

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Joint Board of Education
And City Council / Other Elected Officials /
City Manager / Police Chief Meeting
Lovonya DeJean Middle School
3400 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805**

November 14, 2009

1. Opening and Welcoming Procedures

President Miles called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

President Miles offered welcome and instructions regarding the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Elected Officials/City Managers/Police Chiefs Present:

State Senator Loni Hancock; District Director Terri Waller; State Assemblymember Nancy Skinner; District Director Jael Myrick; Barb Johnson, Congressional District Representative for George Miller; County Supervisor John Gioia; City of Hercules Representatives Don Kuehne, Joe Eddy McDonald, Nelson Oliva, Kris Valstad; City of Pinole Representatives Tim Banuelos, Paul Clancy, Belinda Espinosa, Debbie Long; City of Richmond Representatives Tom Butt, Bill Lindsay, Ludmyrna Lopez, Chris Magnus, Jeff Ritterman, Maria Viramontes; City of San Pablo Representatives Genoveva Calloway, Arturo Cruz, Leonard McNeil, Walt Schul, Cecilia Valdez

Staff Present:

Doris Avalos, Executive Director; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Louie Jackson, Head Custodian; Harlan Kerr, Vista High Principal/Coordinator Educational Services; Rosa Luera, Secretary for Maintenance and Operations; Elmer Meredith, Electronics Technician; Lyn Potter, Coordinator State and Federal Programs; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

2. Youth Safety: Overview of the challenges and strategies in each jurisdiction

Hercules Mayor Joe Eddy McDonald spoke about the daytime student curfew instituted in Hercules. He also spoke about ongoing programs at the Teen Youth Center and Community Center, which boast a strong and active participation. He spoke about Recreation and Parks Department activities for youth and families, including classes and sports leagues.

Pinole Police Chief Paul Clancy said the City of Pinole has always been a big supporter of the District financially with staffing, funding the football field, construction projects, and a School Resource Officer at the high school, as well as directing resources as a priority for the community. He spoke about four pillars that he felt must be met – physical safety, physical environment, administration of teachers' commitment to codes of conduct, and a strong parent/community commitment.

Richmond Police Chief Chris Magnus addressed key areas that the police department is engaged in, for example, special events protocol, environmental design issues, safety and security at all schools, and roles of School Resource Officers. He said that he is most proud of a series of discussions taking place at the RYSE Youth Center regarding involvement of young people and parents in the community.

County Supervisor John Gioia spoke about site specific issues as well as larger issues of violence occurring in the community. He spoke about efforts already under way as well as the work of various county departments including the Probation Department, the Health Department, and the Sheriff's Department.

State Senator Loni Hancock spoke about the urban community bringing cities and the school district together. She stated that the recent violent crime must be a transformative moment for our community and that the components for addressing violence are currently in the community, including community violence solutions, health clinic services, the RYSE Center, grants, endowment, youth involvement, and discussion groups from various high schools.

San Pablo Mayor Leonard McNeil spoke of an alternative perspective, to involve stakeholders in a framework for public safety. He urged being careful to be proactive and strategic in point of view rather than looking at youth as needing to be “fixed.” He continued by saying that adults are to be responsible policy makers to provide support systems. He said that public safety is a community issue and the entire community needs to take responsibility to develop strategies around prevention, intervention and suppression.

Superintendent Harter spoke of the challenges faced by the increasing need in a climate of sharply decreasing resources. The district’s mission is preparation of students for post secondary education, and in working with the whole child, community support is necessary. He said that as county and state services are reduced, students come to us more and more needy. The district faces fundamental challenges in terms of safety conditions, strategies to involve community police in schools, a hard line against drugs and violence in schools, emergency plans, and comprehensive safety plans.

State Assemblymember Nancy Skinner spoke of Richmond as a strong community. She said that the recent violent crime at Richmond High is not characteristic of Richmond. She continued to say that this is a strong, resilient community. She said she is committed to working with the community toward solutions.

3. Enhancing Collaboration: Small group discussions of five key areas for additional collaboration – violence prevention, gang intervention, community / neighborhood watch, facilities improvements, and character development.

President Miles asked those in attendance to break into groups for collaboration and strategy discussions.

Report out from group discussions

A representative provided feedback from each group’s discussion.

Violence Prevention – This group discussed the RYSE Center, and strategy driven by young people with the foundation by adults. Ideas were discussed for sharing strategies, mapping, tools, and venues, as well as use of digital technology for communication with young people. Further discussion included the broad and deep range of indicators of crime, school attendance, the experience of young people and communicating a culture of peace.

Gang Intervention – This group discussed developing training opportunities for community stakeholders, coordination with school personnel, and SRO cross training. Also discussed was the establishment of comprehensive identification capabilities, and collaboration with area resources for financial stability around gang intervention and prevention. Strategies to expand services, identify key stakeholders, intervention groups and policymakers were discussed. The measuring of success will be seen in communities with reduction in altercations and alternatives for youth.

Neighborhood Watch – This group discussed more volunteers in schools and neighborhood watch groups. They would recommend the district mount a campaign to seek volunteers, and cities provide lists of resources available to neighborhood watch groups to encourage patrolling neighborhoods, blight infractions, curfew enforcement and crime prevention. The group further recommended that the district and cities work together to promote the building of neighborhood watch groups.

Facilities Improvement – This group discussed proactively addressing school facilities planning, contingency planning for school closures, accepting agency offers to perform evaluations of sites from safety and security standpoints. Further discussion included looking at funding sources including collaborating with cities for redevelopment funds, parcel taxes, bond measures, and California endowments.

Character Development - This group discussed expanding the term character development to incorporate youth empowerment. This group addressed a consistent community curriculum giving voice to youth empowerment regarding a safe environment, a district wide pledge created to instill a culture of expectation.

They also discussed student-adult partnerships, building on the concept to involve students. They also suggested using current resources, community organizations, and those currently working on solutions to address community issues.

President Miles summarized in saying “I do want to thank all who came today to share their most precious resource... your time. We’re going to compile the key ideas and recommendations from today’s meeting. The policy level ones will be forwarded on to our mayors to consider at their monthly meeting and on to our state and federal officials to consider as appropriate. The staff level ideas and recommendations will go to the city managers and superintendent who also get together each month. Finally the law enforcement ideas and recommendation will go to our police chiefs and the commander from the County Sherriff’s – for implementation as appropriate.”

5. Public Comment: Tammy Campbell, Corkey Boozé, Otheree Christian, Rogér Fahr, Tony Thurmond

6. Adjournment

President Miles concluded by saying that a core of communication and collaboration is important for community, faith organizations, and service groups working together. She thanked the elected officials and community members who participated.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 12/9/09</p>
--