

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

March 3, 2010

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:37 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Kronenberg offered welcome.

B.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Andre Bell, Senior Director Bond Finance; Patricia Calvert, Director Certificated Employees; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Lisa Erwin, Sr. Director Fiscal; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Employees; 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; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Laura Hart, North Campus Continuation High School

Ms. Hart spoke about activities at North Campus High School, an alternative four-year high school.

Motion: Mr. Thurmond made a motion to amend the agenda to allow the Youth Commission report to take place at this portion of the meeting. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Ramsey voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

Ms. Rebecca Phuong provided a report from a recent Youth Commission meeting where a discussion took place on how youth can contribute to improvement of the District. At the next meeting, March 8, the commission will invite Food Service representatives to speak about vending machines and school lunches. There are plans to make t-shirts and sweat shirts to identify the members, work with the Grant elementary literacy program, and the Stand Up for Schools rallies.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel eight (8) students and suspend those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the expulsion of eight (8) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained due to absence from Closed Session, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the following administrative appointments for 2009-2010:

Karen Krohn, Ellerhorst Elementary Principal
David Ranch, Highland Elementary Principal

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the administrative appointments for 2009-2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained due to absence from Closed Session, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the Reassignment of Administrators for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Reassignment of Administrators for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained due to absence from Closed Session, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the Release of Temporary Certificated Employees for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the Temporary Release of Certificated Employees for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained due to absence from Closed Session, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve a settlement agreement in the case of a student.

Motion: Ms. Miles moved approval of the settlement agreement in the case of a student. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond abstained due to absence from Closed Session, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda with moving item F.1 2010 Bond Program Schools and item F.2 Resolution No. 76-0910: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith to follow the Consent Items. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: February 10, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Donations

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Contracted Services

C.4 Notice of Completions: Bid E068180 Coronado Doors & Hardware Replacement, J068110 Ford Demolition & Site Work, W068186 Fairmont Portable Classroom Utility Installation

C.5 Notification of Claims Rejected

C.6 Approval of School Calendar for 2010-2011

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.9 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.11 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.12 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointments: Niccore Tyler and Peter Murray and Change of Status to Fulfill Proposition 39 Requirements

C.13 Richmond High School Surveillance Cameras Change Order

- C.14 Deteriorated Modular Classroom Buildings Disposal**
- C.15 Rejection of Government Code Claim from West Coast Contractors related to construction of Pinole Middle School New Gym and Classroom Building**
- C.16 Resolution No. 75-0910: California Adult Education Week – March 8-12, 2010**
- C.17 Approval of Board Member to Attend Conference**
- C.18 2010 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballot**

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Consent Items C.7 Routine Personnel Changes – Certificated and C.8 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.6, C.9-C.18. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter reported that Items F.1 and F.2 will be combined for staff presentation and public comment with the Board acting on each item separately.

- F.1 2010 Bond Program Schools**
- F.2 Resolution No. 76-0910: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith**
Mr. Savidge presented information for both item F. 1 and F. 2 regarding the bond program with project priorities, planning for the future, and the proposed bond program project list.

Public Comment:

Linda Cohen, Marie Chamberlain, Christina Thomas, Galen Murphy, Jennette Gay, Judy Greenspan, Ronna Minor, Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the school project list and the possibility of including Kennedy in the project planning. Mr. Savidge responded that at this time, adequate budgets have not been identified for a complete demolition and reconstruction at Kennedy High as with other high school campuses.

Mr. Ramsey said that savings are being found as current construction projects come in under cost and with state matching funds, so there is potential for further development.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of 2010 Bond Program Schools. Mr. Medrano seconded.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about savings as funds come available to add Kennedy High School to the list of Bond Program Schools should the City of Richmond come forward with funds to keep the school open beyond 2010-2011 and asked for a statement of intention that as funds become available that Kennedy would be considered for more than renovations.

Mr. Ramsey said he is happy with the list, increasing funds for Richmond High School, and seeing that each city and community has a stake in the measure. He said he is proud there was no opposition to the project spoken at the meeting.

Mr. Medrano said he applauds the decision of the Board to go forward with the bond measure. He urged the public to be the voices of change in speaking to neighbors and friends.

Ms. Miles spoke about the key message of equity and the importance of commitment to stand fast to the schools listed.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the importance of education and jobs, and that this project combines both in our community.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey amended the motion to augment the budgeted funds for Kennedy in the event that additional funds are derived for the facility. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 76-0910: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Authorizing Necessary Actions

in Connection Therewith. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Laura Hart (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Ms. Hart left the meeting

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Richmond Association of School administrators (RASA) Award Winners

Mr. Collins and Ms. Dottie Holland, President of RASA, recognized this year's award recipient for ACSA Region IV and regional competition. The award winners were individually acknowledged.

D.2 Standing Reports

Marcus Mitchell, Public Employees Union Local One, cautioned the District to be sure that all new facilities can be maintained at a level of expectation for the safety of students and staff, particularly in the time of economic distress and cutting staff. He urged taking necessary means to maintain the investments in which the community can continue to be proud.

Robert Studdiford, Bond Oversight Committee, reported on the February 24 meeting with the seating of new member Tim Banuelos from the City of Pinole and approval of minutes of recent meetings. He said the committee will continue the review of the 2008 Annual Report for approval at the March 24 meeting.

Charles Cowens, Community Budget Advisory Committee, said at the recent meeting new members were welcomed. Discussion about the selection of chairperson and vice chairperson took place. QEIA funding, finalization of collective bargaining agreements, commendations for staff regarding the recent audit report and certification of parcel tax funds were also discussed. Mr. Cowens announced an upcoming EdSource consortium March 19.

Mr. Thurmond, Youth Commission, said that the commission has been reinvigorated and strengthened with twelve student members and spirited conversation around student views of food issues. The next meeting will be March 8 at the RYSE Center in Richmond.

Mr. Thurmond, Safety Committee, reported on a presentation from the County Office of Emergency Services which will result in the donation of defibrillators, and additional first aid and safety training for staff. The committee also addressed the restoration of the district's advisory committee. The next meeting will be announced once some logistical matters are resolved.

Mr. Medrano, Safety Committee, spoke of a generator at one of the high schools recently failing due to lack of maintenance. He said he felt it important to maintain back-up systems for community preparedness in light of the recent earthquakes and destruction around the world.

Ms. Rashidchi, Academic Subcommittee, spoke about the recent meeting where Washington Elementary parents and staff reported on the dual language immersion program, and the Director of Academic Intervention spoke about the response to intervention pilot at eleven schools. The next meeting will be held on March 30 at Vista Hills.

Mr. Ramsey, Ivy League Connection, said students are anxious to receive acceptance letters to universities. He announced that dates are set for alumni dinners with Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Brown and Columbia. Ms. Kronenberg announced the student blog, ivyleagueconnection.blogspot.com for the public to view comments from the 2010 students.

Ms. Kronenberg said she was impressed with the academic subcommittee meeting discussion about intervention. She has also been speaking with her Hayward colleagues about it. She said that response to intervention is a positive way to change the school climate and resulting academic achievement. Ms. Miles spoke of program resources to support children to provide needed service and professional development, collaboration time.

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

Milton Williams, Mary Zolly, Christina Slamon, Elizabeth Hirshfeld, Ivon Mejia, Merari Villaseñor, Ilse Mendez, Anyssa Hall, Inder Kaur, Charlotte McIntire, Mike Ali, Charles Cowens, Chatchai Phanphanit, Mayta Cardona, Edgar Alvarado, Leticia Ochoa

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 2010 Bond Program Schools

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

F.2 Resolution No. 76-0910: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

F.3 Second Interim Report, 2009-10 / Financial Update

Ms. Gamba provided information for the Second Interim financial report for the 2009-2010 school year and included the latest information regarding the State budget.

Public Comment:

Ken Ryan, Gayle Louie, Vivienne Luke, Maria Alegria, Kristen Pursley, Judi Jung, Pat Miles, Solomon Belette, Flor Casteo, Margarita Esqueda, Karen Lang, Charles Cowens, Maria Perez, John Marquez

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked about core programs for Adult Education. Ms. Gamba pointed out that the item before the Board is certifying the Second Interim Report as of January 31, 2010 and also reported that Adult Education staff along with Educational Services staff are working to develop the program budget to bring information to the Board at a future meeting. She spoke about some proposals to consider increased adult education class size, continuing to offer federally funded programs, and looking at other programs that could be fee supported.

Mr. Thurmond asked for an explanation of what consists of the core program.

Ms. Miles asked for clarification of a point of order about the item before the Board, approval of Second Interim Report.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the report built on assumptions and budget reductions in order to maintain a financial position and offered an alternate perspective to ask questions.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the absence of career technical education from the list of core programs.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about public comment regarding reductions to Omega and Kappa. Ms. Gamba pointed out multi-year projections in the report and specific details regarding the projected deficit and potential solutions.

Decisions regarding program reductions of Tier III, deferred maintenance, adult education, and K-3 class size reduction will be brought to a future meeting.

Mr. Thurmond continued with questions about Average Daily Attendance revenue and the potential impact in federal dollars in truancy prevention. Ms. Gamba responded.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Second Interim Report, 2009-10. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Thurmond voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

F.4 Resolution No. 74-0910: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Service

Ms. Romeo spoke about the need for the District to adopt a budget with the proposed reductions including certificated layoff notification by the March 15 deadline. She spoke about proposed reductions at both the elementary and secondary levels as well as teachers working outside the classroom.

Public Comment:

Pixie Hayward Schickele, Charles Cowens

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about the obligation to balance the budget.

Ms. Miles said that she realized that lay-off notices are very painful and historically many are rescinded before the school year begins, but based on legal requirement the notices must go out.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the process and that school districts have to acknowledge the impact throughout the state and the resulting negative impact.

Ms. Romeo clarified that the District will not wait until June, July or August to bring back teachers. On a weekly basis, vacancies due to retirements or resignations are reviewed in order to rescind layoffs and fill vacancies.

Ms. Kronenberg said she received a pink slip from the Hayward school district and knows what teachers are feeling. She said that the Board must be the custodian of the District.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 74-0910: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Service. Ms. Miles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, and President Kronenberg voting yes, Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Thurmond voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

F.5 K-3 Class Size Reduction Program (CSR)

Superintendent Harter spoke of further fiscal decline for the coming school year with a modified recommendation to set a class size limit of 28 students for the staffing of schools and continued use of parcel tax dollars to maintain some use of class size reduction.

Public Comment:

Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Carolyn Danielson, Robert Studdiford, Pixie Hayward Schickele

Board Comment:

Ms. Miles spoke about teaching essential skills to students under class size reduction and the struggle this will be for first and second graders.

Mr. Ramsey spoke of creating confusion with the previous item of Reduction of Particular Kinds of Service with class size reduction K-3. He urged an opportunity for the Board to meet in a budget workshop to review and discuss options.

Ms. Gamba recalled discussion from a previous meeting regarding the use of parcel tax dollars to fund for one grade at 24 or 28 and offered comparison with other districts in the Bay Area.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the parcel tax funding and public awareness that class sizes will be raised and the impact of that perception.

Mr. Ramsey spoke in agreement with Mr. Thurmond.

Ms. Romeo clarified that it would not out of order to approve a class size reduction in particular kinds of service and then approve additional class size reductions for the second step.

Ms. Kronenberg said she agreed with Mr. Thurmond in regard to the public perception that the budget is a no win disaster.

Following discussion, K-3 Class Size Reduction Program (CSR) failed due to a lack of a motion; therefore, no action was taken on this item.

F.6 Annual Performance Audit of District Bond Program

Mr. Fay introduced Mr. Tahir Ahad of Total School Solutions, who spoke about program highlights, compliance, and needs for additional revenue to complete construction projects.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Annual Performance Audit of District Bond Program. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, and President Kronenberg 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:

Mr. Thurmond asked about completion of the DeAnza baseball fields. Mr. Savidge responded that delays due to weather have moved back a completion date.

Mr. Medrano asked about expediting the demolition of the Gompers facility. Mr. Savidge responded with information about establishing a budget and fee proposals.

Ms. Miles asked about the Helms anticipated opening. Mr. Savidge responded that the move in will take place over the summer break, ready for school opening in August.

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about Coronado and the fire budget. Mr. Savidge spoke about a review of the project, demolition of the fire damaged structure, and fund application to the budget for renovations.

Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about the Pinole Valley High master site team. Mr. Savidge responded.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey spoke of his daughter's excitement to participate on the El Cerrito High swim team as well as Ivy League Connection students come to an upcoming Board meeting.

Mr. Medrano announced a Chevron supported resource fair.

Mr. Thurmond announced a Kennedy High parent outreach event on March 20 as well as a career day planned for March 31, 2010.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the difficult time in California for education and the Stand Up for School events planned for March 4, 2010. She provided information for the Californians for Democracy initiative and another initiative for schools endorsed by PTA regarding Improved School Funding.

Mr. Medrano closed the meeting in memory of Marlene Aguirre, a Richmond High senior tragically killed recently.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 24, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk Medrano adjourned the meeting at 10:14 PM.

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

BH:dh

AAM Approved 3/24/10
