

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

February 2, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:32 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Ramsey offered welcome and instructions 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: André Bell, Executive Director Bonds/Capital Projects; Susan Dunlap, Coordinator, Ed Services; 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; Antoinette Henry-Evans, Executive Director; Josh Herrera Electronics Technician; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Harlan Kerr, Coordinator Ed Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical and Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer, Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from the Youth Commission

Ms. Rebecca Phuong provided a report of activities at her high school, El Cerrito High.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of February 2, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 and #002.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of February 2, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 and #002. 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.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with the moving of E.2 Public Comment to follow Consent Calendar items and moving G.1 Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter School to follow D.1. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rebecca Phuong (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: January 19, 2011; January 22, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval the corrected minutes of January 19, 2011 and the minutes of January 22, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rebecca Phuong (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey 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 Contracted Services**
- C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- C.6 Notification of Claim Rejected**
- C.7 Acceptance of the 2009-2010 Bond Audit**
- C.8 Actuarial Study on Health Benefits**
- C.9 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3**
- C.10 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.11 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**
- C.12 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Winter Sports**
- C.13 2010-2011 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part II**
- C.14 Title III Year 4 Action Plan**
- C.15 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.16 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.17 Annual Performance Audit of District Bond Program**
- C.18 Kennedy High School Field Building and Field Lighting Project Award of Contract-Revised Recommendation**
- C.19 Approval of Board Members Attending Conferences and Workshops**
- C.20 Board Committee and Liaison Assignments**

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.20. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rebecca Phuong (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Petra Tornero, Sean McAlindin, Pallop Wilairat, Julie Budd

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked the Board to reconsider the program improvement model previously approved for Helms Middle School. President Ramsey asked staff to gather information about the number of districts state wide under the program improvement program.

Helms Principal Jose DeLeon spoke about the interview process to be implemented with all teachers for the Turnaround Model.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Richmond Writes Contest Winners - Blossoms & Thorns: The Legacy of Richmond's Japanese American Nurseries

Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the opportunity to recognize and congratulate student writers. Mr. Harlan Kerr introduced the winners of the poetry contest hosted by the District and Richmond Arts and Culture Commission regarding the industry of Japanese American nurseries. Several student winners read their poetry. Certificates of recognition were presented and Board members individually congratulated the students.

Due to a conflict of interest, President Ramsey relinquished the gavel to Ms. Kronenberg to preside over the next item. Mr. Ramsey left the dais.

G.1 Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter School

Ms. Jackson presented the Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter School petition for an addendum of the existing charter by adding sixth grade to their program. Mr. David Rosenthal, Chairman of the Board; Ms. Peppina Chang, Executive Director; and Mr. Irvin McAllister, Academic Dean; were present to address questions of the Board.

Ms. Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

Ms. Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked for staff's recommendation. Superintendent Harter explained that this meeting is the opportunity for the Charter School to make their public presentation regarding the request for modification to the charter proposal. The next thirty days following this hearing will allow staff to review and assess the request and return the item with recommendations for Board action.

Ms. Kronenberg asked Mr. Rosenthal whether the school will come back in another year to request the addition of a seventh grade. Mr. Rosenthal responded that this is a matter under discussion for their board and Leadership Public School.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the school's capacity to add sixth graders as well as future capacity for growth. Mr. Rosenthal responded.

President Ramsey returned to the dais to resume presiding over the remainder of the meeting.

D.2 Bond Finance Report

Superintendent Harter introduced Dave Olson from KNN Public Finance for a presentation of the Bond Finance report and an overview of the bond program. Mr. Olson spoke about moving the program forward on a stable basis.

Public Comment:

Mr. Ramsey invited Superintendent Louise Waters of Leadership Public Schools (LPS) to speak. She said the LPS Board is in support of the bond allocation regarding facilities for their campus and the Gompers campus. Ms. Soo Zee Park, Director of Operations for Leadership Public Schools, explained their position as an example of a partnership between the charter school and the District as another way to meet funding needs for construction.

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg asked Mr. Olson about the amount of potential funds available for this partnership with the charter school. Mr. Olson said the benefit of the program is to borrow funds at lower rates, with relatively lower tax rates and less obligation. Ms. Kronenberg congratulated Mr. Ramsey for discovering the funding opportunity.

President Ramsey had questions about the Nystrom project. Cheryl Lentini of Beverly Prior Architects, architect for the LPS and Gompers projects, responded to questions. Mr. Ramsey asked about her understanding of the schedule to design the new facilities. Ms. Lentini responded.

President Ramsey had questions about the AB300 seismic list. Mr. Savidge responded that the list is the state's determined most vulnerable buildings. Mr. Ramsey asked about approaching legislators to urge the Division of State Architect (DSA) to accelerate its review process.

Ms. Lentini spoke about the current configuration of LPS and Gompers with the gym facility between the two school campuses.

President Ramsey asked about the proposed budget that staff will look at in terms of financing. Mr. Savidge responded.

President Ramsey asked Mr. Olson and Mr. Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffray Finance about work completed and applying funds to a future bond issuance. Mr. Olson responded about the limited allocation of Qualified School Construction Bonds. Mr. Baratta responded about the difficulty of bonding for past expenditures.

Mr. Baratta clarified that CSFA stands for California School Finance Authority, overseen by the State Treasurer.

President Ramsey asked further questions about other applicants that might come available to the District. Mr. Baratta responded.

Mr. Ramsey pointed out that the tentative bond issuance schedule for Measure J was not identified in the schedule presented. Mr. Olson responded that the presentation looked at the 2010 Measure D Bond authorization. He further said that accessing Measure J funds has been suspended because of tax rate concerns for the time being and using those funds after the 2010 Measure D funds have been issued.

President Ramsey asked about bond retirement and maturity. Mr. Olson responded about the repayment structure of each of the existing measures. President Ramsey continued with further questions. Ms. Gamba said staff could provide a report on interest earned.

Mr. Savidge spoke about the timeline and options for the Nystrom and LPS project as reviewed with the Facilities Subcommittee.

Mr. Thurmond asked questions about the CSFA opportunity. Mr. Olson responded that the allocation would give the right to sell bonds that have been already authorized under a special program that would attract the federal subsidy. He said that no further action would be required as these bonds would be sold under the 2010 Measure D authorization. Further discussion continued about the allocation of the ability to sell bonds under a special program. Mr. Thurmond asked how accrued interest could be used. Mr. Olson responded that bond earnings are expected to be used for bond projects.

President Ramsey asked about retiring Certificates of Participation (COPs). Ms. Gamba responded with information about bond project funds. Discussion continued regarding Certificates of Participation.

D.3 Standing Reports

Citizens Bond Oversight Committee. Chairman Robert Studdiford spoke about the recent meeting where the committee approved outstanding minutes and as well as the annual report for 2009-10. Discussion included the timeline for the full process to build a school facility. Mr. Medrano encouraged the committee to visit new the Dover, Martin Luther King, and Ford sites.

Community Budget Meeting. Ms. Merriweather spoke about attending the recent Hercules community meeting. She said that staff provided an excellent presentation with a positive attendance by the public.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond reported on a recent meeting at Hercules where the committee reviewed the proposal for a camera system at Pinole Valley High School. The next meeting is planned for March 3rd at El Cerrito High School. The committee also approved a resolution in support of the Healthy Richmond Strategy. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about a presentation by the City of Richmond regarding peacekeepers and neighborhood safety.

Youth Commission. Ms. Phoung said that applications have been distributed for new commissioners for the 2010-2011 year, with interviews coming soon. She said that regular meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays at RYSE Center Richmond. She reported that an upcoming project in the works is a district wide talent show. Mr. Thurmond said he would like to hold the installation of new officers at a future Board meeting.

Linked Learning. Mr. Medrano spoke about the upcoming advisory committee meeting February 17 at Maple Hall, San Pablo, and that invitations will come from business partners to recruit additional partners. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about visiting linked-learning classes in connection with the Ed Fund website.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey spoke about upcoming interviews for Columbia, Brown and Yale University summer programs. He thanked Don Gosney for his efforts in coordinating the interviews. He thanked the mentors for working with students in preparation for college applications. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the blog site and links for college application information.

D.4 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

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item was moved to follow the Consent Calendar.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution No. 48-1011: Level II and Level III Developer Fees, Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution
Mr. Fay spoke about the annual analysis of developer fees and the requested fee increase.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing

Public Comment:
None

President Ramsey closed public hearing.

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 48-1011: Level II and Level III Developer Fees. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Rebecca Phuong (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Richmond College Prep K-5 Charter School
This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

G.2 Project Status Report
Mr. Savidge provided a presentation on the status of the Bond Facilities program.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

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

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT
Mr. Medrano spoke about the San Francisco Foundation's selection of the City of San Pablo as the Koshland Community for 2011. This will encompass a five year commitment to improve the quality of life in the city.

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged Mr. Ramsey for identifying possible resources for school construction and innovative ways to propose additional revenue. He thanked the students and the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission for their presentations.

Ms. Phoung thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. She also thanked to Mr. Greer and Mr. Thurmond for their work with the Youth Commission.

Ms. Merriweather said she appreciated the presentation by Mr. Olson because it gave her a better understanding of the bond program. She said she thinks the District is doing a great work in building schools.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the budget dilemma and an upcoming meeting to be held by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner on February 19 regarding the complexities facing the state.

President Ramsey thanked the city councils and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District, as well as the Construction Trades Council for their support of the District's bond debt limit waiver. These resolutions of support will be included with the waiver application to the State Allocations Board. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the impressive level of support from the community.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in memory of Attorney John Hartenstein, who recently passed away, offering condolences to family and friends.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – February 16, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p>MK <i>Approved 2/16/11</i></p>
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