

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

October 7, 2009

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Audrey Miles called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Miles called the Public Session to order at 6:50 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

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

B.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Alejandra Alonso, Interpreter; Doris Avalos, Executive Director; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Harlan Kerr, Principal/Coordinator of Educational Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, Engineering Officer

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Matthew Arciniega, El Cerrito High School

Mr. Arciniega spoke about activities and opportunities for students at El Cerrito High School.

Mr. Ramsey recalled Mr. Arciniega's experience during the past summer program at Yale University, commending him for a Yale Ivy Scholars recognition.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to accept a settlement agreement on a student matter.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify vote taken in Closed Session to accept a settlement agreement on a student matter. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-1.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment: None

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda with the tabling of F. 4 and moving F.1 to follow the Consent Items. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arciniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: September 16, 2009

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2009. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arciniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Contracted Services**
- C.2 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.3 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.4 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- C.6 Community Budget Advisory committee Member ratification**
- C.7 Certificated Personnel Changes**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Ratification and approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Award of Contract for District Data Warehouse System and Services**
- C.11 DeAnza High School Baseball Field Renovation Project Award of Contract**
- C.12 Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act: Adopt Resolution No. 20-0910 Authorizing Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for and Approval of the Hercules Middle School Fields Lighting Project**
- C.13 Red Ribbon Board Resolution No. 31-0910**

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.13. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arciniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Appointment of Youth Commission Members

Mr. Greer introduced students who have been working together with Board Member Thurmond since the summer to develop a commission to represent students in the District. The co-founding students introduced themselves and spoke about the mission of the commission, planning activities over the summer, and a vision for the future.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey said he supported the commission, offered congratulations and said this is an opportunity for students to be a voice for fellow students and have a positive impact on campuses. He said he would like to see student representatives from each of the high schools throughout the district.

Mr. Medrano offered congratulation and said he is looking forward to their good work.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about the frequency of meetings and whether there is a sense about the type of work the commission will pursue. Matthew Arciniega responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked about student initiative campaigns and the type of work the group might seek. Valerie Jameson responded with thoughts about opportunities to help fellow students become more knowledgeable about preparation for college and opportunities for access to higher education, as well as a variety of activities to develop better-rounded students. Mr. Thurmond asked what the Board or District leadership could do to be of assistance to the commission. Jennifer Chong responded by saying that support, resources, and sharing knowledge would be helpful for their success.

Ms. Miles spoke about the students' dedication to taking up this challenge and encouraged each one to solicit other students to become a part of the Youth Commission.

Mr. Medrano invited all the students to apply for Ed Fund Scholarships.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged the Board for their forward thinking in supporting this endeavor, and acknowledged Youth Together, the RYSE Center, and Mr. Wendell Greer for their support.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Appointment of Youth Commission Members. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arciniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

Community Budget Advisory Committee - Charles Cowens spoke about Board ratification of the committee member's terms of office. He encouraged members of the public to contact him if interested in serving on the committee. He reported that at a future Board meeting the committee would bring language for a potential parcel tax, and he detailed topics for discussion at the upcoming October 22 meeting.

Public Employees Union, Local One – Richard Leung spoke about the item on the agenda regarding capping of Board Member benefits as setting an example to Local One members.

Academic Subcommittee – Nia Rashidchi spoke about the last meeting and the discussion of the college application process, as well as AYP and API data and overall growth.

Safety Committee – Mr. Thurmond reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 28 at Crespi Middle School and agenda items will include discussion of the District cell phone and electronic device policy. Mr. Ramsey said a good cross section of administrators attended the last meeting.

Ivy League Connection – Mr. Ramsey reported on the recent Yale University essay-writing workshop, and Dartmouth College and Princeton University information nights. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about meeting with admissions directors to develop best practices for the District to share with counselors. Mr. Arciniega reported that he found the Yale essay workshop very insightful.

D.2 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Dr. Harter recognized contributions of members of the community who have passed away,

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Harter provided a report of events in District schools.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Christina Slamon, Charles Cowens, Jay Dowd

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Appointment of Youth Commission Members

This item was moved to follow the Consent Items.

F.2 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Revised 2009-10 Budget

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation of information regarding the revised 2009-10 budget.

President Miles opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comment: None

President Miles closed the Public Hearing

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about revenue lost from truancy issues students. Ms. Gamba and Mr. Greer responded with information about the support from local cities, as well as better engagement in classrooms, and school site staff and procedures to contact parents of truant students. Mr. Thurmond asked about outreach efforts to get students back in school.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about a 1994 article regarding efforts to reach students and the ongoing challenge of reaching out to the community. Ms. Gamba spoke about attendance accounting requirements and similarities between elementary and secondary schools. Further discussion ensued regarding attendance numbers for schools.

Ms. Kronenberg asked questions about QEIA. Superintendent Harter responded with information about the bill on the Governor's desk and potential veto of this legislation.

Mr. Medrano spoke about attendance problems at Richmond High School several years ago and community members' efforts to contact families to offer assistance.

President Miles addressed the issues of community outreach, parent communication, and academic performance.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Adoption of the Revised 2009-10 Budget. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arcieniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.3 Public Hearing: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2009-2010
President Miles opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comment:

Elham Marder, Meridith Miller

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked about the needs regarding textbooks for students. Ms. Rashidchi provided information and said the official resolution declaring sufficiency will be brought to the Board for approval on October 21. She spoke about the process of inventories based on projected enrollments, actual inventory and ordered inventory. She also addressed multiple surveys to all teachers, changes to master schedules, and bigger class sizes. She said she projects 100% sufficiency by next week. Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification on the return of the resolution. Ms. Rashidchi responded.

Mr. Medrano asked about the textbooks from closed schools. Ms. Rashidchi responded.

President Miles closed the Public Hearing.

F.4 Adoption of Resolution No. 32-0910: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal year 2009-2010

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

F.5 Benefit Cap for Board Members

Ms. Romeo provided information about health and welfare benefits for Board Members to the same extent as one of the employee groups and the recommendation to approve a benefit cap equal to that of the four employee groups in the district.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked questions for clarification. Ms. Romeo responded.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Benefit Cap for Board Members. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Matthew Arcieniega (advisory vote only), and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Bill Savidge provided a report on various facilities projects throughout the District.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Arciniega acknowledged Mr. Thurmond's support of the Youth Commission and thanked Ms. Kronenberg and Mr. Ramsey for their involvement with the Ivy League Connection.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about upcoming SATs, as well as the PSAT given district wide for 9, 10 and 11th graders and student performance.

Mr. Medrano announced a City of Richmond meeting for improvement of the Iron Triangle area around Peres Elementary School. He read from a recent newspaper editorial supporting the need for local funding and parcel tax funds for school districts.

Ms. Miles wished the best of luck to students taking the PSAT. She said that educators major concern is the education of students and making sure students are prepared for academic readiness.

MS. Kronenberg spoke about the upcoming Pinole Valley High School college fair planned for October 17, from 10:00 – 3:00. She said that many colleges will be represented and workshops will be available. She also announced the Ed Fund dinner on Sunday, October 11 at Hotel Mac.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged Student Representative Matthew Arciniega and his leadership. He encouraged Matthew and students of the Youth Commission to continue sharing ideas with the Board. He concluded by announcing a film entitled *Providence Effect*, showing in Bay Area theaters beginning October 16.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – October 21, 2009

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Miles adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

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

BH:dh