

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

January 19, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:40 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey asked Steve Collins to lead the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Ramsey offered welcome to the public regarding the meeting.

B.3 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Pamala Blake, Director of Adult and Alternative Education; Patricia Calvert, Director of Human Resources, Certificated; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Rosa Cornejo, Staff Secretary; Jose DeLeon, Helms Principal; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bob Evans, DeAnza Principal; 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; Antoinette Henry-Evans, Executive Director; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Mimi Melodia, Lincoln Principal; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhausen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Vista High School

Rosalba Esparza provided a report of activities at Vista High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of January 19, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002 and #003.

Motion: Mr. Thurmond moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of January 19, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002 and #003. Mr. Medrano 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.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda with the moving of item E.2, WCCUSD Public Comments and F.3, Shining Crescent Charter School Petition, to follow item B.7 to accommodate the audience. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: January 5, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval the Minutes of January 5, 2011. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:

Thorsten Bach, Julie Budd, Pamela Fields, Louise Flynn, Cole Harless, Joseph Harless, Dean Lundholm, Cesar Munoz, Jessica Pletroski, Kristen Porsley, Laura Ramos, Ken Ryan, Carolyn Sherry, Robert Studdford, Eric Swabeck, Samuel Thuthseeker

Board Comments:

President Ramsey thanked the public for their comments.

A brief recess was taken.

F.3 Shining Crescent Charter School Petition

Superintendent Harter introduced Linda Jackson, Executive Director, who presented the findings regarding the Shining Crescent Charter School Petition. She said a District panel reviewed the petition and developed specific findings and recommendations. Ms. Jackson read the recommendations and asked that the Board deny the charter petition.

Public Comment:

Mr. Jawaid Ijaz, representing Shining Crescent Charter School, shared the research done to put the charter school petition model together.

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked Ms. Jackson if the areas that were found deficient were presented to the applicant and if the applicant came back with anything that would indicate that they could close the gap. Ms. Jackson clarified the outlined procedures under the Education Code and the District's obligation to a Charter School Petition. Mr. Thurmond wanted to know how many days were left in the responding timeline. Ms. Jackson clarified that there are 60 days to respond but due to the holidays an extension was requested.

Mr. Medrano asked Ms. Jackson if the petitioner is able to come back after the findings. Ms. Jackson explained that by Ed Code if the petitioner has already come to the Board, the petitioner can appeal the denial to the County Office of Education.

Mr. Thurmond asked Mr. Ijaz to expand on his petition model. Mr. Ijaz clarified that as someone who works in a school district, he is aware of what was needed and that he gave as much detail as he felt necessary. Mr. Ijaz explained that he followed other models but the District required more content than what the sample models contained. He will amend the petition in order to bring it to the District's standards.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the recommendation to deny the Shining Crescent Charter School Petition. Mr. Medrano seconded. Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: President Ramsey motioned to reopen the Agenda to move item F.1 Helms Middle School and DeAnza High School: Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools up on the agenda. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Helms Middle School and DeAnza High School: Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools and the School Improvement Process

Superintendent Harter introduced Ms. Rashidchi, who reviewed information on the improvement process that the District would like to implement at each of these lowest performing schools. She reported on the two different models for consideration, the Turnaround Model and the Transformation Model. She explained the difference between the models and gave information as to why the District recommends the Turnaround Model versus the Transformation Model. She gave a breakdown of specific Turnaround rationale for both Helms and DeAnza.

Public Comment:

Pamela Bostelman, Andrew Brodie, Elizabeth Hirshfeld, John Juminger, Laura Larson

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification about the legislative rules and whether there are proposed changes in the legislation that would change the type of intervention required. Ms. Rashidchi explained that the District would follow the same scenario that was followed with Lincoln Elementary School using available QEIA and Title 1 funding.

Mr. Thurmond expressed concerns about the turnover of staff and principal and meeting requirements. Ms. Rashidchi clarified the competency interview process related to improving student learning.

Mr. Thurmond asked about community involvement. Ms. Rashidchi referred that question to both principals. Mr. DeLeon, Helms Principal, responded that several parent meetings were held where information was presented on what a persistently low performing school is and all four models were presented. Helms parents also recommended the Transformation Model. Mr. DeLeon explained that the parents like the extended day, extra teacher training, and adding extra periods for enrichment activities. Mr. Evans, DeAnza Principal, shared that they have held parent meetings at DeAnza, where they recommend the Turnaround Model.

Ms. Rashidchi pointed out that Lincoln was on the agenda to talk about the Turnaround Model at that school and that the Lincoln presentation would provide information about how the Turnaround Model was working there.

Mr. Thurmond asked Ms. Melodia, Lincoln Principal, about her perception of the Turnaround Model. Ms. Melodia said there is nothing that is not working. Staff members have been able to adapt as they go to make the model work better. Ms. Melodia shared that Lincoln's data show that attendance has improved, improvement in Dibels scores compared to last year, and kindergarten data shows the majority of kindergartens as proficient and advanced.

Ms. Merriweather asked Ms. Rashidchi whether Helms and DeAnza can have different intervention models. Ms. Rashidchi responded that it is possible that each school have a different model but that some model needs to be implemented. Ms. Merriweather expressed concern about the QEIA funding and how it would impact applying for the grant. Ms. Rashidchi explained the difference between the funding and gave examples of what QEIA funds. Ms. Rashidchi further explained that staff has looked at all the data, recommending the Turnaround Model, seeing that it would meet the immediate needs of the students.

Mr. Medrano asked questions about the Transformation Model and the principal's role. Ms. Rashidchi offered clarification. Mr. DeLeon shared that Helms staff liked the extended school day and extra professional development of the Transformation Model. Mr. Medrano asked about the number of staff at Helms and how many are new to the school. Mr. DeLeon responded that Helms has 49 teachers with 15 new teachers.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Ms. Rashidchi for clarification of the rehiring process. Ms. Rashidchi responded. Ms. Kronenberg wanted to reiterate that the difference between the models is the hiring process. Ms. Rashidchi agreed on the difference and explained the rationale of the Turnaround Model and the critical interview process. Ms. Kronenberg wanted to know in the best case scenario what percent of teachers would not be rehired. Ms. Rashidchi shared that initial calculations for both schools were approximately a 15-25 teacher turnover. Mr. Greer clarified that it would be a smaller number than fifty percent of the staff.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Mr. Evans and Mr. DeLeon whether their teams understand the process. Mr. Evans and Mr. DeLeon responded affirmatively.

Ms. Merriweather asked Ms. Rashidchi to clarify if the rigorous new evaluation system is for both models and if the principal and teachers are involved in developing the evaluating system since it's based on student data. Ms. Rashidchi stated that it is only on the Transformation Model and the principal and teachers would be involved.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Turnaround Model for DeAnza High School. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Turnaround Model for Helms Middle School. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes. Mr. Medrano and Ms. Merriweather voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

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 Notices of Completion: Bid J068257 El Cerrito HS Field Irrigation, J068248 Ohlone Elementary Re-Roofing Project, W068204 Hercules MHS Quad Landscape & Teachers Parking Lot Improvements, W068226 Hercules MHS Playfield Lighting, J068184 DeAnza HS Baseball Field Improvements, J068191 Kennedy HS Restroom

Improvements, J068190 Kennedy HS Fire Alarm Replacement, J068199 Richmond HS Security Fencing and Gates, E068234 Grant Elementary General Building Improvements ERP, E068235 Stege Elementary General Building Improvements ERP, W068183 Crespi Fire Reconstruction

C.6 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.7 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.8 Resolution No. 43-1011: African-American History Month - February 2011

C.9 Resolution No. 44-1011: Recognition of West Contra Costa Unified School District Job Shadow Days February 1 - 4, 2011 and Recognition of February 2011 as National Job Shadow Month

C.10 Students from Cesar Chavez will go to the JAMZ Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 27-29, 2011

C.11 Approval of Contract for Furniture, Setup and Installation at Dover Elementary School Phase I

C.12 Kennedy High School Field Building and Field Lighting Project Award of Contract

C.13 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.14 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.15 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report

This item was pulled for discussion.

C.16 California School Board Association (CSBA) Appointment for Delegate Assembly

C.17 Approval of Board Member Attending Conferences:

National School Boards Association Annual Conference, San Francisco

National Council on Educating Black Children Convention, Las Vegas

C.18 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from WCCUSD high schools will participate in College Courses and Readiness Programs offered at Ivy League Colleges and Universities

C.19 Lake School Operation for 2011-12

This item was pulled for discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.6, C. 8- C.14 and C.16 - C.18. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.7 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.7, Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s). Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.15 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report

MOTION: Ms. Merriweather moved approval of Consent Item C.15, Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C.19 Lake School Operation for 2011-12

Public Comment:

Diane Brown

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano agreed with Ms. Brown, UTR President, that sometimes we need to look for innovative solutions for economic problems and that he enjoyed being part of the team that approached the City of San Pablo to discuss what they could do.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the City of San Pablo for their partnership. He also acknowledged the innovative thinking of President Ramsey and Board Members.

Ms. Merriweather thanked the City of San Pablo for stepping in and seeing the importance of schools being in community.

Ms. Kronenberg also thanked the City of San Pablo for understanding that we are all together and that their young citizens are our students. She thanked Mr. Ramsey and Board members for all their support and for honoring the Lake school community.

President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter about the boundaries preparation for the Shannon closure Dr. Harter stated that a letter will be sent to the parents to inform them of the Board's decision.

MOTION: Ms. Merriweather moved approval of Consent Item C.19, Lake School Operation for 2011-12. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Lincoln School – Turnaround Model Mid-Year Report

Ms. Rashidchi introduced staff from Lincoln school to give a progress report on Lincoln's Turnaround Model.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked about professional development for teachers. Ms. Melodia replied with information about a three day retreat and staff development during the summer. Mr. Medrano asked for information on home visits. Ms. Melodia explained about implementation.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether the parent liaison is a volunteer or district employee. Ms. Melodia responded. Mr. Thurmond asked how the students and staff have adjusted to the extended day. Ms. Melodia responded that the students have adjusted well, but it was a little hard at the beginning especially for the kindergarteners.

Ms. Kronenberg commented on her visit to Lincoln, commending their excellent work. President Ramsey said he understands the need for resources and wants to talk about sustaining the programs.

D.2 Annual Update of Highly Qualified Teachers Status

Ms. Reinhagen gave a presentation on the District's Highly Qualified Teacher status. Ms. Reinhagen introduced Ms. Annita Lakey, Induction Program Manager, to give a report on the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program (BTSA).

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg said she is very impressed with BTSA and plans on joining their accreditation.

D.3 Budget Update for Governor's Proposed Budget

Ms. Gamba gave an update on the Governor's budget report.

Public Comment:

Toni Favila, Glenda Pawsy, Kristen Porsley, Ken Ryan, Norma Salazar

Board Comment:

President Ramsey shared information on Tier III. He asked what could be funded for capital improvement and deferred maintenance and what could be paid by the Bond program. Ms. Gamba clarified that last year a fund balance sweep was done with one-time money. Ms. Gamba explained that the Tier III flexibility under the old program continued through 2012-2013. President Ramsey asked for clarification of the state contributing matching funds for deferred maintenance. Ms. Gamba spoke about a capital project budget for the purpose of deferred maintenance since the state no longer funds.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the cost for class size reduction. Ms. Gamba responded that the cost is approximately \$8 to \$9 million. Ms. Merriweather asked whether the \$4.8 million Ed Jobs money could be used to offset the general fund. Ms. Gamba stated that in a worst case scenario it could be used to run the core program and to prevent layoffs.

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification about an earlier comment regarding staff reductions. Ms. Gamba reconfirmed the March 15 deadline to notify certificated staff.

D.4 Standing Reports

Bayside Council Parent Teacher Association. Laura Ramos announced that Riverside Elementary School became the 25th unit in the District. She announced the next meeting on February 28th, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at Alvarado Adult School.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the upcoming community budget meetings, Monday at Helms, Wednesday at Hercules Middle High, and Thursday at Kennedy.

United Teachers of Richmond. Diane Brown announced that the UTR, Human Resources and Educational Services meet every Tuesday. She wanted to share with the Board some of the work between the District and the Local on communication and effective collaboration. She shared the feedback she had received from UTR members.

West Contra Costa Administration Association. Sharon Fogelson announced exciting things going on with District administrators. She also commented that secondary administrators are very pleased with the revised duties of site supervisors.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting planned for January 26, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at the Facilities Operation Center. He encouraged all members to attend the meeting.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the meeting of January 11, 2011. He said the single action item for discussion was the recommendation of El Cerrito High Fields Project Phase I construction which was unanimously approved. Mr. Ramsey shared that he has been in extensive discussion with staff on the American Recovery Reinvestment Act and the joint use of Leadership High and Gompers.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Kronenberg shared that the Ivy League Connection has begun its selection process for new students for the summer program. Mr. Ramsey announced that this year all high schools are participating.

Linked Learning. Mr. Medrano reported on the recent conference held in Los Angeles. Ms. Kronenberg announced an upcoming Community Coalition Meeting at Maple Hall in San Pablo. She also mentioned her visit to Richmond High's Health Academy staff meeting.

Safety Community. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting for January 26, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at Hercules High.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting for February 14, 2011, 6:30 p.m. at the RYSE Center in Richmond.

D.5 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent Harter recognized contributions of members of the community who have passed away.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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

E.1 Superintendent's Report

This item was tabled for a later meeting.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item was moved to follow item B.7.

Public Comment:

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Helms Middle School and DeAnza High School: Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools and the School Improvement Process

This item was moved to follow item F.3.

F.2 El Cerrito High School Fields Phase I Construction Award of Contract

Mr. Fay gave a report on the bids for the El Cerrito Fields Phase I construction. He is asking the Board to approve the base bid as well as the alternate bid.

Public Comment:

Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked about the schedule for the project. Mr. Savidge responded that the project will begin immediately after Board approval and the intent is to have the field ready by the opening of the school year in August 2011.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the El Cerrito High School Fields Phase I Construction Award of Contract. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rosalba Esparza (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.3 Shining Crescent Charter School Petition

This item was moved to follow item E.2

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

President Ramsey thanked Student Representative Rosalba Esparza for her participation.

Ms. Kronenberg reminded everyone to come to the Community Coalition Meeting at Maple Hall.

President Ramsey recognized Mr. Ted Smith who was very supportive of the school district acting as an involved mentor. Mr. Smith passed away on January 11, 2011. President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in his memory.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – February 2, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 11:05 PM.

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

BH:rc

<p>MK Approved as corrected 2-2-11</p>
