

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

September 11, 2013

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session.
President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:32 P.M.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Kronenberg led the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Kronenberg 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: Magdy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Linda Delgado, Coordinator Education Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Phil Gonsalves, Senior Director; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Josh Herrera, Electronics Technician; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer, Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Middle College High School

Ms. Ivette Alejandra provided a report of activities at Middle College High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint two administrators:

William McGee, Richmond High School Assistant Principal
Cynthia White-Vinson, Lincoln Elementary School Principal

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to appoint two administrators. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

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

B.7 Minutes: August 5, 2013; August 7, 2013; August 12, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Minutes of August 5, 2013; August 7, 2013; and August 12, 2013. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Ivette Alejandra (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment

Orlandus Waters, Betty Burrus-Wright, Thomas Prather, Antonio Aguilar, Luz Angelica Ortega, Martha Serrano, Bobbie Dowling, Karen VanWinkle

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**
- C.5 Contracted Services**
- C.6 Adoption of Resolution No. 34-1314: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**
- C.7 Notice of Completions: Bid 1621223-12 Verde Elementary School Restroom Renovations, Bid 1301223-17 Kensington Elementary School Restroom Renovations, Bid 1251612-14 Grant Elementary School & 1341612-08 Lake Elementary School Restroom Renovations, and Bid 1161223-02 Downer Elementary School Restroom Renovations**
- C.8 Response to Grand Jury Report No. 1311 “Assessing Fiscal Risk”**
- C.9 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- C.10 Approve the following Revised/New Job Descriptions: Chief Technology Officer; Director, Systems Integration**
- C.11 Board Policy Update: BP 3580 District Records**
- C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.14 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contracts (CUPCAA)**
- C.15 Mira Vista Elementary School Covered Accessible Ramp Addition Rejection of Bids and Authorization for Staff to Rebid the Project**
- C.16 Agreement for Program, Project and Construction Management Services between West Contra Costa Unified School District and SGI Construction Management (“Agreement”)**
- C.17 Denial of Charter Petition from Summit Schools**
- C.18 Approval of Board Members Travel**
- C.19 Resolution No. 33-1314: Resolution in Support of the Human Rights and Human Relations commission of the City of Richmond, California, Regarding the City of Richmond Human Rights Award 2012-2013**

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.19. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Ivette Alejandra (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 2013 Academic Performance Index (API)/California Standards Tests (CSTs) – Report on and Recognition of Schools

Ms. Rashidchi presented data around the Academic Performance Index, California Standards Tests, testing results, and assessment of critical action taken as result of the test scores. She also acknowledged celebrating schools’ success in meeting API targets and hitting state’s standards. She talked about the slow and steady growth across the District as well as the need to accelerate learning for students. She reported that eleven schools met the state’s API target. Twelve schools also scored over the state target of 800. She further discussed the sense of urgency to close the achievement gap for African American and Latino students being underserved.

Phil Gonsalves provided information regarding the growth in math scores where teacher coaching was provided. Principals Jose DeLeon of Helms Middle School and Dr. Sylvia Greenwood of DeJean Middle School shared information about the academic success of their respective schools.

The Board recognized and congratulated the staff from the following schools for meeting the API score of 800 or above; Collins, Coronado, Fairmont, Harding, Peres, Valley View. The Board also recognized and congratulated the staff from schools for meeting all Academic Performance Index targets and subgroups; Helms, DeJean, Kennedy, North Campus and Vista High. Also recognized were schools meeting all API targets and had exceeded 800: Hanna Ranch, Kensington, Madera, Montalvin, Olinda, Middle College High School.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members congratulated each school as well as remarked on the hard work, dedication, and the difference being made for students.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Standing Reports

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Don Gosney provided a report on the eighth year of the program and the 38 students who participated in the summer program. Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Gosney for the time he put in. He reported that the following Universities plan to host information nights in the District; University of Pennsylvania, Brown University, Yale University and Northwestern University. The program may possibly expand to include the University of Chicago and Northwestern in upcoming years. Ms. Kronenberg recapped her summer travels with program.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported the next meeting will be held September 17, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School. The agenda will include the single plan for learning achievement and summer learning.

Student Representative Ivette Alejandra left the meeting for the evening.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported that two parents and a business leader have joined the committee. The next meeting will be held September 19, 2013 at the Alvarado Adult Education campus. The agenda will be posted on the website. Ms. Gamba expected a robust discussion about the state budget as well as presentation of the unaudited actuals budget report.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported on the recent meeting where topics included updating board policy regarding security cameras and discussion around suspensions goals. Schools shared strategies for improvement. The committee, in collaboration with Building Blocks for Kids, will host a back to school chat regarding empowering parents and informing educators on Friday, September 13, 2013. The next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2013, 9:00 AM at El Cerrito High School.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey reported that the committee heard that the El Cerrito stadium bid will be coming up this month. The committee approved the master plan for the Olinda elementary construction. Discussion included Montalvin, Nystrom, Portola and the Leadership/Gompers projects. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2013.

Technology Committee. Ms. Phillips reported on Monday's meeting where the committee established goals to insure that the network infrastructure will support current technology and future growth, insure all teaching staff have the necessary tools to teach common core standards, and provide professional development and technical support to assure success. The next meeting will be held October 13 and will be centered on professional develop.

Youth Commission. President Kronenberg reported that the Commission will meet September 16, 2013.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Approval of the 2012-2013 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report

Ms. Gamba provided a report regarding the unrestricted general fund comparisons from June for final revenues and expenses. She provided data regarding the unrestricted general fund balance, restricted general fund balance as well as fourteen other funds within the District budget. She detailed the closing of books and the ability to update beginning fund balances for 2013-14.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey had a question regarding the ending fund balance for Schedule 6 Building Funds. Ms. Gamba responded with information regarding cash and fund balances.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the 2012-2013 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Project Status Report

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey expressed concerned about the Downer and Pinole Middle fields projects. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Ramsey also questioned the Coronado bidding process. Mr. Fay explained that the several bidders had questions regarding the drawings and that staff wanted to respond before going under contract to avoid change orders after construction begins. President Kronenberg asked whether there was an unusual set of questions that would inform the comprehensive check list. Mr. Fay responded that this is an opportunity to improve the program by adding a new level of detail in response to unanticipated questions.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the Gompers Leadership project schedule. Mr. Abdalla reported that construction is ahead of schedule.

Mr. Ramsey remarked about dedicating some of the buildings to people who have been an important part of the District.

G.2 Bond Finance – Bond Sale Planning and Review of Outstanding Bonds and Refunding Analysis

Dave Olson of KNN Public Finance provided a report on the anticipated sale of series 2013 bonds in October. He provided details of the financing of the plan, the increase in interest rates, and the program as a whole. There was consensus that the biggest threat to the bond program is the decline in assessed property values. Mr. Olson explained that long term assessed valuation growth is an important factor in setting up the bond construction program and moving forward.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Kronenberg had questions regarding the recent Richmond City Council's decision regarding eminent domain action. Mr. Jeff Barratta of Piper Jaffrey & Company Investment Bankers responded. He said that he felt the District has a very good story to share with potential investors as well as those that the District has been working with over the past few years. He explained that the District has a different set of circumstances than the City. President Kronenberg stressed taking the lead with investors when discussing unanticipated events similar to the impact on the community of the Chevron fire. Mr. Barratta and Mr. Scott Henry of E. J. De La Rosa & Company Investment Bankers responded that their job is to relate the District's story to potential investors disclosing all issues that may have an impact.

Discussion continued regarding marketing effectively to the community.

Ms. Merriweather questioned 40 year financing. Mr. Olson said that while that has been demonstrated as an alternative with legal flexibility, the 30 year bonds, as sold in past, is the recommendation for this sale.

Mr. Groves asked questions regarding tax rate targets. Mr. Olson responded.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey said that he felt the school year was off to a good start and wished everyone great school year.

Mr. Groves said the busy summer will pay off this year and hopes to see real academic growth for students.

Ms. Merriweather agreed that staff worked hard over the summer in support of the District. She said she attended Back to School Night at several schools.

President Kronenberg announced a celebration planned for September 22nd at El Cerrito's dance studio to honor retired teacher Jacqueline Burgess and her 40 years of teaching.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 25, 2013

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:52 P.M.

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

BH:dh

CTR
Approved 9/25/13