

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

June 22, 2010

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:32 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 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: Andre Bell, Executive Director Business/Bond; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Susan Dunlap, Coordinator EL Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; 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 Secretary; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel two (2) students and suspend those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the expulsion of two (2) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Ms. Miles and Mr. Thurmond abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the appointment of seven administrative positions:

Location	Position	Appointee
Stege	Principal	Eddie Scruggs-Smith
Nystrom	Instructional Specialist	Elaine Brady
Pinole Valley High	Instructional Specialist	Paul Shatswell
DeAnza	Assistant Principal	Phil Johnson
Grant	Elementary Principal	Garry Galvan
Lake	Instructional Specialist	Vera Rowsey
DeAnza	Instructional Specialist	Jessica Smith-Keenan

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the appointment of administrators. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond abstaining 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 student settlement agreement.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve a student settlement agreement. Mr. Thurmond 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Miles 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.

B.7 Minutes: June 2, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2010. 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.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Procurement Contracts for the School Year 2010-11

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.5 Disposal of Obsolete and Damaged District Personal Property for the School Year 2010-11

C.6 Contracted Services

C.7 Notification of Claims Rejected

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.8 Notification of Claims Approval and Settlement Payments

C.9 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.10 Resolution No. 94-0910 In Support of Robles-Wong v. California Challenging the State's School Finance System

C.11 Agreements for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency Services

C.12 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.13 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.14 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

C.15 High School ELD Textbook Adoption

C.16 Approval of Board Member to Attend Conference

C.17 Change in Board Meeting Dates

C.18 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.19 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.20 Nystrom Elementary Multi-Purpose Building Project Award of Contract

C.21 Stege Elementary School Emergency Repair Program Repairs Contract Award

This item was tabled to a later meeting.

C.22 Grant Elementary School Emergency Repair Program Repairs Contract Award

C.23 Gompers High School Demolition Building Project Award of Contract

C.24 Kennedy High School Fence and Gates Project Award of Contract

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Consent Items C.1-C.3, C.5 – C.6, C.8 – C.20 and C. 22 - C.24. Ms. Miles 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.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Charles Cowens announced that the last meeting of the school year will be held on Thursday June 24, at Alvarado. At this meeting discussion will include the May revise of the Governor's budget, alternative tax sources beyond parcel taxes and review of the current parcel tax as part of oversight implementation. The committee will vote on a new chairperson and placements to the committee to be forwarded for Board approval.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey reported that the last meeting's discussion was about standards to the facility fields projects, the demolition of the Gompers site and sensitivity to the nearby community, impending bond sales, and the ability to look at issues around leaking roofs and restrooms at new schools.

Ivy League. Mr. Ramsey announced that the first Brown session students are on campus. Their chaperone, Ms. Yolanda Bulls, has been meeting with other college admissions counselors for their insight about the need for more writing instruction for students. Mr. Ramsey said that he will travel with the Cornell group of students on Wednesday and that Ms. Kronenberg leaves with the Columbia group later this week. Student feedback is available on the blog site, ivyleagueconnection.blogspot.com.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond said that no meeting is scheduled at this time.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond announced that the next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 6:00 PM at RYSE Center in Richmond. Students interested in applying for positions on the commission should contact Mr. Wendell Greer's office for applications.

C.4 Procurement Contracts for the School Year 2010-11

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke about local participation contractors, and value in contracting with the community. Ms. Gamba responded with information about procurement contracts and utilizing contracts bid through other agencies, as well as joining procurement efforts to seek best pricing for the school district. She explained that it does not always mean that local agencies are unable to participate but about seeking the best price by partnering with other groups. President Kronenberg asked about an overlay of the District's priority around local procurement. Ms. Gamba responded that the District does look to local vendors for requests for procurement and bidding. Mr. Ramsey spoke about decisions that have impact on this community's ability to improve and be viable. Mr. Thurmond said he understood the attempt to use local businesses when possible, and spoke about opportunity to reinforce economic needs of the community yet not tie the hands of the purchasing department to make acquisitions as necessary. He asked Dr. Harter about how to look at expenditures. Dr. Harter said he would need to have staff look into this as it has always been the intent to seek lowest prices in order to stretch dollars while looking for ways to seek competitiveness from local businesses. Mr. Thurmond followed up to ask whether staff would bring a report to a future board meeting and Dr. Harter responded that he would check with staff and schedule with the President and Clerk.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Procurement Contracts for the School Year 2010-11. Mr. Thurmond 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.

C.7 Notification of Claims Rejected

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Notification of Claims Rejected. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, Mr. Thurmond voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter reported on the District graduation ceremonies and Transition program ceremonies that took place over the last few weeks.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Al Kirkman, Mary Flanagan, Elham Marder

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Ratification of Ground Lease Agreement Between the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the City of San Pablo Regarding the Proposed Community Center at Helms Middle School

Mr. Fay provided information about the City of San Pablo's interest in locating a community center at the Helms Middle School campus. This ground lease will make it possible for the City to obtain grants and then seek designs similar to the new school site. The contract has a provision that if the City is unable to obtain funding within a specific time period, the land will return to the District for inclusion in field projects for the school.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Ratification of the Ground Lease Agreement Between the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the City of San Pablo Regarding the Proposed Community Center at Helms Middle School. 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.

F.2 Resolution No. 95-0910: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2010-11

Ms. Gamba provided information saying that the purpose of this item is to hold a public hearing regarding the levying of taxes for MRAD (Maintenance and Recreational Assessment District). MRAD funds are used to support grounds and custodial staff, as well as replacement of play structures.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

None

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 95-0910: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2010-11. 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.

F.3 Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2010-11 Budget / Public Hearing for Tier III Programs

Ms. Gamba provided information regarding the Governor's May budget revision. She applauded the Board for its fiscal responsibility during these tough economic times as many districts are struggling with financial decisions. Ms. Gamba detailed major issues with multi-year projections.

President Kronenberg opened a public hearing for the 2010 Budget and Tier III Program flexibility.

Public Comment:

Kristen Pursley, Ramkumar Lama, Cayetano Luna

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke about looking at listed capital projects in the recently passed bond measure and the possibility of shifting deferred maintenance funds for capital projects to subsequent years. Ms. Gamba responded that the Board had taken action for state allowed flexibility for fund balance transfers for 2008-2009 in the time allotment by the state legislature. Any funds from the state will now be unrestricted funds and have been considered in this budget.

Mr. Ramsey recommended keeping this in mind for 2013-14 and what the legislature might permit at that time. He said it is great that the District is able to keep summer school and adult education programs as other districts have eliminated these programs.

Mr. Medrano asked questions about planning for the disposition of closed properties. Ms. Gamba responded with information from the school closure plan adopted by the Board and looking at the properties as revenue generating properties as well as the value of the real estate. She explained that any funds received as proceeds from these properties must go to paying off the state debt which would free up funds for other areas to maintain staff.

Mr. Ramsey asked about other districts and sale of surplus property, and said he felt that selling property would be short sighted.

Ms. Gamba responded about previous direction from the Board regarding the best use of property, saying she would like to see information brought forth about revenue generation, and reducing liability and maintenance.

Mr. Thurmond asked about property available for lease or sale, particularly the El Sobrante Elementary site.

Mr. Fay responded that a real estate consultant will provide a report for the best use for the property and will come back with specific recommendations for each property. He said a preliminary report is expected this week and reports on individual sites will be brought to the Board.

Mr. Thurmond asked about revenue ideas with MediCal reimbursement and the potential of increasing revenue by expanding services or partnering with a federally qualified clinic. Ms. Gamba responded that the District does participate in the MediCal reimbursement program and could provide a report with specific information. Mr. Collins responded that currently the District partners with the County and receives reimbursement at their rate. Mr. Collins provided further information and said funds are being used for hiring additional nurses, health aides, and support in health areas.

Mr. Thurmond asked about Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and the potential of increasing attendance resulting in additional revenue to the District. Ms. Gamba responded with information about tendencies in student behavior, truancy and the definition of excused absences. Mr. Thurmond asked about strategies for changing student behavior resulting in more students in the classrooms. Mr. Greer responded that attendance has increased over the last 4 years, particularly at secondary levels. He said attendance is taken very seriously and providing services at the school site means fewer excuses for students to be absent. Mr. Thurmond asked whether the District would bring forward a strategy to achieve additional revenue.

Superintendent Harter responded that this would also require additional staffing costs meaning the Board would need to look at cost cuts elsewhere.

Ms. Miles discussed creating a budget deficit in order to implement an outreach strategy as well as the state's continual decrease of funds released for student per capita.

Ms. Gamba said that as a declining enrollment district, and revenue for the upcoming year has already been set which means that any additional ADA revenue would not be available to the District until the year after.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether this is something the District is interested in pursuing.

Superintendent Harter said it would be helpful to learn where other districts have made most improvement in their attendance and what they have done that might be successful here and bring a report to the Board.

President Kronenberg said she thought the District is going in the right direction with the budget and additional resources are necessary to close holes.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Adoption of the 2010-11 Budget. 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.

F.4 Resolution No. 96-0910: Temporary Borrowing Between Funds

Ms. Gamba provided information from the California Education Code that allows temporary borrowing between funds due to deferrals in funds from the state. She reported the possible need to borrow prior to the end of September because of the potential of deferrals being shifted out an additional thirty days.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 96-0910: Temporary Borrowing Between Funds. Ms. Miles 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.

F.5 Community Survey on Revenue Enhancement Measures

Superintendent Harter spoke about enhancing operating resources with a parcel tax similar to the District's successful parcel tax and its 2008 renewal. The State's economic condition has resulted in the District's fund shortfall in what should be funded. The proposed survey would ask voters to determine their feelings about local education funding. This item is a recommendation for a survey to measure if voters are inclined for a parcel tax in November and what voters would authorize to be included.

Public Comment:

Charles Cowens, Martin Snider

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke about obtaining a robust sampling to identify how communities feel about issues and that historically polling results in this community have been very accurate in weighing voter response. He urged Board members to give input to the Superintendent about ballot measure wording, for example, summer school, adult education and public safety. He asked about how the tax threshold report might be constructed. Dr. Harter responded that the public is more likely to support square footage than a flat tax, saving the homeowner dollars.

Ms. Miles spoke about the failed parcel tax measure and public concerns. She said she thinks the community is asking for class size reduction and campus security. Ms. Gamba provided information about the funds provided by the current parcel tax for class size reduction and previous state funding. Ms. Miles said the public is indicating adult education and K-3 class size reduction, safety and libraries are items of interest.

Mr. Thurmond said as a citizen he is prepared to go forward with a parcel tax, but has questions about the scope of the proposal. He asked what would be different about this survey than what was learned from past surveys.

Mr. Ramsey responded about asking the public's opinion about alternative issues of interest, such as adult education, police services, public safety, and that he thinks spending \$30,000 to general potentially \$10 million is worth the expenditure.

Mr. Medrano said he would like to know the primary concerns of the communities.

President Kronenberg said she thinks this is very important because the Board is not talking only with parents and student groups but to actual voters who may have a different set of priorities. She would like to know what the community wants the Board to do.

Ms. Miles said the public realizes no funds will be forthcoming from the state and saving schools has to be done on a local level.

Mr. Ramsey said that one thing different in the community is the new bond measure recently passed, resulting in five bond measures approved by local voters in this community.

Mr. Thurmond said that while he has concerns, he does support the parcel tax. He asked questions about the amount of potential funds being talked about.

Mr. Ramsey responded that it could be anywhere from \$7 million to \$12 million. He said he would also like to address the duration for a permanent parcel tax.

Mr. Thurmond said the permanent structure makes sense and asked what the likely barriers might be. He also asked Board members what they would do if the survey results are negative. Board members responded, articulating their level of support.

Discussion continued about the topics for polling voters.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Community Survey on Revenue Enhancement Measures. Ms. Miles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voting yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

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

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the Honor Roll barbecue's success and thanked staff for coordinating and putting the event together for families in the community. He said he attended Pinole Valley and Hercules High graduations which were enthusiastic and exciting events. He said the District has the responsibility and duty to maintain schools, and thanked all voters and community members for their support of Measure D, which will make this the first District in the country to complete a reconstruction program.

Mr. Medrano said he attended the barbecue and would like to see an academic parade next year. He attended Juneteenth events in Richmond. He also attended the reclassification ceremony for 900 students at the Richmond auditorium. He thanked voters for the passage of Measure D.

Ms. Miles thanked teachers for their dedication at the end of the year. She recognized several community partners, at King Elementary where students read over 20-30 books each. She concluded by talking about the responsibility of educating students.

Mr. Thurmond congratulated this year's graduates, and spoke of a great sense of promise felt at the Honor Roll barbecue. He asked the Board to acknowledge those who contributed and staff who handled all the picnic details. He concluded by thanking the citizens for Measure D's passage.

Ms. Miles added that donations are still being accepted to defer costs of the picnic and are very much appreciated.

President Kronenberg thanked everyone who participated in the graduation events, the honor roll event, and voters for Measure D passage. She spoke hopefully in anticipation of a potential parcel tax measure.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – July 7, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 7-7-2010</p>
