

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

**November 19, 2008**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

Clerk Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. Clerk Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:33 PM.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Clerk Kronenberg led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

Clerk Kronenberg offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Dave Brown, Madeline Kronenberg, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey

**Board Members Elect Present:** Antonio Medrano, Tony Thurmond

**Board Members Absent:** President Karen Pfeifer

**Staff Present:** Alejandro Alonso, Interpreter; Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Adrienne Blalock, Director of Bond Facilities; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Paul Ehara, Director of Communications; Randy Enos, Principal Gompers Continuation High School; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Interim Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Assistant; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer.

Clerk Kronenberg recognized Mr. Ramsey who apologized to the Board for disrespectful behavior at the Board Study Session on November 12, 2008.

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Stephanie Canillo, Gompers Continuation High School**

Ms. Canillo spoke about the experience and perception of students at Gompers. She discussed recent activities and upcoming events and expressed appreciation for the opportunities provided to students at Gompers.

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel seven (7) students and suspend those expulsions for placement in the Community Day School and district programs.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel seven (7) students and suspend those expulsions for placement in the Community Day School and district programs. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, and Mr. Ramsey voted yes, with President Pfeifer absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Superintendent Harter asked that the Board ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Nia Rashidchi to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, a role which she has held as interim for the past several months.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Nia Rashidchi to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, and Mr. Ramsey voted yes, with President Pfeifer absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: Ms. Miles moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and Student Representative Canillo (advisory vote only) voted yes, with President Pfeifer absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**B.7 Minutes: November 5, 2008**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the minutes of November 5, 2008. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and Student Representative Canillo (advisory vote only) voted yes, with President Pfeifer absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

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

**C.1 Resolution No. 46-0809: Honoring Dave Brown for Four Years of Service on the Board of Education**

Clerk Kronenberg read Resolution 46-0809 into the record in honor of departing Board Member Dave Brown, and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said it was an honor to recognize Mr. Brown for his contributions. He specifically noted Mr. Brown's work as a liaison to Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, his dedication to passing Measure J, the search for Superintendent, and his work around the exit exam. He congratulated Mr. Brown for his contribution toward passing Measure D.

Ms. Miles recognized Mr. Brown for his passion for the children and specifically noted his work around safety at schools and encouraging students to pass CAHSEE. She said Mr. Brown was an advocate for children and parents and thanked him for the support he gave to her as a new Board member.

Ms. Kronenberg said that being on the Board is a "tough gig" that takes intellectual capacity and enormous heart, and that Mr. Brown has both. She thanked Mr. Brown for his service and wished him great success.

Mr. Brown expressed appreciation for the comments and thanked the voters and community members for the opportunity to serve the district. He said the district is home to him, that his connection with the district goes back 41 years, and he will continue to help whenever he can.

**C.2 Resolution No. 47-0809: Honoring Karen Pfeifer for Four Years of Service on the Board of Education**

Clerk Kronenberg read Resolution 47-0809 into the record in honor of departing Board President Karen Pfeifer. A plaque in recognition of her service was presented.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about President Pfeifer's dedication and service to the children in the district, her support of teachers and staff, and the development of school based health plans and the district safety plan. He thanked her for her passion, advocacy and overall dedication and sacrifice.

Ms. Miles recognized President Pfeifer's work on the Academic Subcommittee and her tireless effort to improve academics last year at all secondary schools. She thanked President Pfeifer for her service and for initiating the health centers.

Mr. Brown said President Pfeifer did tremendous work and that he believes her legacy in the areas of health and safety will live on for quite some time.

Ms. Kronenberg said President Pfeifer did her job as a Board member incredibly well and that she had a long list of accomplishments. She said Ms. Pfeifer will be remembered as a major contributor who played a big role in the district's progress.

**C.3 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Report**

Sue Pricco, Chairperson, announced the next CBOC meeting – December 3 at El Cerrito High School. She invited the public to participate in the meeting and the tour of the rebuilt high school which begins at 5:00 PM.

**C.4 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

Superintendent Harter acknowledged the contributions of members of our school community who have passed away and shared in a moment of silence.

**D. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**D.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report of events in district schools.

**D.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

**Public Comment:**

Ty'Renee Bovian and Lonnea Wilcox, representing Richmond High Black Student Union, said they came to introduce the organization and express their interest in working collaboratively with the School Board. They spoke in support of Richmond, Kennedy and Pinole Valley High Schools staying open.

Antonio Medrano, speaking as a community resident, announced the East Bay Career Advancement Academy, a one semester basic skills program in reading, writing and math for adults ages 18 – 30 given at Contra Costa College.

Robert Brower proposed that in addition to considering school sites for closure the Board the district should consider all parcels it owns and, for example, mentioned a parcel which he described as Hilltop Park.

Ken Lindgren, Kennedy teacher and School Site Council Chair, voiced his concern about closing Kennedy in light of the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) money currently allocated to the school, and because of the opportunity that exists to turn the school around academically and socially.

Crisanta Villalobos, representing parents at Coronado, spoke in favor of keeping the school open and the importance of safety in the criteria. She noted that many parents walk their children to school who would rather home school them before walking to another school.

Adrienne Kimball spoke in favor of keeping Lake School open which she said was a true "community school." She asked the Board to open the school closure process to community members and parents and consider enrollment, safety and the relationship of overcrowding and school conditions to increased violence.

Pastor Hector Hernandez, parent at Lake School, spoke against closing Lake Elementary.

Harry Campbell spoke against closing Kennedy High School which has improved in areas of safety, enrollment and test scores. He proposed closing Richmond High School and sending the students to El Cerrito High School.

Jennifer Hansen, Kennedy teacher, spoke about the ongoing promise of funding for Kennedy facilities and the need for equity in the district to help the students at Kennedy succeed.

Catherine Floresca, Kennedy teacher, spoke about the need for equity when using academic criteria for school closures and cautioned the Board to compare test scores among similar subgroups.

Audra Williams, Coronado parent, asked the Board to consider safety (which she said is related to attendance) and academic performance when considering school closures, not whether a school is to receive funding for facilities. She added that Coronado is a successful partner with the community.

Sharron Dennis, Coronado teacher, spoke about the importance of academic success as criteria for school closures and said that Coronado is a model for achievement for students of color.

Patricia Poncé, spoke against closing Lake Elementary. She spoke against using test scores as criteria at schools where a large portion of students are bilingual and talked about the many parents who walk their children to school.

Nina Turner, DeAnza High School student, read a letter from Karen Mason, a current substitute at De Anza and spoke about the lack of a permanent teacher in her algebra class and her concern about graduating.

Marc Tafolla Young, attorney for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, spoke about the Williams v. California complaint process and the need for permanent teachers. He praised Ms. Turner for demonstrating leadership and spoke on her behalf.

Diane Brown, DeJean teacher, spoke against using "one size fits all" criteria that would systematically dismantle services and classes and deprive students in special education.

Cecilia Sotelo, Coronado parent, spoke in favor of saving Coronado because of the schools the high attendance, good culture, special programs, after school programs and high test scores. She favors adding a 6<sup>th</sup> grade or making the school K-8.

Ralston Soong, Kennedy teacher, expressed concerns about transportation and the opportunities, such as the IT and Construction and Architecture academies, that would be lost if Kennedy were closed.

Simms Thompson, Richmond resident, spoke about the challenges faced by students raised by their grandparents and said no school should be closed and suggested opening a trade school.

Wendy Gonzalez, Ford teacher, spoke against any school closure.

Mark Moran asked the board to first consider geographical equity, which he said was more important for district students many of whom walk to school, and to consider the financial benefit of any outside funding source, community support, the professional community and the two academies at Kennedy.

**E. ACTION ITEMS**

**E.1 Call for Nominations for California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly**

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the two incumbent representatives in Region 7-A, the obligations of delegates and the need for increased representation from urban districts. He recognized Mr. Medrano who indicated that he would be interested in being a member of the Delegate Assembly.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey nominated Antonio Medrano for the CSBA Delegate Assembly. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and Student Representative Canillo (advisory vote only) voted yes, with President Pfeifer absent and no abstentions. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**F. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

**G. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Consent Items**

- G.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- G.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- G.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- G.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**
- G.5 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)**
- G.6 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower spoke about ongoing construction issues at Riverside Elementary and repeated requests to obtain information on this project. He expressed concern that the district has been drawn into a 'money pit' using Measure J dollars.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Savidge for information.  
Mr. Savidge provided an update on the status of the project.

**G.7 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**Public Comment:**

Robert Brower commented on the backup material and requested a font size that is easier to read. He inquired about two change orders and asked that in the future changes 10% or higher include an explanation.

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Miles asked Mr. Savidge to comment.

Mr. Savidge discussed reformatting the backup. He explained that the increase in the two change orders referenced by Mr. Brower were due to vandalism of items in storage.

Mr. Ramsey commented on putting certain change orders in perspective and noted, for example, one such change order where the percentage increase was high but the dollar amount was only \$1,600.

Ms. Miles asked for clarification regarding insurance.

Mr. Savidge discussed the relevant insurance policy deductible.

**G.8 Emergency Repair Program (ERP) – Pinole Valley High School – Exterior Lighting Contract**

**G.9 Emergency Repair Program (ERP) – Pinole Valley High School – Communication System Replacement Contract**

Ms. Gamba read a revision to this item into the record as follows (*changes in italics*):

**Background information:** The State Allocation Board has approved the Communication System Replacement at Pinole Valley High School under the Emergency Repair Program application. The scope of work is: furnish and install materials and equipment required to provide a new operational IP Clock, Intercom and Public Address system. The work will include new wiring and conduit. Specifications have been prepared by the Seville Group (SGI).

*The District conducted a public bid for this project. Bids were received on November 18, 2008. Two Contractors submitted bids. The two responsive bids were as follows: ERA Construction \$275,000; A&E Emaar \$245,000. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder is A&E Emaar at \$245,000.*

**Recommendation:** Award contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder

**Fiscal Impact:** \$245,000.00. Emergency Repair Program Funds

**G.10 Approval of WCCUSD Dell Technology Refresh Lease/Purchase Plan Agreement**

**G.11 Ratification of Contract with Pearson for PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS)**

**G.12 Special Education (SPED) SIS & Services, Public Contract code 20118, Mt. Diablo RFP 1454**

**G.13 Local Hiring and Local Business Participation Goals in Measure J Projects**

**Public Comment:**

Rhonda Harris, President of Contractor Alliance of Richmond, asked for additional information including percentages of local contractors and hires on construction projects within Richmond and the criteria used to make decisions and set policy.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about establishing a board policy to hire local vendors for direct professional services such as legal, purchasing supplies and goods and insurance, areas which are not bound by the complexities of the public contracting code.

Ms. Miles agreed that the report should show the information that Ms. Harris requested.

Mr. Ramsey agreed and suggested that Lance Jackson provide updated information.

**G.14 Board Approval of Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs) November 2008 – November 2009**

**G.15 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Fall Sports**

**MOTION:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Consent Items. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Brown, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and Student Representative Canillo (advisory vote only) voted yes, with President Pfeifer 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. Canillo spoke about the difficulties the Gompers students have sharing their facility with Leadership and County Day schools. She also spoke about student success at Gompers and the need to treat students fairly and respectfully.

Mr. Ramsey congratulated and thanked President Pfeifer and Mr. Brown for their service. He provided a brief update on the Ivy League program and reminded all high school principals to provide new applicant names for the upcoming year. He wished everyone a good Thanksgiving.

Ms. Miles wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked that we reach out to the community to support families in need.

Mr. Brown thanked Board Members, Dr. Harter, Cabinet, staff, teachers and students and said it was an honor to serve everyone.

Ms. Kronenberg said she was struck by the passion and eloquence of many of tonight's speakers who spoke about being grateful for and connected to their schools. She said in light of the difficult decisions ahead we need to consider the "culture of getting along" as one speaker phrased it, and we have to have find a way to adapt to and live within the shrinking set of numbers for the upcoming year.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School -- December 10, 2008

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Clerk Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM.

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

BH:pr

<p><b>AAM</b> Approved 12-10-08</p>
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