

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

**October 20, 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 6:31 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:** Waheed Balogun, Director of Facilities and Construction, Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent 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; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Barbara Jellison, Director Food Services; Sue Kahn, Pinole Valley High Principal; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhamen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Hercules High School**

Whitney Vuong provided a report of activities at Hercules 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. Medrano moved approval of the expulsions and suspension for placement of six (6) students. 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.**

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

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session for approval of a student settlement agreement. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes, no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session for the extension of the Superintendent's employment contract for one additional year.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the vote taken in Closed Session for the extension of the Superintendent's employment contract for one additional year. Ms. Miles seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Kronenberg voted yes, no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

## **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 Whitney Vuong (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

## **B.7 Minutes: October 6, 2010**

**MOTION:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval the Minutes of October 6, 2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Whitney Vuong (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.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 28-1011: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**

### **C.6 Certificated Personnel Changes**

### **C.7 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**

### **C.8 Three (3) year Cooperative Contract between State of California, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and West Contra Costa Unified School District**

### **C.9 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

### **C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

### **C.11 Leadership Public Schools/Gompers Continuation High School Architectural Services Contract**

### **C.12 Purchase of State Re-locatable Buildings**

### **C.13 Resolution No. 27-1011: Designation of Authorized Agent for Cal EMA, the Office of Emergency Services**

### **C.14 Approval of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Program Funding Agreement with Bay Area Air Quality Management District for Energy Efficiency Projects and Renewable Energy System at Hercules Middle High School**

#### **Public Comment:**

Tom Kelly

#### **Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C14. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Whitney Vuong (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

## **D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

### **D.1 Linked Learning Update**

Mr. Greer introduced the Linked Learning program as it is encompassed in the fifteen Career Academies at the comprehensive high schools. He introduced students and lead teachers from three of those academies. Presentations were provided by Mr. William Harris and students from the Pinole Valley Environmental Studies Academy, Mr. Steven Thomas and students from DeAnza's Health Academy, and Mr. Jose Irizarry and graduates from Richmond High School's Health Academy.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey thanked the students and staff and said it was exciting to hear the stories coming from their schools. He also offered congratulations to the two college students who came back to share their experiences.

Mr. Medrano thanked everyone for their presentations. He said he was excited to see the banners at each high school announcing their academies. He concluded with comments about being a member of the academy core leadership team.

Ms. Miles thanked the administrators and teachers for supporting these programs and that the DeAnza program is a model for programs throughout the country. She further said that she and Mr. Medrano attended an ITA program's graduation ceremony this summer. These essential programs provide students with a career path, work experience, services hours and leads to many job opportunities.

Mr. Thurmond offered congratulations to the students, teachers, and their parents. He said he thought these students were very smart in making the choice to investigate a career before they have to make the decision. He talked about the pressure to make decisions without the opportunity to investigate and learn by doing. He commended all of the students.

President Kronenberg said that Pinole Valley's Lighthouse Designation makes them a leader in one of the most important education ventures in California. She offered congratulations to the teachers and students for their success and looked forward to more involvement.

Ms. Vuong said she was happy to learn about these academies and that similar programs would be beneficial to students at Hercules High.

## **D.2 Report Update 2009-10 – Food Service Department**

Mr. Fay introduced Ms. Barbara Jellison, Food Services Director, who provided a report on accomplishments for last year. She spoke about supporting the nutritional needs of the students of the District with breakfast, lunch and summer lunch programs.

### **Public Comment:**

None

### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond thanked Ms. Jellison for her presentation and also thanked her for speaking to the Youth Commission last year. He complimented the Food Services staff on serving an enormous amount of meals. He asked about students coming to school hungry as an issue leading to truancy. Ms. Jellison spoke about the difficulty of a child approaching an adult to let them know they are hungry. She spoke about ongoing training for staff at school sites and an expansion of the breakfast program, as well as the ability to offer a meal at any time. She talked about awareness, letting parents know of the program's availability, and giving students a variety of choices. She said the computerizing of cafeterias help to do away with tickets in order to eliminate the stigma identifying a student as qualified for a free or reduced cost lunch program.

Ms. Miles asked about a school that does not have a breakfast program and the process to get one started. Ms. Jellison provided information as it pertained to the piloting of programs at Fairmont and Olinda schools. She said that eleven of the twelve secondary schools currently take advantage of the breakfast program.

President Kronenberg thanked Ms. Jellison and the staff for the good work they do in feeding the numbers of students. Ms. Jellison commended her dedicated staff, as well as the parents, who believe in the quality of the meals served.

## **D.3 Budget Update for 2010-11**

Ms. Gamba provided an update of the District's budget based upon the adopted California budget and the overall state of the economy.

### **Public Comment:**

None

### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said he appreciated the brief update.

Mr. Medrano said that he had hoped for some good news.

Ms. Miles asked about a plan to address the deficit. Ms. Gamba talked about a cash flow issue which will be handled by the inter-fund borrowing previously authorized by the Board when approving this year's budget. She said the District is in a much better position than many other districts in the state and that the passage of Measure M will provide funding to maintain class sizes that can't be taken away by state.

Mr. Thurmond asked about changes for licensed child care providers and another changes to the adopted state budget.

Ms. Gamba spoke about county mental health care providers no longer able to provide services because of lack of state funding. She explained that the duty of care remains with the District and the resulting cost shortfall.

President Kronenberg asked about the elimination of the Tier III flexibility and how those line items will be addressed. Ms. Gamba spoke about this concern and development of a long term strategy for funding, saying that it will be difficult for the Board to know what to do when the State does not know it will do.

Ms. Miles asked for a future report about programs to be addressed due to lack of funding. Ms. Gamba spoke about bringing a report when state funding develops, and whether voters approve the parcel tax measure on the November

ballot. Ms. Miles said that the Board wants to be as proactive as possible to address issues with community input. Ms. Gamba spoke about the loss of federal ARRA funding at the end of this school year, continued efforts to stabilize, and look at the costs of components as the District transitions into 2011-2012.

#### **D.4 Standing Reports**

**Bayside Council of PTAs.** Christina Slamon provided two announcements: the Reflections and Art contest, with the theme “Together We Can,” and the general meeting of the 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA on October 25 in Concord, where new officer training will be held. She added that Bayside Councils of PTA has endorsed Measure M for school funding.

**Public Employees Local One.** Michael Wasilchin commended the District on the successful health fair held a few weeks ago. He also offered praise to the Human Resources staff for their diligent work in posting and filling positions in the District. He concluded by commenting on the CBAC’s structure, agendas and reference materials distributed to members. He encouraged members of the public to get involved in school funding through this committee.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano reported on the October 19 meeting where the agenda included approval of a recommendation to the Board seeking a bonding capacity waiver request from State Board of Education. He said that discussion also included the review of the Request for Qualifications process for architectural services for Measure D 2010. Mr. Ramsey commented about the correction at DeAnza of the application of coating protection against graffiti. Mr. Ramsey also elaborated on the bond limit capacity waiver due to the decrease in assessed property value estimates.

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Ramsey reported on Dartmouth College’s recent visit and information session in the District. He also reported that Vanderbilt University is interested in pursuing a full mentorship program and collaboration with Pinole Valley High. He spoke about the second year of mentorship with Brown University and student representation from Hercules, DeAnza, El Cerrito and Richmond high schools.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting scheduled for October 28 at Alvarado, 6:30 p.m.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Thurmond announced that the Commission is seeking representatives from the District’s high schools and will meet again on October 25 at the RYSE Center in Richmond at 6:30 p.m.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond announced that the next meeting of the Safety Committee will be held on October 27 at Richmond High School at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be open to the public as the committee reviews some of the new safety measures on the campus, as well as looking at overall data around suspensions in the District.

**Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee.** Mr. Ramsey announced the October 27 meeting, asking Ms. Miles to attend in his absence.

**Linked Learning.** President Kronenberg mentioned the program is creating great energy and enthusiasm. She and Mr. Medrano will report back to the Board about future meetings.

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

**E.1 Superintendent’s Report**  
Superintendent Harter reported on activities in the District.

#### **E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

##### **Public Comment:**

Michael Wasilchin, Araceli Vazquez, Veronica Ramos, Raina Garcia, Ana Ramos, Saira Ramos, Dayna Barajas, Diane Davis

Mr. Thurmond asked how the concerns raised by the public speakers regarding the limitation of vendor access to Richmond High during the school lunch program could be addressed. Mr. Ramsey said he agreed and asked that an item be agendized for future discussion regarding the Richmond High campus, liability issues for food vendors as well

as a response from the Food Services division. Mr. Medrano spoke about vendors delivering food products to campuses. President Kronenberg suggested that this be agendaized for discussion at the November 17 meeting.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Approve the following reclassification, revised job descriptions: Campus Security Officer - II, Campus Security Officer - I**

Mr. Greer introduced this item to give history and context regarding the job descriptions. He said that over the last two years discussion about safety at school sites has developed the upgrade of Student Site Supervisor positions to Campus Security Officers I and II. The new positions will increase responsibility and expectations and be more in line with needs of school sites today. These positions will be more highly trained to provide a better level of support. Mr. Greer commended Local One representative Michael Wasilchin and Human Resources Director Erin Fleming for their diligence in working out the details.

**Public Comment:**  
Michael Wasilchin

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification about the two job descriptions. Mr. Wasilchin clarified that Secondary Site Supervisors and Student Supervisors will be moved to the Campus Security Officer I position which is the entry level position. The Campus Security Officer II position will provide lead direction to the other position and work with campus administrators, school resource officers, as well as working with the defibrillators and specific safety equipment.

President Kronenberg said she has watched the development of the positions and the underpinning of the District safety program. She complimented clarity of the job descriptions so that the employee can know the expectations.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Revised Job Descriptions: Campus Security Officer – I and Campus Security Officer - II. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Miles, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Whitney Vuong (advisory vote only) and President Kronenberg voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** (continued from Item E)  
None

**I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about hard work toward supporting Measure M on Election Day. He also spoke about the need for meeting order and rules, and asked that criteria be established regarding public speakers and translators.

Mr. Medrano spoke about the recent California Latino School Boards Association conference and discussion of the long-term English language learner students. He also spoke about taking California School Boards Association training workshops. He commented about the recent Youth Summit held at DeJean with 350 students in attendance and announced the upcoming Parent as Partners conference on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at DeJean.

Ms. Miles acknowledged Mr. Wasilchin and his sons' hard work and support toward the passage of the parcel tax, Measure M. She reported that she recently attended the Civic Pride conference, taking 30 students from her school where they had opportunity to learn about the importance of voting and civic awareness.

Mr. Thurmond thanked volunteers working in support of Measure M. He also thanked those who presented the Linked Learning information because it demonstrated the growth of the students. He congratulated the staff at Kennedy High for their work on a new mentoring program. He requested a future presentation to the Board from Healthy Richmond, an effort to make an investment in the community around health and their interested in partnering with District.

President Kronenberg commented on a photograph of Judge Hiramoto in Dr. Harter's presentation as she represented Harvard at the recent Pinole Valley College Fair. She said that the next day Judge Hiramoto was at El Cerrito High School, working with the Northern California debate tournament which hosted 400 students and 110 judges. Ms. Kronenberg concluded by speaking in support of the passage of Measure M.

Ms. Whitney Vuong thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve at the meeting.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 3, 2010

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:21 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p><u>AAM</u> Approved 11-3-10</p>
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