

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

April 6, 2009

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. CALL TO ORDER

President Audrey Miles called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Miles called the Public Session to order at 7:10 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Welcome and Meeting Procedures

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Pat Calvert, Director Certificated Personnel; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Director Accounting/Audits; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Supervisor; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Assistant; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement.

C. K-3 Class Size Reduction Program (CSR)

Superintendent Harter spoke of the many factors that have led the district to its current budget crisis. He indicated there are still unknowns around the federal stabilization funds and possible additional cuts from state. He said that this item is brought to the Board with a sense of great sadness and remorse because the bottom line is that budget cuts hurt district students. He said the district is forced to take this action because of the position the state legislature and the national and international economies have placed us.

Ms. Gamba commented that this item was brought back by the Board for further information. She explained that K-3 class size reduction flexibility is one of two key pieces designed by the state legislature to assist school districts during this economic crisis. She said the dire economic circumstances bring this recommendation before the board and therefore she is recommending the maximum in terms of the \$4 million.

Ms. Rashidchi responded to the Board's request for information brought up at the last meeting, providing a one page summary of the class size research. She explained that the state's priority is around first and second grade with kindergarten or third grade next. She spoke about the current program in progress to build up the preschool to kindergarten transition, with increased family involvement and a rigorous professional development plan for those teachers who will be most impacted.

Public Comment: Tammy Campbell, Sara Russell, Pixie Hayward Schickele, Julie Maier, Al Kirkman, Lily Chang Wong, Rachel McLachlan, Susan Billings, Tova Halpern, Jim Rogers, Debbie Cruger-Hansen, Jean Carico, Sarah Creeley, Connie Caldwell-Granger, Eric Swabeck, Thomas Prather, Charles Cowens, Gladys Dodds, Chris Allen, Patti Shannon, Michelle Mula.

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about the difficulty going back on promises made during the Measure D campaign regarding class size reduction.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about her visits to K- 3 classes throughout the district and said that California is profoundly under-funding our education system as compared to other states. She said if the Board did not meet the district's budget shortfall, the board would be dismantled.

Mr. Thurmond said he favored all employees taking a cut in salary.
President Miles said she has empathy and understanding of the problems having additional students in the classroom, but that the Board has no other choice.
Ms. Kronenberg inquired about looking to bargaining members and whether there was time to implement a conversation around making global cuts.
Superintendent Harter said that staff is in negotiation with all bargaining units and would look to proposals that would help the district out.
Mr. Medrano asked whether the idea of furloughs has been discussed with bargaining units across the board.
Superintendent Harter responded that further discussion is recommended for Closed Session.
Mr. Ramsey spoke about the need to avoid insolvency and possibly being put deeper into a bind by not knowing where other money may be coming from. He said he is recommending Option Four, not as an end point but one which gives staff the opportunity to back fill or come back with ideas and suggestions.
President Miles asked Ms. Romeo for a point of order regarding the vote.
Ms. Romeo said that there would be a motion to either adopt this item as recommended or some other option.
Mr. Medrano spoke in favor of adopting Option Two. He spoke about the time spent campaigning for Measure D, and remaining loyal to promises made to the community.
Mr. Ramsey spoke about the future impact of decisions made today. He said the district needs to find 26.5 million dollars and restated that taking Option Four would keep the conversation open for the other options.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of implementing Class Size Reduction using Option Two. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Kronenberg and Mr. Medrano voted yes, and Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted no. Motion failed 2-3-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Option 4. President Miles seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voted yes, and Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and Mr. Thurmond voted no. Motion failed 2-3-0-0.

Mr. Ramsey said he could not support any other motion and asked those who voted no to find an alternative source of funding.

President Miles asked Ms. Rashidchi to explain Option Three. Ms. Rashidchi spoke of the research which indicated the greatest impact of reduced class size was made in Kindergarten and First grade.

Mr. Ramsey said he did not see a real difference between Option Three or Option Four.

Mr. Ramsey moved to reconsider Option 4 in light of the new comments from staff not available at the time of the vote.

Ms. Romeo agreed with Mr. Ramsey that additional information had been provided, and said a motion would stand on better legal grounds if someone who voted 'no' on Option Four would move to reopen it.

Mr. Medrano asked to restate the additional information regarding Option Three.

Ms. Rashidchi explained the research that said focusing on Kindergarten and first grade would have the most academic impact. She clarified the difference between Options Three and Four.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Option Three. Motion failed for lack of a second.

D. Resolution No 78-0809: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees

Ms. Romeo asked the board to adopt this resolution to eliminate classified positions due to lack of funding and/or lack of work. She explained that the layoffs were in primarily four categories related to: school closures the board previously took action on; categorically funded positions which ties into Tiered III flexibility; some general fund reductions; and collapsing of classes related to special education.

Ms. Romeo provided a revised précis with changes as follows (*changes in italics*):

Fiscal Impact:

\$463,300 Related to school closure (included in savings already projected)

\$155,300 Food Service Fund

~~\$162,300~~ 216,800 Tier III Flexibility (included in transfer)

~~\$214,300~~ 159,800 Adult Education Fund/Tier III Flexibility (included in transfer)

~~\$206,576~~ 282,500 General Fund & Maintenance

~~\$205,400~~ 258,680 Special Education – reduces contribution needed from General Fund

Grand Total \$1,536,380

Additionally, Ms. Romeo provided the following revised Attachment A and pointed out the changes related to each section.

Revised Attachment "A"

School Closure Positions	FTE	Estimated Savings
Attendance Clerk	1	\$ 48,000
Custodial Supervisor/Jr. High	1	\$ 63,000
Information Literacy Asst.	1	\$ 52,000
Office Manager/Middle School	1	\$ 59,000
School Secretary I	2	\$ 101,000
Secondary Site Supervisor	.53	\$ 21,000
Student Supervisor	1	\$ 47,300
Typist Clerk I	.54	\$ 30,000
Typist Clerk II Bilingual	1	\$ 42,000
Total		\$463,300.00
	9.07	These savings are included in the net school closure estimates.
Food Service Workers		
Cafeteria Cook/Manager	1	\$ 44,800
School Lunch Cashier	.47	\$ 11,900
School Lunch Worker I	2.28	\$ 61,900
Food Service Aide/Clerk	.84	\$ 22,800
Food Service Aide	.40	\$ 13,900
		\$155,300.00
	4.99	Savings are in the Food Service Fund
Tier III Reduction		
<i>Administrative Office Manager</i>	1	\$ 54,500
School Community Outreach	4	\$162,300
		\$216,800
	5	Savings are in Tier III Flex Transfer
Adult Ed. Program (Tier III)		
Attendance Clerk	1	\$ 41,600
Typist Clerk I Bilingual	1	\$ 39,400
Typist Clerk II	2	\$ 78,800
		\$159,800.00
	4	Savings are in Tier III Flex Transfer
Budget Reduction		
Receptionist	1	\$ 52,600
Sr. Administrative Asst.	1	\$ 76,000
Typist Clerk III	.50	\$ 19,700
Electrical Supervisor	1	\$ 69,200
Asst. Supervisor Veh. Garage	1	\$ 65,000
		\$282,500.00
	4.5	Savings to General Fund
Special Education		
<i>Employment Sp. Ed. Specialists (workability)</i>	1.20	\$ 53,280
Instructional Aide	.40	\$ 9,300
Instructional Assistant SpEd	4.40	\$103,200
Special Education Asst.	2.66	\$ 92,900
		\$258,680.00
	8.66	Savings in Special Education
Grand Total	36.22	\$1,536,380

Public Comment: Dwaine Baker, Pat Thomas, Sylvia McClafin, Michael Wasilchin, David Frazier, Richard Leung, Eric Swabeck, Tyrone Weems, Charles Rachliss, Charles Cowens, Eduardo Martinez.

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano and Ms. Romeo discussed the inability to present this information to Local One prior to tonight’s meeting. Ms. Romeo indicated the next scheduled meeting with Local One is April 9.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the need to make consistent decisions and inquired about returning to Closed Session.

Mr. Thurmond said that given the financial situation, voluntary salary cuts and furloughs are the best way to preserve jobs.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about having different options in the last item vote. She said she believed the Board members were consistent in their votes and that the problem in this case is there are no choices. She said she is concerned the Board did not come to a resolution of the other matter and this is going to create options that are not positive. She will vote to approve for that reason.

President Miles asked Ms. Gamba to state what the Board’s obligation is and where the district is with the budget.

Ms. Gamba clarified stating that staff is requesting the Board to take action on layoffs so that the Human Resources department can set in place items for which the Board has already made decisions, for instance through previous action to enact school closures and Tier III programs. The exception being the budget reduction of central services staff members that are specified under the budget reduction section.

Ms. Miles asked for further clarification and Ms. Gamba responded.

Ms. Romeo clarified we would be negotiating impact on all of the layoffs and provided additional clarification on the proposed layoffs.

Mr. Medrano asked about giving Local One a chance to sit down and discuss this.

Mr. Romeo responded.

Mr. Medrano moved to postpone the vote until after Ms. Romeo and Local One meet on April 9.

Mr. Ramsey commented on the request for staff to meet with Local One prior to tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Medrano said that now we have a more complete package that includes the financial data, and if no changes result from meeting with Local One, the Board will vote on it after April 9th.

Mr. Ramsey asked for a roll call vote.

Ms. Kronenberg asked if there was any consequence of tabling the item.

Ms. Romeo said that if the Board took action by April 22 she could probably meet procedural requirements.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to postpone this item until after staff discussion with Local One on April 9, and if there is no other agreement then go ahead with it. Mr. Thurmond seconded the motion. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and Mr. Thurmond voted yes, and Mr. Ramsey voted no, with President Miles abstaining. Motion carried 3-2-1-0.

President Miles announced that the Board would proceed to Closed Session and that there would be no report out for closed session.

E. ADJOURNMENT

President Miles adjourned the public meeting at 9:06 PM. The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

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

BH:pr

<u>AAM</u> Approved 4-22-09
