

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

December 8, 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 6:44 PM.

B.1 Swearing in of Board Members

Judge Henry Ramsey administered the oath of office for the newly elected board member, Elaine Merriweather, and for Madeline Kronenberg and Charles Ramsey, who were re-elected.

B.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

B.3 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Kronenberg offered welcome to the public regarding the meeting.

B.4 Annual Organization Meeting

President Kronenberg asked interested members to tell the Board why he/she is interested in serving as President. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Medrano provided a brief synopsis of their interest and background skills.

Election of President

Motion: Mr. Ramsey placed his name in nomination to serve as President of the Board for the 2011 year. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond voting yes and Mr. Medrano voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

Mr. Ramsey assumed the seat of President of the Board and presided over the remainder of the meeting. President Ramsey called for nominations for the Clerk of the Board.

Election of Clerk

Mr. Medrano and Ms. Kronenberg each put forth their names to serve as Clerk of the Board.

Motion: President Ramsey called for a roll call vote for the names submitted for Clerk of the Board beginning with Ms. Kronenberg. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voting yes and Mr. Medrano voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

Ms. Kronenberg assumed the seat for Clerk of the Board.

Approval of Procedural Matters

Motion: Mr. Thurmond moved to approve the President of the Board to sign documents, and the Clerk to sign in the absence of the President. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to affirm the previously adopted schedule of regular meetings for 2010-2011. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to affirm the proposed schedule of regular meetings adopting additional meetings for 2011. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval to establish a Board Calendar with the addition of a retreat date, when determined. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

President Ramsey recommended tabling the appointments for committees to a future meeting in order to allow members to contact him with their preferences for committee participation. President Ramsey will make the appropriate appointments in January.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved approval of President Ramsey making committee appointments at a January meeting. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.5 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Waheed Balogun, Director Facilities and Construction; André Bell, Executive Director Bonds/Capital Projects; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Otilia Espinoza, 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 Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Nicole Joyner, Assessment/Student Attendance; Brenda King-Randle, Coordinator School To Career; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel; Maintenance Supervisor; Tashaka Merriweather, Coordinator Families in Transition; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical & Instructional Support Services; Ann Reinagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

B.6 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Richmond High School

Ms. Selene Calderon provided a report of activities at Richmond High School.

B.7 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of December 8, 2010 for expulsion cases #001, #002 and #003.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of December 8, 2010 for expulsion cases #001, #002 and #003. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey 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 withdraw a Notice of Intent to Dismiss against a certificated employee.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to withdraw a Notice of Intent to Dismiss against a certificated employee. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes, no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.8 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment:
Al Kirkman

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with the moving of items G.1 and G. 2 to follow the Consent Items. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Selene Calderon (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.9 Minutes: November 17, 2010

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval the Minutes of November 17, 2010. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Selene Calderon (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with Ms. Merriweather abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- *CI C.1 Acceptance of Grants/Awards/Agreements
- *CI C.2 Acceptance of Donations
- *CI C.3 Approval of Fund Raising Activities
- *CI C.4 Summary of Payroll Warrant Reports
- *CI C.5 Adoption of Retiree Benefit (CalPERS) Resolutions No. 35-1011; 36-1011; 37-1011; 38-1011; and 39-1011
- *CI C.6 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258
- *CI C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated
- *CI C.8 Routine Personal Changes - Classified
- *CI C.9 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)
- *CI C.10 Approval of the Following Reclassification and New Job Descriptions: Procurement and Training Technician, Disaster Preparedness/Safety Coordinator
- *CI C.11 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- *CI C.12 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- *CI C.13 Pinole Valley High School Architectural Services Contract
- *CI C.14 Approval of Contract for Furniture, Setup and Installation at M.L. King Elementary School
- *CI C.15 Resolution No. 40-1011: Authorizing Repairs to Fire Damage at DeAnza High School Without Competitive Bidding
- *CI C.16 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Charlene Raines Appointed by Board Member Ramsey
Mr. Fay read the following into the record:
Ms. Raines replaces Adrienne Harris whom Mr. Ramsey had appointed. Ms. Harris is unable to serve on the CBOC since she is an occasional substitute teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.
- *CI C.17 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Appointment: Brant Fetter Appointed by the Superintendent
President asked Mr. Brant Fetter to share about his background in relation to this appointment.
- *CI C.18 Resolution No. 34-1011: Certificate of Signatures
- *CI C.19 LEA Plan Implementation with Napa/Solano/Contra Costa County Educational Collaborative
- *CI C.20 Approval of Resolution No. 33-1011 in Support of Full State Funding of County Mental Health Services for Children with Disabilities (AB 3632)

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C20. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Selene Calderon (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0

G.1 Student Reassignment for Lake and Shannon Elementary Schools

Superintendent Harter provided background information regarding the proposed student reassignments for Lake and Shannon Elementary Schools. Enlarged maps were available at the back of the room for public view. This item provided opportunity for discussion by the Board with action planned for January. Superintendent Harter spoke about the proposed changes in attendance areas for Lake students to transition to Bayview, Highland or Dover Elementary schools as well as for Shannon students to transition to Collins, Tara Hills or Montalvin Manor Elementary schools. He recommended that transfer preferences for affected students have priority. Changes will be effective for the 2011-12 school year.

President Ramsey recognized San Pablo Council Member Paul Morris in the audience.

Public Comment:

Eric Swabeck, Patricia Ponce, Patty McGoldrick, Kristyn Jones, Shelby Chapel, Margaret Browne, Alejandro Navarro

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano commented that there will be more understanding following the presentation of the First Interim Report. He further commented about the difficult financial situation of the State, the District and the City of San Pablo. Mr. Thurmond thanked the speakers for their contribution and acknowledged the City of San Pablo's contribution over the last two years that has allowed Lake School to remain open. Mr. Thurmond asked questions about giving families more detailed notice about the redistricting of their children. Superintendent Harter responded that each family will receive individual notice as well as be invited to participate in a transition plan for students to visit their new schools for the 2011-2012 school year, as well as information about preference for transfer requests. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the difficult situation and asked families to take a look at the boundaries. She added that without the required funding the Board will have to adopt the proposal. Ms. Merriweather asked questions about the public comment regarding Pinole students attending schools in their area. Superintendent Harter offered clarification. President Ramsey thanked everyone for participating in this discussion and invited them to return January 5, 2011 when the Board would take action.

G.2 Shining Crescent Charter School, K-8

Ms. Linda Jackson, District Liaison to Charter Schools, presented the proposal submitted by Shining Crescent Charter School for an independent charter school. She said that the District is required to act within 60 days to present and discuss its findings. She informed the Board that Shining Crescent has agreed to extend that period due to the winter recess and holidays.

Mr. Jawaid Ijaz, President, provided a presentation regarding the charter school proposal for Shining Crescent Charter School.

Public Comment:

Feryaal Zahir, Moin Ahmed, Fayza Ayyad, Adel Somaha, Firas Jandali

Board Comment

Mr. Medrano said he is excited to hear about residents in the U.S. learning languages other than English. He wished the group luck with their endeavor.

Mr. Thurmond commended the planners for the concept of blending academic rigor with language and sciences. He asked questions about budget, financial planning and fund raising. Mr. Ijaz responded with information for clarification. Mr. Thurmond further asked about staffing and teaching methodology of eastern cultures. Mr. Ijaz responded that proper staff would be hired and spoke about student respect for teachers and staff. Mr. Thurmond asked about the organization's annual budget and information about the teacher student ratio. Mr. Ijaz responded. Ms. Kronenberg asked about the longer school day, as well as professional development. She also spoke about the purpose of charter schools in California. Mr. Ijaz responded.

President Ramsey thanked the group for making their presentation.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Standing Reports

Bayside Councils PTA. Laura Ramos, President, announced the Reflections in Art contest winners from District schools. She also announced that the winners will move forward for competition at the PTA 32nd district level. She also asked how the public might see the results of the recent Pinole Valley WASC accreditation.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. at Facilities Operations Center.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the last meeting where discussion included school site plans (SPSA's) and a presentation on math proficiency.

Community Budget. Ms. Gamba reviewed the last meeting where the agenda included revenue limits and examination of the latest information from the legislative analysis' office. She announced a series of community meetings at the end of January 2011. She said that the next meeting will be held in conjunction with the three January community meetings.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Calderon spoke about the Brown mentorship program, help with the application process and relationship building. She said she is very happy and will communicate more with her mentor through

her senior year. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the selection process for the upcoming Ivy League Connection summer programs. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about her recent visit to Vanderbilt University in Nashville while attending a Linked Learning conference there.

Ms. Calderon left the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Linked Learning. Mr. Medrano said that he attended the recent national conference in Nashville where he learned that the academies there have an advisory board comprised of local professionals. He said he was impressed with the rigor of their academies. He also spoke about recent linked learning meetings held in the Bay Area.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond spoke about the recent meeting at Gompers where graffiti's impact on schools was discussed. He said that the next meeting will be held at Hercules Middle High School, 6:00 p.m., January 26, 2011 where discussion will include a graffiti diversion program.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2010, 6:30 at the RYSE Center.

D.2 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent 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.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter presented Ms. Kronenberg with a plaque to commemorate her term as president. She spoke about the honor of serving and the commitment of the staff of the District, saying she is energized to recommit herself to another term with the Board.

Superintendent Harter reported on activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Al Kirkman, Robert Studdiford, Laura Ramos, Patty McGoldrick, Shelby Chapel

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 First Interim Report, 2010-2011

Ms. Gamba presented information about the First Interim Financial Report to be submitted to the County Office of Education and to the State, recommending adoption of the report with a positive certification.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked about anticipated new expenses for mental health services and how the services are to be delivered. Mr. Collins responded with information about the components to AB3632; counseling services provided at the school site, the day treatment component of services provided at Le Cheim School with county support, and residential component services.

Ms. Merriweather asked questions about the federal jobs bill money owed to the District and use of AARA funds. Ms. Gamba responded for clarification.

Mr. Medrano asked about vacant properties, property maintenance and reduced property values. Ms. Gamba said that she recommended the Board continue to look at the issues of vacant property and the costs for insurance, vandalism, upkeep, and offsetting those costs.

President Ramsey said he struggled to adopt a policy to sell district property at a record low values. Ms. Gamba responded that the report does not indicate a commitment to a school land sale. She asked the Board to consider a revenue neutral concept regarding vacant property as part of the budget discussion. She hoped that the Board recognized that not having a plan in place will continue to cost the District money to maintain vacant sites.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the Board discussing rather than committing to disposal of property.

Mr. Thurmond asked about making an acceptable revision to the report indicating that the Board consider, but not be obligated for, the disposal or sale of property.

President Ramsey agreed with the recommendation to revise the language to indicate that the Board can facilitate planning.

Mr. Medrano recommended discussion for future consideration.

President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter about the rationale for staff and the Trustee encouraging the Board to consider disposal of property. Superintendent Harter responded and asked the Board give staff direction so that vacant property is not a financial drain to the District.

President Ramsey recalled the history of closed schools reopening and rejuvenating their community.

Further discussion was held.

Ms. Gamba said that this is an important conversation to have from a fiscal stand point in order to avoid continued costs, with plans for some use of the property and cost containment.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the upcoming community meetings, plans for the presentation, and reaching out to the community to demonstrate how the budget works. Ms. Gamba responded for clarification.

President Ramsey asked questions about GASB rates. Ms. Gamba responded.

MOTION: Ms. Thurmond moved approval of the First Interim Report, 2010-2011 with the striking of language regarding accelerating planning for disposal of properties. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs)

Ms. Potter, Director Categorical & Instructional Support Services, presented information regarding the Single Plans for Student Achievement and acknowledged the amount of work that goes into the development of the plans by school site councils and the English learner advisory committee. She introduced Principal Julian Szot, Principal Denise VanHook, and Instructional Specialist Jennifer Bender to give insight of their respective schools' plans.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked about any impact on the academies and any changes in the perception of safety following the installation of fencing and cameras at Richmond High. Ms. Bender responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked how the plans become known to school community as a useful tool. Ms. Potter responded that this has been one of the evolving challenges with increased focus in conversations and involvement of school site councils, with more engagement by teachers and the parent community.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether there is a component allowing for creating individualized plans for students. Ms. Potter responded that the crux of the plan is focused on individual use and that certain sections allow focus on learning needs of core groups and individual students at grade level.

Ms. Kronenberg had questions about the section on system wide barriers. Ms. Potter responded that requests are pulled out and categorized to determine hot spot areas by site and possible resources outside the District.

President Ramsey said he is interested in the Mira Vista transition with the addition of the sixth grade.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs). Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.3 Call for Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the nomination of Board Member Medrano to run for the for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Student Reassignment for Lake and Shannon Elementary Schools

This item was moved to follow the Consent Items.

G.2 Shining Crescent Charter School, K-8

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Merriweather said she is excited to be a part of the Board and looked forward to working with each of the Board members.

Mr. Thurmond welcomed Ms. Merriweather and acknowledged Ms. Kronenberg and Mr. Medrano for their leadership over the past year. He also welcomed Mr. Ramsey as President and his leadership. Mr. Thurmond brought to the attention of the Board a typographical error in the previously approved meeting dates. It was determined that a correction to this item would be brought back for approval at the January 5, 2011 meeting.

Ms. Kronenberg welcomed Ms. Merriweather and wished the audience a safe and wonderful holiday season.

President Ramsey spoke of the recent death of Elizabeth Edwards and commented on her resilience and positive thinking during difficult times in her life as she looked forward to a better day. He congratulated Ms. Merriweather and Ms. Kronenberg for their victories on election day.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – January 5, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:24 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p><i>MK</i> Approved 1-5-11</p>
