

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

September 15, 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 6:33 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

Staff Present: Andre Bell, Executive Director Bonds/Capital Projects; Katie Brady, Principal Lupine Elementary; Linda Cohen, Principal Coronado Elementary; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Cheryl Cotton, Principal Madera Elementary; Martin Coyne, Director; Susan Dunlap, Coordinator Ed Services; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bob Evans, DeAnza Principal; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Marco Gonzales, Principal Downer Elementary; Sylvia Greenwood, Principal DeJean Middle School; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Josh Herrera, Electronics Technician; David Johnston, Director of General Services; Susana Lowery, Principal Grant Elementary; Rosemary Mauldin, Principal Verde Elementary; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; David Ranch, Principal Highland Elementary; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Judith Sanders, Principal Kensington Elementary; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; April Scott, Principal Valley View Elementary; Anne Shin, Principal Collins Elementary; Hattie Smith, Principal Middle College; Denise VanHook, Principal Portola Middle School; Denise Weis, Principal Tara Hills Elementary

B.4 Presentation of Megan Robb, Student Representative from DeAnza High School.

Ms. Robb provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel six (6) students, suspending those expulsions for placement in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the expulsions and suspension for placement of six (6) students. Mr. Medrano 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 for approval of an ACLU settlement agreement.

Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session for approval of an ACLU settlement agreement. Ms. Miles seconded. Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Mr. Medrano abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to release four temporary teachers.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session for the release of four temporary teachers. Mr. Ramsey 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Megan Robb (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: September 1, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval the Minutes of September 1, 2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Megan Robb (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 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Summary of Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Notification of Claim Rejected

C.6 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.7 Notices of completion: Bid E068185 Crespi Kitchen Flooring Demolition & Replacement

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.9 Certificated Personnel Changes

C.10 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

C.11 Right of Entry Agreement with the West County Wastewater District for Construction Access and Work at Seaview Site

C.12 Richmond High School Security Cameras Project Change Order Approval

Public Comment:

Charles T. Smith

C.13 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.14 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.15 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Linda Ruiz-Lozito to represent the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association

C.16 Resolution No. 23-1011: Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 19

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

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Mexican Independence Day 2010

Mr. Medrano provided information about the history of Mexico's fight for independence from Spain two hundred years ago as well as the Mexican revolution from dictatorship hundred years ago, and the importance of September 15th as Mexican Independence Day.

Ms. Dunlap spoke on behalf of the Multi-lingual District Advisory Committee and thanked the Board for passing the resolution last meeting recognizing Spanish Heritage month. In the spirit of the contributions of the Latino community, Ms. Dunlap introduced students from Coronado Elementary and Richmond High School who performed traditional dances.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members thanked the students, their teachers and parents, for sharing this cultural celebration with the public.

D.2 National Education Association's (NEA) Priority Schools Campaign

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Dr. Sheila Simmons of the National Education Association, who shared information about one of its initiatives called Priority Schools and work to transform the nation's persistently low performing, priority schools into great schools for all students. This collaborative effort is supported by the United Teacher of Richmond, California Teachers Association and NEA.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members thanked Dr. Simmons for her presentation and also asked for further information about the campaign, including questions about tools to measure and evaluate sustainable changes, financial support for the six year campaign, and required commitment.

Dr. Simmons responded with information about external evaluators, length of time for changes to be implemented, and the need for collaboration from the community at large. She also spoke about working toward the district's sustainability and infrastructure so that those elements will be in place at the end of the six year campaign.

D.3 Standing Reports

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported that Yale University plans a college admission workshop at El Cerrito High School in October and will also present a workshop for counselors writing recommendations. Admissions officers from the University of Pennsylvania will be in the District later in September, as well as Vanderbilt University and Caltech in October. Ms. Robb reported on her visits to Ivy League campuses during her summer program at Brown University.

Local One. Mike Washilchin thanked the City of Richmond for its commitment of funds to maintain three Richmond schools. He spoke about misperceptions of how schools were placed on a closure list, and a good outcome to initiate discussion with city councils members and constituents. He said he is looked forward to the safety committee meetings and implementation of protocols establishing training and uniformity for site supervisors. He concluded by urging support of the Measure M parcel tax.

United Teachers of Richmond. President Diane Brown said that she was proud of NEA and Dr. Simmons for presenting information about the Priority Schools Campaign and that she is looking forward to working collaboratively for the benefit of the students. She further announced that the UTR representative council endorsed Measure M.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting planned for September 22, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1300 Potrero Ave., Richmond.

Linked Learning – Multiple Pathways. Mr. Medrano said the high school career academies attract many students helping them to stay in school. Mr. Medrano said he hoped that the high schools will have banners displayed announcing each school's academy at Back to School Night. President Kronenberg said the District is a leader in the state in aiding students with pathways into college or careers.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced the upcoming meeting planned for September 22, 6:00 p.m. at DeAnza High School. The agenda will include goals and objectives regarding improved safety in the District.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting scheduled for September 27, 6:00 p.m. at the RYSE Center in Richmond. Applications are being accepted for commissioners. Their goals this year include organizing district wide activities and recruiting classroom volunteers.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting scheduled for September 30th at Alvarado School and invited interested individuals to participate. The committee will delve into the District's budget and complex documents.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting planned for September 28, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Helms Middle School.

**D.4 2010 Academic Performance Index Growth (API) Targets – Recognition of Schools
2010 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Recognition of Schools**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced schools that have achieved academic performance index or adequate yearly progress targets. Seventeen schools were honored and congratulated including: Collins, Downer, Grant, Highland, King, Lincoln, Lupine Hills, Tara Hills, Valley View, Verde, Washington, DeJean, Portola, DeAnza, Middle College, Madera, and Kensington.

Downer Principal, Marco Gonzales, spoke about the school's success and focus on standards, teacher collaboration, targeting areas of intervention, differentiated instruction and a concentration in the language arts. He commended the team effort of the thirty teachers and staff at the school.

Tara Hills Principal, Denise Weis, addressed the Board and spoke about the site's strategic targeting of struggling students with the help of a learning center intervention teacher, bilingual aides, additional teacher tutoring time and teacher collaboration. She commended the students and parents as well. She introduced teacher Geri Auten and SSC member and parent Victor Campos who were in the audience.

DeJean Principal, Sylvia Greenwood, said some of the biggest reasons for the school making significant gains were due to being fully staffed and teachers taking ownership of their teaching practices. Students were given more intense support from teachers on special assignment and graduate tutors. Teacher-student relations were a high priority resulting in a more trusting environment. History teacher Doug Marques spoke about the great teachers, the afterschool program and the in-school tutoring program, as well as a full complement of staff.

DeAnza Principal, Robert Evans, spoke about the work of staff and students at each campus in achieving their target scores. He introduced administrators Phil Johnson and Jessica Smith-Kennan. He said that commitment, collaboration and communication were keys to DeAnza's success. Ms. Paula Raj spoke about the strong instructional leadership team at the school. Ms. Athena Kraus spoke about school's goals for the WASC committee.

Public Comment:

Al Kirkman

Board Comment:

Board members commended the schools, the staff, parents and students for their focus and hard work.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

Ms. Robb left the meeting.

E.1 Request to Address the Board – Youth Leadership Forum and College Career Options

Ms. Miles introduced Ms. Carol Lee Tolbert and the work of Civic Pride. Ms. Tolbert spoke about the program Knowledge is Power, a youth leadership forum and college and career fair for students sixth grade through high school. She said the event is planned for October 9th, 8:30 – 2:00 p.m. at 10 Washington Square in Jack London Square, Oakland.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comments:

Board members thanked Ms. Tolbert for her work and mentorship. Questions were asked about the program. Ms. Tolbert provided further information and requested support from the District to co-sponsor the forum.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter reported activities in the District.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Mike Washilchin, John Irminger, Pallop Willairat, William Hamilton, Jennifer Dahme, Rocio Reyes, Laura Brodman Larsen, Brian Tippet, Robert Studdiford

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification about funding the QEIA funding that the Helms teachers spoke about under Public Comment. Mr. Ramsey reminded the Board about agenda items for discussion as directed by the Brown Act. Ms. Gamba gave an opinion about direction for providing a statement of fact or scheduling on a future agenda.

Ms. Gamba provided information about the QEIA funding for 2009-10 and state withholding of funds until late in the school year. She said that although funds have been allocated, the state has not yet passed a budget for this year and that funding for QEIA has not been appropriated. Ms. Rashidchi spoke about multiple meetings with Helms staff regarding QEIA targets and funding to meet all targets including API and waivers for class size reduction in secondary schools.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Adoption of a Mandatory Local Business Capacity Utilization Program for the District's Bond Construction Projects

Mr. Lance Jackson, SGI Program Manager, provided a presentation about recommendations from the Facilities Subcommittee, to adopt an enhanced local capacity building program and attracting workers who live either in or closest to the school district and enhancing the participation of small local business in district bond projects. He said this approach was used in the construction of Helms Middle School with success as a voluntary program. The adoption of the new local utilization program will assure a mandatory level of involvement on each construction job. Each job will be analyzed by staff for a customized level of participation and focus within the local geographic area, distinguishing between a local business and a small local business to assure more local engagement.

Public Comment:

Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about goal for percentages of local business participation, specifics if local hiring does not take place, as well as determination if compliance is not met. Mr. Jackson responded with clarification.

Ms. Miles asked about legal concerns of the issues. Mr. Jackson responded that counsel has reviewed the recommendation which was modeled with the small business administration's regulations in mind and similar to a program in Oakland.

Mr. Medrano spoke about the Facilities Subcommittee vetting the details with local labor, legal counsel, and business organizations.

Mr. Ramsey said he was comfortable with the legalities, implementation, and enforcement and monitoring.

Mr. Jake Sloan spoke in support of the local business capacity program.

Superintendent Harter said that contractor capacity recommendations per construction job will come through the Davallier Sloan organization for analysis, the Local Capacity Committee, and to Mr. Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations, before going out to bid.

President Kronenberg said that data provides an historical base, with the goal to improve hiring local businesses that will sell products for construction projects, benefiting the community as well as the program.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Adoption of a Mandatory Local Business Capacity Utilization Program for the District's Bond Construction Projects. 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 Approval of the 2009-2010 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation for the unaudited actuals financial report of the ending fund balance for 2009-2010.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the 2009-2010 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report. 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.

F.3 Resolution No. 20-1011: Adoption of Gann Limit, 2010-2011

Ms. Gamba provided information about the required resolution that accompanies the unaudited actuals report.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 20-1011: Adoption of Gann Limit, 2010-2011. 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

None

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ramsey thanked the Richmond City Council for its benevolence to commit funds to support Kennedy, Grant and Olinda schools. He further commented about the demolition of the old Helms building under contract. He concluded by saying that he received a request to agendaize an item about adding a sixth grade class at Madera elementary for action at a future meeting.

Mr. Medrano spoke about attending the West County Business Development Center where he reported on schools in San Pablo as well as the local capacity building program. He further said that he attended a meeting of the North Richmond Young Adult Empowerment Center doing exciting work with students in the North Richmond area.

Ms. Miles spoke about clarification of the difference between bond monies and general fund monies. She encouraged individuals to come out in support of Measure M and help with campaign activities.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about budget cuts, reducing the structural deficit, and not using bond construction funds for general District operating costs.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the new Helms campus and how it has inspired staff and students to excel. He acknowledged the celebration of Mexican Independence Day as well other cultural traditions and holidays this month. He also offered thanks to the City of Richmond for their support and looked forward to a partnership meeting.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the City of Richmond setting a standard for cities across the nation and their appreciation of the children as citizens. She reminded the public about Back to School Night events in September and support for Measure M.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – October 6, 2010

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:31 PM.

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

BH:dh

<u>AAM</u> Approved 10-6-10
