and School Climate Committee.** Mr. Enos spoke about campus safety during the last two weeks of school. The committee expects to meet again in August.

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips said the recent meeting included discussion of a user single sign in solution, potential collaborative with the City of Richmond, and funding of computer replacement and sustainability.

**Youth Commission.** President Groves said that the recent meeting was a student only meeting where adults were not included.

**E.2 Superintendent's Report**

This item was tabled due to the lateness of the hour.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 68 -1415: Authorization to Eliminate and/or Reduce Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**F.2 Amended Resolution No. 76-1415: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers**

Mr. Whittemore provided information regarding the item allowing hiring of substitute teachers who have not passed the CBEST testing and District support for completion of that testing requirement while working in the classroom. He said this was another tool for making substitute teachers available.

**Public Comment:**

None

\Ms. Kronenberg left the dais.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Enos asked about the number of teachers who fit this category. Mr. Whittemore responded that the waiver had been used on two occasions during the current school year.

Ms. Cuevas asked for clarification regarding support for substitutes to pass the CBEST. Mr. Whittemore provided further details.

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of Amended Resolution No. 76-1415: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, and President Groves voted yes, Ms. Kronenberg was absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**F.3 Amended Resolution No. 75-1415: Credential Assignment Options**

Mr. Whittemore explained that the resolution will allow the District to project where teachers on limited assignment are allowed to intern in a position while working toward completion of a credential. He said that the Human Resources staff projects use of this option in thirteen instances.

Ms. Kronenberg returned to the dais.

**Public Comment:**

Tom Panas

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Cuevas asked for clarification. Mr. Whittemore provided detailed information regarding specific cases.

Ms. Block had similar questions regarding teacher training for credential requirements. Mr. Whittemore offered clarification.

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of Amended Resolution No. 75-1415: Credential Assignment Options. 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.**

**F.4 Harmon Knolls, 2853 Groom Drive, Richmond, CA**

Superintendent Harter spoke about the Board's action at the last meeting not to award the demolition bid at the Harmon Knolls site. He spoke of a technicality and a required rejection of all bids. He said further that staff recommended including the Harmon Knolls Center as part of master plan process.

**Public Comment:**

Weiler Jones, Terrence Boyd, Otis Rounds

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Cuevas reiterated her position from the last meeting regarding road blocks, including zoning and disapproval from the surrounding community. She spoke about staff assessing input from all stake holders. She supported moving this property to the master planning process.

Ms. Block spoke about standing behind a commitment to the community to demolish the site. She spoke in support of the demolition.

Ms. Kronenberg agreed with Ms. Cuevas to follow staff's recommendation to add the property to the master plan process and allow opportunity for review and consideration.

Superintendent Harter shared that it was anticipated that the Facilities Master Plan review will take approximately ten months' time.

President Groves expressed concern about joint use of the site.

Superintendent clarified the recommendation for the master plan in order to have experts review the site and proposals rather than work from opinions.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of rejecting all bids for Harmon Knolls, 2853 Groom Drive, Richmond, CA and including the property in the upcoming Facilities Master Plan process. Ms. Cuevas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Dr. Linda Delgado introduced the Summit charter school representatives who presenting information about their proposed school for 2016-17 with 7 – 12 grades. The organization currently has another charter school within the District's boundaries that is sponsored by the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

Ms. Kristen McCaw and Mr. Diego Arambula presented information regarding school activities, the academic model proposal, student diversity, and data from schools across the Bay Area.

**Public Comment:**

Joy Osborne, Yannell Selman, Helen Couture Rodrigez, Shilpa Duvoor, Alex Suthaboon, Samuel Cruz, Hadassah Williams, Joycelyn Dennis-Cornelius, Yolanda Lopez, Eli Sararia, Tomasa Espinoza, Marcos Moreno, Delmi Granados, Kelly Garcia, Ben Steinberg

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Block said she was impressed with the material as well as strategies. Mr. Arambula reiterated and expanded on the process to engage students and partnering to reach goals. This will be used to undergird basic literacy and numeracy practice.

Ms. Cuevas asked for clarification about the other school Summit K-2 currently located in the community. She also asked about the criteria used to consider approval of a charter school. Superintendent Harter indicated that the charter petition before the Board was pending review and recommendation following the initial public hearing. He said that that the criteria and background information will be provided to the Board in an upcoming Friday Memo. Superintendent Harter also indicated that this petition will be reviewed by staff and return with a recommendation for action at the June 10 Board meeting.

Ms. Kronenberg questioned what a partnership with the District might look like and where the partnership in other areas has been exemplary. Mr. Arambula spoke about the original intention of charter to be a lab of innovation. He said they have been able to create that atmosphere to some degree due to the flexibility not offered by traditional constraints. He spoke of partnering with the District to accomplish leveraging quality education for all students. He also spoke of forty days per year of teacher professional development and working toward National Board Teacher Certification.

President Groves had with questions about districts where two charter schools are currently offered. Mr. Arambula replied that currently seven charters are in five districts, with two high schools in two separate districts. Mr. Arambula provided additional information for clarification.

**G.2 Reducing the Number of Members on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee**

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

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

None

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

Ms. Cuevas congratulated students, staff, and coordinators of the recent annual reclassification ceremony. She recalled that over 850 students were honored for having met the reclassification requirement as English proficient.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the upcoming nine graduation ceremonies as the most exciting part of the year. She looked forward to all of them and offered congratulations to the graduating seniors.

Ms. Block commented on requests for teacher salary raises saying she would like to be able to provide more money. She said she valued the importance of parent involvement in their child's education, but that educators are the ones who are responsible for education the children.

President Groves spoke about the CalFresh program and partnering with the City of Richmond about the fresh fruit and vegetable program to encourage healthy lifestyles. He continued to speak about the Africa-American Scholars recognition event were several hundred students and families attended.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 10, 2015

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Groves adjourned the meeting at 11:02 PM.

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

BH:dc

<p><b><u>R. Enos</u></b> Approved 6/10/15</p>
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