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**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009
6:30 PM**

**RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER AUDITORIUM
403 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
RICHMOND, CA**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Open Session Board Meeting will begin at **6:30 PM** in the Richmond Convention Center Auditorium

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A.1 Pledge of Allegiance
- A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures
- A.3 Roll Call

B. ACTION ITEMS

*** B.1 Resolution 67:0809: School Closure Consolidation Recommendation**

Comment:

The District has been aware for several years that the operational costs of having small schools was limiting the District's ability to provide the fundamental educational services to which all students are entitled. Since November 12 when the Board held a special workshop meeting on school closures, there have been 13 meetings in which the community has been involved in shaping the resolution that is now before the Board. Additionally, two independent firms, Schreder & Associates and MGT America, provided an external review of school closures in West Contra Costa Unified.

Since the preliminary recommendation was provided to the Board and public on January 29, 2009 and since a draft resolution was distributed on February 4, 2009, District staff have conferred with staff from the City of Richmond regarding the City's plans for redevelopment of a large portion of the Nystrom Village housing. That plan calls for a substantial increase in the density of the housing in that neighborhood which suggests that the District can expect additional students who would attend Nystrom Elementary School.

Therefore, the recommendation in the resolution before the Board includes placing Grant Elementary among the schools that would be closed should the District not be able to find external funding to keep it open after the funds committed by the City of Richmond are no longer available after the 2010-11 school year.

Recommendation: That the Board adopt Resolution 69-0809 on school closures.

Fiscal Impact: More than \$18.6 million in operational savings over the next five years.

* **B.2 Temporary Relocation of Portola Middle School**

Comment:

The Portola Middle School upper campus area is underlain by historic landslide debris which is potentially unstable in the event of a major earthquake. Staff and consultant teams have studied the site intensively over the last four years. The California Geologic Survey has concurred with findings that an “earthquake-induced landslide hazard” exists at the site. The Division of State Architect has notified the District that “The potential for landslide is such that the health and safety of the students is at risk and must be corrected.”

The District has been actively working towards a permanent relocation of Portola Middle School and has completed Environmental Reviews of the proposed Castro site as the future home of the school. Full construction completion is not expected for 2-3 years for the Portola/Castro project.

It has been requested that the District consider a temporary relocation of the Portola campus to address safety concerns immediately. Staff presented two options to the Board for temporary relocation of Portola at the regular meeting of January 21, 2009. The first option is the Portola lower pad. The second option presented is to use the existing El Cerrito High School temporary campus. Pros and cons for each approach were presented to the Board and discussed during the meeting. If the temporary relocation is approved by the Board, staff recommends that the Portola lower pad option be selected. The lower pad option, while more expensive than using the existing modulars at El Cerrito High, allows the District to immediately begin design and construction of the campus without engaging in the potentially prolonged Environmental Review which may result from the selection of the El Cerrito High option.

Recommendation:

First, that the Board approve the temporary relocation of Portola Middle School prior to completion of the new permanent campus. Second, if the temporary relocation is approved, that the Board approve the Portola lower pad option for the temporary campus site.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated at \$3.7 million for construction of Temporary Campus and \$300,000 for relocation and closure costs.

C. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

March 4, 2009 – Lovonya DeJean Middle School

D. ADJOURNMENT

The public may address items which are marked with an asterisk ()*

Special Accommodations: Upon written request to the District, disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, will be provided. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at 510-231-1101 at least 48 hours in advance of meetings.