

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Board of Education
Governance Retreat
1108 Bissell Avenue, Room 228
Richmond, CA 94801**

January 24, 2009

I. Call to Order

President Audrey Miles called meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Present: Audrey Miles, Antonio Medrano, Madeline Kronenberg, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond, Superintendent Bruce Harter

II. Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items

Robert Brower shared concerns that he had about the way the meeting had been posted.

Charles Cowens suggested that the Board move meetings to different locations and not always hold Board meetings at Lovonya DeJean Middle School. He made other suggestions for the way that Board meetings are conducted, including ideas for informing the public about the difficulty in televising the meetings and agenda distribution.

III. California School Boards Association Facilitated Discussion on Governance Issues

Superintendent Harter announced that California School Boards Association representative, Kirk Berger, had a medical emergency and would not be facilitating the Board retreat on governance today. With the concurrence of the other Board members, President Miles decided that the Board could discuss some of the items that would have been included in the governance retreat:

A. High school assignment preferences

High School Assignments

El Cerrito High School – Madeline Kronenberg
Hercules High School – Charles Ramsey
Kennedy High School – Audrey Miles
Pinole Valley High School – Charles Ramsey
Richmond High School – Antonio Medrano
DeAnza High School – Tony Thurmond
Middle College – Antonio Medrano
Adult Education – Madeline Kronenberg
Gompers-North Campus – Tony Thurmond
Vista High – Audrey Miles

B. Additions to the committee assignments

Committee Assignment Additions

Special Education CAC – Tony Thurmond
Community Budget Advisory Committee – Audrey Miles

C. Liaisons to the five city councils

Liaison to Five City Councils

El Cerrito – Audrey Miles
Hercules – Madeline Kronenberg
Pinole – Charles Ramsey
Richmond – Tony Thurmond
San Pablo – Antonio Medrano

D. The order of the Board agenda

Agenda

1. Act on the Consent Items after approval of the minutes. When Board members ‘pull’ items, the Board will act on them after public comments and before the section for “Action.”

2. Add a subsection under the Awards, Recognitions and Report that would always go last in that section for “Standing Reports,” with the following introductory statement “Two minutes may be allowed when there is something to report for each subcommittee or group listed below”

Academic Subcommittee

Facilities Subcommittee

Safety Committee

Ivy League Connection

Citizen Bond Oversight Committee

Bayside Parent Teacher Association

Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

Citizens Budget Advisory Committee

United Teachers of Richmond

Public Employees Local 1

School Supervisors Association

West Contra Costa Administrators Association

The Board further discussed norms for how the Board would interact with each other and with the public.

Notes from the meeting include reference to:

Norms

Norms are agreements for how we work together

Talker or Listener – paraphrase

Tone

Issue Clarity

Relationship of Committee to Board as whole

Speak when recognized by President

Everyone has a turn to speak on the topic

All use best judgment about how long to talk

Minimize sidebars

Be respectful

Never take it personally

Verbal

Non-verbal

For both people and ideas

Back track

Clarify

Summarize

Listen Actively

Disagree without being disagreeable

Be prepared and come informed, ready and with background needed

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

BH:dh

AAM

Approved 2-4-09