

**West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Governance Committee**

Zoom Video Conference

**November 9, 2020**

**Minutes**

**I. Opening Procedures**

**A. Roll Call and Introductions**

Chairperson Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

**Committee Members Present:** Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis, Tom Panas

**Staff:** Matthew Duffy, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Robert Jordan, Communications Manager, Roxanna Molina, Translator; Reyna Ortiz De Touriel, Translator

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Panas motioned approval of the agenda. Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis seconded. Motion to approve was carried.

**C. Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2020**

Mr. Panas motioned to approve the Minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting. Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis seconded. Motion to approved was carried.

**D. Public Comment**

None

**II. Discussion Items**

**A. Mascot Naming Draft Policy**

Superintendent Duffy provided information from last month's meeting noting the separation of this policy from the facilities naming policy. He spoke about concern regarding costs associated with changing a school's mascot and suggested memorializing the related costs prior to Board approval. He also recommended review of language regarding the school principal's appointment of a naming committee, and whether the board should authorize the initial exploration prior to any significant investment or commitment by the school.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Discussion:**

Mr. Panas began the discussion regarding whether a school would be able to bear the costs of factors involved in renaming and whether initial consideration by the board might be appropriate. He continued to speak about names of fictional characters that schools might consider and appropriateness.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis said it made sense to identify the financial impact and whether a school could bear the cost, inclusion of funders, and noticing the board regarding funding sources.

Superintendent Duffy will bring the policy back to the next meeting for action including points about board interaction, fictional characters and some language regarding animals.

**B. BP 7310 Facilities Naming Draft Policy**

Superintendent Duffy shared previous discussion regarding this policy revision noting that it had been separated from the mascot policy. He related that he thought the same comments applied regarding cost estimates and notification to the board.

**Public Comment**

Don Gosney recalled renaming of two district schools when rebuilt with no additional cost incurred by the school site. He continued with examples of cost factors for renaming of some bay area schools. Mr. Gosney also cautioned about names that could have dual meanings.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Panas acknowledged appropriateness to proceed slowly to consider all aspects. He agreed with the suggestion for board notification and cost factors.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis also agreed with the need to have similar noticing to the board.

Superintendent Duffy will draft the policy revision and bring for action at the next meeting.

**III. Action**

**A. BB 9150 Student Board Member Policy Revision**

Superintendent Duffy recalled the previous discussion of the policy revisions regarding overlapping terms and retaining Youth Commission language.

**Public Comment:**

Don Gosney shared concern about the addition of more members potentially taking up time for conducting the business of meetings.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Panas shared thoughts regarding the Youth Commission appointing the student representatives as well as involving principals or other community groups in selecting applicants. He noted the challenge for students living farther away from central Richmond when attending meetings.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis thought the policy would bring more accessibility to students. She also spoke about a self-nomination application process.

Superintendent Duffy spoke about an all school youth council, other standing youth organizations, or a high school rotation of representatives. He suggested some general language about standing youth organizations or academies. Mr. Duffy said he would work on language and return the policy to the next meeting for review.

**B. BB 9322 Agenda Meeting Materials Revision**

Superintendent Duffy spoke about the noted additions to the policy regarding no changes or additions to agenda item attachments after a specific time period, notification of any changes or additions sent to anyone on the agenda distribution list, and that audit findings be included in the Superintendent's Report and posted on the district website.

**Public Comment:**

Don Gosney spoke about not changing or adding items after the agenda was published. He

also addressed formulating comments or lobbying the board with public comment, as well as keeping the Board Act 72-hour requirement.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Panas suggested presentations be ready when the agenda was posted and talked about requirements of the Brown Act regarding agenda items. He said he would like to recommend a specific timeframe requirement beyond which all agenda attachments would be final. He also suggested that in addition to noticing the distribution list and clarify what the change included.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis also spoke of the confusion created when agenda items or attachments were changed. She supported noticing the public of audits or other findings.

Superintendent Duffy recapped the discussion that included alerting the public when an agenda item had changed noting what that change included. He also spoke about creating language regarding not adding or changing after 72 hours. He agreed to bring the policy revision back to the committee for final review.

**C. Recommendation to the Board to Create the Racial Equity Oversight Council**

Superintendent Duffy introduced Roxanne Carrillo Garza of Healthy Richmond and the proposal submitted regarding creation of a Racial Equity Oversight Committee.

Ms. Garza provided a review of the purpose, goals, objectives, recruitment, activities, measures and criteria, evaluation and timeline.

**Public Comment:**

Gilberto Cooper expressed concern around the narrowing achievement gap and how compliance and performance would be audited under the policy.

Vi Vo asked the committee to take action in order to bring the plan to the board for approval.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Panas asked about the various parent and community groups to be included. He continued with specific questions about the makeup of the council, financial impact, staff participation and inclusion of students.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis appreciated the input into the document and inclusion of various parent and student groups within the district. She spoke about racial equity as a core to tie all other councils together. She spoke of the document as a system to support disenfranchised children.

Further discussion took place regarding the role of the committee, clarity around membership, inclusion of financial impact and potential funders. Superintendent Duffy and Ms. Garza will work together to finalize the proposal for the upcoming board agenda.

**Motion: Mr. Panas motioned to bring the Racial Equity Oversight Council Recommendation to the Board. Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis seconded. Motion carried.**

**IV. Governance Committee Next Meeting – Virtual Meeting**  
December 10, 2020, 5:30 PM

**V. Adjournment**

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.