

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

September 1, 2010

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:34 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 to the public regarding the meeting.

B.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond (arrived at 7:24 p.m.)

Staff Present: Pamela Blake, Director Adult Education; Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Sherry Bell, Educational Services Coordinator; Roxanne Brown-Garcia, Principal Kennedy High School; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Rosa Cornejo, Confidential Secretary; Martin Coyne, Director; Cliff Dorton, Electronics Technician; Lisa Erwin Director, Executive Director Business Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; 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; David Johnston, Director of General Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinlagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Brian Orr, Middle College High School.

Mr. Orr spoke about his experiences and participation at Middle College.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint the following administrator for the 2010-2011 school year:

Armando Torres, Interim Instructional Specialist, Helms Middle School

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the ratification to appoint an administrator for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions, and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

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

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the ratification of a student settlement agreement. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions, and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Brian Orr (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: August 18, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Brian Orr (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Contracted Services

C.5 Notification of Claims Approval and Settlement Payments

C.6 Notification of Claim Approval and Settlement Payment

C.7 Certificated Personnel Changes

C.8 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Wayne Ellis representing Contra Costa County, Supervisor John Gioia

C.9 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.11 Richmond High School Fence and Gates Project Change Order Approval

C.12 Ohlone Elementary School Temporary Roofing Repairs Contract Award Ratification

C.13 Approval of Construction Management Services for additional project and Design Phase Management Component of Program Management Services

C.14 Resolution No. 19-1011: In Appreciation of the Cities of Richmond and San Pablo

C.15 Approval for Board Travel

C.16 Resolution No. 18-1011: Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2010 – October 15, 2010

Ms. Rashidchi presented an amendment to the resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C16. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Brian Orr (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey motioned to reopen the agenda and move Section E before Section D to accommodate members of the public in attendance. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Brian Orr (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

This section was moved to follow Business Items / Consent Items

E.1 Request to Address the Board – Campaign Contribution Limits

Mr. Anton Jungherr spoke about campaign contributions for Board candidates, expressing his concerns about the unlimited contributions. He urged the Board to consider contribution limits and proposed a limit of \$2500.00 per individual contribution.

Public Comment:

Charles Cowens

Board Comments:

President Kronenberg thanked Mr. Jungherr for his presentation and for bringing this topic to the Board's attention. Mr. Medrano said he would like to discuss this topic at the Board's next retreat.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter reported on the opening of school and shared information on a partnership between Chevron and Donors Choose. He welcomed all the new teachers in the District and reminded the public what the passage of Measure M will provide for students in the District.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Ken Lindgren, Don Gosney

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

United Teachers of Richmond. President Diane Brown recognized teachers and introduced UTR's new Executive Board:

Mel Collins, State Council Representative
Robert Ellis, Treasurer
Lucy Giusto, State Council Representative
Amanda Henderson, Vice President
Christine Nordstrom, Area 3 Director
Thomas Prather, Area 2 Director
Michael Rossi, Area 1 Director
Holly Ruff, Elementary Director
Karen VanWinkle, Secretary
Greg Wahling, Senior High Director
Pallop Wilairat, Jr. High/Middle School Director

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford gave an update of the recent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meeting.

Facilities Sub Committee. Mr. Medrano gave an update from the last meeting where discussion included the lighting at Helms Middle School, a recommendation of turf for the Helms field projects, as well as a recommendation of new hiring and local capacity building program.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey announced that Dartmouth would host a Bay Area information session at El Cerrito High in October. He also mentioned that the University of Chicago and North Western University will host information sessions in the District.

Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported on the last meeting where financial reports were reviewed. She said that the next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2010.

D.2 Report on the Teach for American History (TAH) Grant Award by the Department of Education

Ms. Bell shared information about the American History Grant that has been awarded to the District. Ms. Bell introduced Natalie Wojinski, teacher at Hercules High School, who will coordinate the program. Ms. Wojinski provided information on how the funds will be used and program implementation. She expressed excitement for the program and how enriching this will be for the teachers as well as the students.

Public Comment:

No comments

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked whether Native American cultural studies would be included in the program. Ms. Wojinski responded affirmatively.
President Kronenberg thanked Ms. Wojinski and asked she provide periodic reports.

Meeting adjourned for a brief recess at 7:36 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

D.3 Expulsion Process

Ms. Blake gave a presentation on the District's Expulsion Process.

Public Comment:

No Comments

Board Comment:

Ms. Miles commended Ms. Blake for her work with students and noted a decrease with expulsion rates within the last three years.

Mr. Medrano thanked Ms. Blake for the information provided.

Mr. Ramsey also thanked Ms. Blake.

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification about the term “recommendation for expulsion”. Ms. Blake offered clarification.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the percentage of appeals of expulsions. Ms. Blake responded that since she has been handling expulsion hearings there has only had one appeal. Mr. Thurmond asked about panel selection and training and Ms. Blake provided clarification. Ms. Blake also shared information about how a student would re-enter a District school.

Ms. Miles commented about peer counseling services provided.

President Kronenberg asked whether the policy differs from district to district. Ms. Blake explained that the policies are the same in any district.

Mr. Thurmond asked about a student expelled from an alternative school. Ms. Blake responded that the student would be referred to Independent Study or to the County Day program.

President Kronenberg thanked Ms. Blake for all the information she provided.

D.4 Budget Update for 2010-11

Ms. Gamba provided an update on the budget.

Public Comment:

No comments

Board Comment:

President Kronenberg commented on how the budget brings everyone to silence.

D.5 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent 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.)

This section was moved to follow Business Items / Consent Items

F. ACTION ITEMS

None

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Status Reports – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Savidge provided a review of the District’s facilities planning and construction projects.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter about the City of Richmond and easement issues with the Nystrom Project.

Mr. Ramsey thanked everyone for the transformation of the King Elementary campus.

Mr. Medrano commented on a conversation he had with a resident of the King area. Mr. Medrano also mentioned the work that has been completed at Richmond High School and expressed concern about gates not being locked properly.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Thurmond thanked everyone for all their work on the State Improvement Grant.

Mr. Medrano announced a fundraiser for the YMCA.

President Kronenberg reminded everyone to attend the Richmond City Council Meeting on September 7.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 15, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

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

BH:rc

<p><u>AAM</u> Approved 9-15-10</p>
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