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

February 16, 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 6:32 PM.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led 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: Sherri Bell**,** Coordinator; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Rosa Cornejo, Staff Secretary; Cheryl Cotton, Madera Elementary Principal; 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; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; David Luongo, Assistant Principal Kennedy; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Liz Torio, Coordinator; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Eddie Scruggs-Smith, Stege Elementary Principal

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

Lourdes Muniz provided a report of activities at Gompers 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 February 16, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002, #003, #004 and #005.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of February 16, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002, #003, #004 and #005. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond and Ms. Merriweather abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendation of charges against certificated staff.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of charges against certificated staff. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond and Ms. Merriweather abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

Mr. Ramsey requested moving Items D.1 and D.4 to follow item B.6.

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

B.7 Minutes: February 2, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval the Minutes of February 2, 2011. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS
This item moved to follow D.4.

D. AWARDS, AND REPORTS

D.1 School Presentations to celebrate and validate African American History Month - February 2011
Ms. Rashidchi introduced students and principals from Madera, Stege and Pinole Valley High Schools. Students performed poems from African American poets.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Ramsey thanked all the students for their presentations.

D.4 Standing Reports

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond introduced the current members of the Youth Commission. Members introduced themselves, sharing their ideas and goals with the Board. Mr. Thurmond reminded everyone that the installation of the Youth Commission will be held on March 2nd.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting scheduled for February 23, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg reported on their ongoing meetings. She announced upcoming community based meetings in an effort to bring organizations and business together for better understanding of the importance of the linked learning concept.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting on March 3, 2011, 7:15 PM at El Cerrito High.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano gave an update on the February 8th meeting where the committee recommended the Helms field master plan and El Cerrito High fields phase one for Board action. The next meeting will be March 14, 2011.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting on March 1st at Helms Middle School.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Kronenberg announced that the Ivy League Connection has completed the student selection process with 34 students planning to go to Brown, Columbia, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt, and Yale. Mr. Ramsey was excited that seven WCCUSD high schools are participating this year.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Acceptance of Grants/Awards/Agreements
C.2 Acceptance of Donations
C.3 Approval of Fund Raising Activities
C.4 Contracted Services
C.5 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports
C.6 Notification of Claims Rejected
C.7 36 Month Purchase Option Lease of copiers for the following school sites: Bayview, Chavez, Coronado, Downer, Highland, Lincoln, Nystrom, Riverside, Stege, and DeJean
C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.9 Routine Personnel Changes - Classified
C.10 Resolution No. 50-1011: Determination of Tie-Breaking Criteria for 2011-2012
C.11 Resolution No. 49-1011: Week of the School Administrator – March 6-12, 2011
C.12 Resolution No. 45-1011: Disabilities Awareness Month – March 2011
C.13 Resolution No. 46-1011: Arts in Education Month – March 2011
C.14 Resolution No. 47-1011: Women's History Month – March 2011
C.15 Resolution No. 52-1011: Resolution to support the work of Healthy Richmond and exploration to expand and develop community schools in WCCUSD
C.16 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
C.17 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
C.18 El Cerrito High School Fields Phase II Architectural Services Contract
C.19 Resolution No. 53-1011: Resolution In Support of Placing a Revenue Extension Measure on the Ballot
C.20 2011 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballot

Mr. Ramsey pulled Consent Item C.18 El Cerrito High Fields Phase II Architectural Services Contract for discussion. Mr. Thurmond pulled Consent Item C.15 Resolution No. 52-10-11: Resolution to support the work of Healthy Richmond and exploration to expand and develop community schools in WCCUSD for discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.14, C.16, C.17 and C.19 – C.20. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Item C.18 El Cerrito High School Fields Phase II Architectural Services Contract. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Mr. Ramsey stated for the record that once the site ratifies this item there will be no impediment on starting the project. Mr. Savidge and Mr. Fay confirmed.

Mr. Thurmond introduced Ms. Aranda from the California Endowment who spoke briefly.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Consent Item C.15 Resolution No. 52-1011: Resolution to support the work of Healthy Richmond and exploration to expand and develop community schools in WCCUSD. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

AWARDS AND REPORTS

D.1 School presentations to celebrate and validate African American History Month - February 2011
This item was moved to follow B.7.

D.2 K to College Recognition
Mr. Trujillo and Ms. Jackson introduced Executive Director Benito Delgado and the nonprofit organization K to College which provided WCCUSD students with school supplies. Ms. Jackson presented Mr. Benito Delgado with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Delgado thanked everyone for the recognition.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

D.3 Budget Report Update
Ms. Gamba gave an update on the Governor's budget report. She talked about the different scenarios that could be implemented. She spoke about the proposed staff layoff order to protect the fiscal status of the District. She also talked about the recent community meetings.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Ramsey said he was not interested in modified class sizes.
Mr. Thurmond said he would like to see all the scenarios at the February 23rd meeting.
Ms. Merriweather said she would like to see real numbers for decision-making.
Ms. Kronenberg said she would like to see what the worst-case scenarios might look like.
Mr. Medrano agreed with Board members, saying he felt that the budget should be built on the worst case scenario.

D.4 Standing Reports
This item was moved to follow B.7

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
Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Public Comment:
Alvin Herring, Diane Brown, Bea Lieberman

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Public Hearing - Quality Education Investment Act Waiver Request
Ms. Rashidchi introduced Ms. Sonja Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Ed Services, who gave a brief summary of the Quality Education Investment Act Waiver request. She introduced staff from Helms, DeAnza and Kennedy.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:
None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:
None

F.2 Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) of 2006

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification on what each school would waive. Ms. Rashidchi and Mr. Greer clarified.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) waiver request. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.3 Special Meeting / Modification of Board Calendar

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Ramsey proposed to meet on February 23 and to move the March 16 meeting to March 9. Mr. Medrano agreed.
Ms. Merriweather said she felt that the February 23rd meeting was needed to provide additional information but that she could not attend a March 9 meeting.
Mr. Thurmond agreed with the value of the meeting but would like to discuss the format. He suggested that the public, PTA members, employees and subcommittees be invited with a modified format.
Ms. Kronenberg supported moving the March 16th meeting to March 9th.
Mr. Thurmond said he would prefer to have one conversation when all Board members are present.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved to hold a special meeting on February 23, 2011 but keep the regularly scheduled meeting on March 16. Mr. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Lourdes Muniz (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 Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) Summer Program
Ms. Rashidchi introduced Mr. Dean Bradley who gave an in depth presentation about the BELL Summer Program.

Public Comment:
Diane Brown, Mary Flanagan, Neil Collins, Eric Swabeck, Thomas Prather

Board Comment:
Mr. Medrano asked what the District's role would be in the hiring process and any violation of the UTR contract. Ms. Reinhagen responded that the summer program would be an exception to the contract. Mr. Medrano asked about the teacher salary rate. Ms. Rashidchi responded that the teachers will receive the same salary rate as previous summer schools. Mr. Medrano wanted to know what students would be served through the BELL program. Ms. Rashidchi responded that the same population of students that are at risk of retention would be served through the BELL program. Mr. Medrano asked what efforts had been made to raise funds and what the student demographic has been. Ms. Rashidchi said that she has had initial conversations but will not move forward until Board approval.

Ms. Kronenberg wanted clarification of the hiring process. Mr. Bradley responded that they will partner with the District. She asked about the past practice for hiring teachers for summer school. Mr. Greer responded that in the past bulletins were distributed and teachers applied for positions. She asked whether the application process could be mirrored by the BELL program. Mr. Bradley responded that they could take the District lead but would not be able to follow the District seniority practice. Ms. Kronenberg asked if the same supporters are to be asked for funding. Ms. Rashidchi responded.

Ms. Merriweather asked for clarification of whether the District would still offer a high school summer program and how to define a competent teacher. Ms. Rashidchi responded that the District would still run a high school summer program as well as a Special Education summer program. Mr. Bradley responded that they use professional recruiters. Ms. Merriweather also asked about cost and professional development. Mr. Bradley and Ms. Rashidchi clarified. Mr. Bradley further explained that the teachers would have on-line training and two days of classroom training.

Mr. Thurmond expressed concern for pursuing a program that has no funding. Ms. Rashidchi responded that if unable to fund for 3,400 students, that they would at least serve 2,000 students. The District currently has enough funding to serve 2,000 students. Mr. Bradley said that teachers would be hired for morning and afternoon sessions and for enrichment. Mr. Greer clarified that summer school programs are to be housed at Title I sites using eight to ten schools ranging from 150-400 students per site.

Mr. Ramsey requested that the Academic Subcommittee review the BELL program.

Ms. Kronenberg asked for clarification that the District has enough funding for 2,000 students. Ms. Rashidchi confirmed. Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Bradley to confirm that BELL will contribute $1.17 million. Mr. Bradley stated that the $1.17 million contribution is based on serving 2,500 but would have to check on the exact contribution for 2,000 students.

Dr. Harter said that he heard direction from the Board to look at pilot programs and alternative models. Mr. Thurmond asked whether the District could run a program with competent teachers to offer the students the programs needed. Dr. Harter explained that if the District runs the summer school program it would have to operate under the UTR contract.

Mr. Ramsey said he would like to see a change in the summer school program and would like to see it come back after the Academic Subcommittee review on March 1.

G.2 Board Priority Strategy 2011
Superintendent Harter gave a brief summary of the Board Priority Strategy for 2011 and asked for feedback.

Public Comment:
Diane Brown, Robert Studdiford

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 commented on plans for the Cinco de Mayo celebration on April 30th.
Ms. Kronenberg announced Black History celebrations at Washington Elementary school and Pinole Valley High School.
Ms. Merriweather announced the Richmond PAL annual luncheon on February 24, inviting all Board members.
Mr. Ramsey reminded everyone that Hercules NAACP was hosting a Black History Month celebration on February 28th at Hercules High.
Mr. Ramsey adjourned the meeting in memory of Dave MacDiarmid, a former member of the Richmond City Council who recently passed away, offering condolences to family and friends.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 2, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:40 PM.

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

BH:rc

MK
Approved 3/16/11