

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

July 9, 2008

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Karen Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Pfeifer called the Public Session to order at 6:38 PM.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Pfeifer led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

President Pfeifer offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Dave Brown, Madeline Kronenberg, Charles Ramsey, President Pfeifer

**Board Members Absent:** Audrey Miles

**Staff Present:** Alejandro Alonso, Interpreter; Jeff Edmison, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Paul Ehara, Director of Communications; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent; Harlan Kerr, Coordinator Education Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Elmer Meredith, Electronics Technician; Toni Oklan-Arko, Executive Director Categorical Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director K-12 Schools; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer.

**B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel twenty-five (25) students, suspending four (4) of those expulsions, from the West Contra Costa Unified School District via the expulsion hearing process.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel of twenty-five (25) students from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, suspending four (4) of those expulsions. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the following appointments:

Coordinator State and Federal Programs – Diana DeGracia  
Instructional Specialist, Chavez and Grant Elementary Schools – Lyda Butler  
Instructional Specialist, Adams Middle School – Eless Battiste

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint administrators. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve a settlement agreement regarding a teacher dismissal.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve a settlement agreement regarding a teacher dismissal. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved to approve and adopt the agenda. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**B.6 Minutes: June 18, 2008**

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2008. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**C. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**C.1 In Memory of Members of the Community**

Dr. Harter acknowledged contributions of members of the school community who have passed away.

**D. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**D.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report of events in district schools.

**D.1 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Mike Wasilchin, Local One business agent, reminded the Board of upcoming training for Site and Student Supervisors prior to the opening of school. He continued by saying that Local One appreciates the fiscal crisis and uncertainty of the state budget regarding the district and wants to urge continued commitment to the passage of the parcel tax.

Al Kirkman spoke about the average American employee who participates in payment of health care costs. He also discussed the definition of ethnocentrism in terms of unions, saying he would like to see kids becoming center of the district's universe.

**E. ACTION ITEMS**

**E.1 Textbook Adoption for Cultural Geography**

Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the recommended textbook *Glencoe World Geography and Cultures* on display at the meeting. She detailed the process of the textbook adoption procedures, and said that high school teachers completed an extensive set of model lessons to support the course outline, which will be distributed to schools.

President Pfeifer said the cultural geography class was discussed at length by the Academic Subcommittee as there were no organized textbooks or lesson plans in place prior to this textbook adoption. She thanked a number of El Cerrito and Richmond High parents for urging the Academic Subcommittee to pursue this and also thanked the teachers who volunteered their time for this study.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comment:** None

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Textbook Adoption for Cultural Geography. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**E.2 Resolution No. 17-0809: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees**

Ms. Romeo asked the Board take action to eliminate three positions based on a budgetary lack of funds.

**Public Comment:**

Lisa Davis, Local One representative, said she was disappointed that the district proposed position cuts but did not have a plan for completion of the necessary work.

Al Kirkman spoke in favor of employees taking a salary reduction and paying for medical benefits in order to preserve jobs.

**Board Comment:** None

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 17-0809: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

- E.3 Rescission of Elimination of Furniture Driver Repair Workers and Accounting Technician**  
Ms. Romeo asked the Board rescind previous action to eliminate positions.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comment:**

President Pfeifer said the Board and Cabinet understand that these are real people with jobs and are not happy to be taking action to eliminate positions.

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval to Rescind the Elimination of Furniture Driver Repair Workers and Accounting Technician positions. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

- E.4 Resolution No. 15-0809: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2008-09**  
Ms. Gambi asked the Board to hear public comment and pass this resolution to levy assessment of Maintenance and Recreation Assessment District funds.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said he has followed this matter since 1994, and thanked former Superintendent Herb Cole for his foresight in establishing the MRAD property tax assessment.

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No 15-0809: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal year 2008-09. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**F. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- F.1 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction**  
Mr. Bill Savidge provided an updated report of the bond program construction in the district.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Savidge for the thorough report and asked questions about the design flow of the next phase at Pinole Middle School. Mr. Savidge responded for clarification. Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about the Martin Luther King Recreation Center and a joint use facility at Nystrom. Mr. Savidge said the City of Richmond asked for input for a conceptual planning model for a new or integrated facility at the site. Mr. Ramsey inquired about potential grant application for Richmond Children's Foundation and the DeAnza field house cost savings.

**G. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Consent Items**

- G.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- G.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- G.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- G.4 Acceptance of Contacts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- G.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 16-0809 Replacement of Outdated Warrants**

- G.6 Resolution Nos. 01-0809 through 13-0809: Board of Education Annual Resolutions for the 2008-09 School Year
- G.7 Certificated Personnel Changes
- G.8 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)
- G.9 Notification of Claim Rejected
- G.10 Notification of Claim Approvals and Settlement Payments
- G.11 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- G.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- G.13 Ratification of Previously Awarded Contracts
- G.14 Resolution No. 14-0809: Authorizing Repairs to Fire Damage at Coronado Elementary School Without Competitive Bidding
- G.15 El Cerrito High School Photovoltaic System
- G.16 Ford Temporary Campus Modularity Award of Contract
- G.17 Dover Elementary Phase I Sitework Project Award of Contract
- G.18 Pinole Valley High School Access Compliance Sitework Project Award of Contract
- G.19 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report
- G.20 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Appointments

**Public Comment:**

Marcus Mitchell, Local One representative, introduced himself as a new appointee to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, saying he looks forward to working with the committee.

- G.21 2008-2009 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part I
- G.22 School Improvement Fund (SIF) Grant
- G.23 Board Meeting Dates January to June 2009

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Consent Calendar, Items G.1 – G.23. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Ramsey and President Pfeifer voted yes, with Ms. Miles absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None

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

Ms. Kronenberg presented a plaque received from the El Cerrito City Council when El Cerrito High students, participating in the Ivy League Connection, were recognized at a recent meeting. She announced that students were currently at programs on the East Coast and that she and Mr. Ramsey will travel with students to Brown University later this week.

Mr. Brown encouraged people to become involved in the parcel tax campaign.

Mr. Ramsey shared information about the blog page for the Ivy League Connection. He further recognized Ms. Gail Mendes, outgoing UTR president, and thanked her for her service and contributions to the district.

President Pfeifer announced the Summer School graduation schedule for July 24, 2008 at Pinole Valley High School. She said that this is often a very meaningful ceremony for students who have completed high school requirements, dressed in the cap and gown from their home school. She congratulated all the students and families of this graduating class.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – July 30, 2008

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Pfeifer adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM in memory of Esther Spriggs.

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

BH:dh

*MK*  
Approved