

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

**March 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, Charles Ramsey. Board Members Elaine Merriweather and Tony Thurmond arrived after opening procedures.

**Staff Present:** Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Susan Dunlap, Coordinator, Ed Services; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Haidee Foust, Principal North Campus High School; 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; Harlan Kerr, Coordinator Ed Services; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer, Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement, Mike Wasilchin, Coordinator Disaster Preparedness

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

This item followed D.1 due to the lateness of Ms. Douillard.

**B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of March 2, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002, and #003.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of March 2, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002, and #003. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes. Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond were absent for that portion of Closed Session. Motion carried 3-0-0-2.**

**Reassignment of Administrators / Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees / Release of Temporary Certificated Employees**

Superintendent asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session to reassign 46 administrative positions, non-reelect 15 probationary teachers, and release 159 temporary teachers.

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the reassignment of administrators, non-reelection of probationary teachers, and release of temporary teachers. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes. Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond were absent for that portion of Closed Session. Motion carried 3-0-0-2.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda with moving items D.1 and F.1 to follow B.7. 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.7 Minutes:** February 9, 2011

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the minutes of February 9, 2011. 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.**

**D.1 Installation of Youth Commission**

Mr. Greer introduced the Youth Commission students for installation. Each student received a certificate of recognition and was congratulated by members of the Board. Mr. Thurmond asked each student to speak about a particular project or interest they plan pursue during the year as part of the Youth Commission.

Ms. Drouillard arrived at the meeting at 6:47 PM.

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from the North Campus High School**

Ms. Danielle Drouillard commented about the environment and activities at North Campus High School.

**F.1 Resolution No. 56-10-11: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services**

Ms. Reinhagen presented the recommendation to reduce or eliminate particular kinds of services. She recapped the discussion from the previous meeting regarding reductions in categorical funding and staffing ratios.

**Public Comment:**

Tammy Campbell, Diane Brown, Jerome Smith, Janet Johnston

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about budget scenarios, retaining class size reduction, and the revision of the number of pink slips to be issued.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about state's position on class size reduction. Ms. Gamba responded that the state is currently allowing the program to be run as an optional program. Ms. Gamba said there is an opinion that the state will retain the current program. She spoke about the District's class size reduction program funded with parcel tax funds, Title I and Title II funds, and federal stimulus funds.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the estimated savings for the proposed action. Ms. Gamba responded that the majority of this recommendation is in categorical programs while the general fund portion was \$1.3 million. Mr. Thurmond said he appreciated that the Board took a position to retain class size reduction. He further spoke of creating a week of deferred furloughs as a strategy to provide time and leeway in anticipation of state funding.

Mr. Medrano asked about reductions to adult education over the past years and closure of some of the centers. Ms. Gamba responded by saying that this action does not concern adult education and that no discussion has taken place to close centers.

Mr. Ramsey said he was glad to have budget meeting last week because it provided opportunity to look for other funding. He reminded Board members that this action is in preparation for a worst case scenario and keeping the District solvent. He said he wants to be able to continue looking for funding to support adult education and safety officers.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the number of lay off positions that directly support classroom instruction. Mr. Ramsey responded. She continued to discuss the worst case scenario and the June ballot measure's passage. She said she is of the mind that the District can find the funds for 2011-12 since teachers and support staff have sacrificed significantly.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 56-10-11: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Student Representative Danielle Drouillard (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voting yes, Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond voting 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 Contracted Services**

**C.5 Community Budget Advisory Committee Amended Member Ratification**

**C.6 Resolution No. 54-1011: California Adult Education Week – March 15-19, 2011**

**Public Comment:**

Jerome Smith

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Medrano read the resolution aloud.

- C.7 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.8 Portola Middle School Temporary Campus Additional Site Work Award of Contract**
- C.9 Approval of Pre-Qualified Hazardous Materials Consulting Firms for Measure D 2010 Projects**
- C.10 Resolution No. 57-1011: Read Across America – March 2, 2011**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.10. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Danielle Drouillard (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

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

**D.1 Installation of Youth Commission**

This item was moved to follow B.7.

**D.2 More Inclusive Practices**

SELPA Director Steve Collins and Special Education Director Ora Anderson joined other staff in providing an update on the more inclusive practices initiative in general education settings in the District. Michele Harrison, autistic spectrum disorder inclusion teacher; Cathy Sanchez-Corea, itinerant full inclusion teacher at Harding and El Cerrito High; and April Nicolas, DeJean RSP teacher provided an overview of services provided to students in the inclusion model.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked how special needs are supported around social skills building. Mr. Collins responded that psychologists and behaviorists work in classrooms with students regarding social skills training, as well as providing annual training for teachers. Ms. Harrison added that high students have a tutorial and work daily on social skills in the classroom. In addition, lunch bunch classes and groups at elementary, middle, and high schools during recess and lunch provide opportunity to work with individual students while interacting with general education students.

**D.3 Budget Report Update**

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation on budget planning and recapped direction from the Board at the February 23rd budget planning meeting. She said that staff was focusing on worst case scenarios with budget planning.

**Public Comment:**

Kristen Pursley, Tammy Campbell, Maria Alegria, Shannon Elizondo

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification of the proposed Board's action. Ms. Gamba responded regarding direction from the February 23rd meeting on budget development, but said that no action has been taken at this time.

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of the Voluntary Integration Program repayment. Ms. Gamba said that the state controller determined that program dollars had not been used properly and this is a repayment of those funds to the state. Mr. Medrano also asked for clarification of Certificates of Participation (COPs). Ms. Gamba said that this is a debt service issue and that COPs is another word for a loan taken out in 1988. Mr. Medrano spoke about the District still paying off debt from 20 years ago.

Mr. Thurmond asked when the final budget approval will be brought to Board for action. Ms. Gamba responded with information regarding the potential June election and actions in the coming months necessary to prepare the budget in coming months.

Ms. Merriweather asked when the District budget is due to the state. Ms. Gamba responded with information for the June 22 meeting for Board action, with the budget due to the state by July 1, and a 45 day revision period following the legislations adoption of the state budget.

Ms. Douillard left the meeting.

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

**Community Advisory Committee.** Jeanine Bishop spoke of the annual You Make a Difference award ceremony, March 10, to honor those in the community for service to students with special needs. She announced the names of awards recipients.

**United Teachers of Richmond.** Diane Brown spoke about the BELL summer program, saying that teachers of this District want to be responsible for its own summer program.

**Public Employees Union, Local 1.** Richard Leung spoke about the BELL summer program and a recent meeting with representatives. He expressed concern about administration of the program and assignment of management staff.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the recent meeting where the District Advisory Committee was discussed as well as an in depth presentation and conversation about all of summer programs in the District.

**Linked Learning.** Ms. Kronenberg spoke about recent meetings, teachers learning new approaches to teaching, an upcoming conference in Sacramento, and meeting with business partners to bring in funding from a variety of sources to restore programs. Mr. Medrano talked about the community organization meeting for community partners to tie the direction of the academies with the linked learning experience. He spoke of an additional meeting for local businesses to participate, mentor and sit on advisory teams.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at El Cerrito High School, which will include a review of a resolution in support of a mentoring program at Kennedy High School.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano announced the next meeting for March 14.

**Ivy League Connection.** Ms. Kronenberg said that the committee is in process of students awaiting acceptance to Ivy League summer programs. She said that students are blogging about their experiences. Mr. Ramsey mentioned upcoming events with alumni in Bay Area in the spring.

#### **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**

Mei Ying, Carol Nausin, Lupita Perez, James Haynes, Maria Elena Buitron, Diega Hernandez, Mario A. Moya, Carlos Rullier, Kip Arnold, Maricela Morales, Alene Deyein, Derek Smith, Gayle Louie, Cecilia Ornelas, Karen Wilairat, Tammy Campbell, Cindy Kihm, Vivienne Luke, Nathalie van Finder, Glenn Corley, Inocencia Dacumos, Ken Ryan, Kristen Pursley, Robert Studdiford, Josefina Barcenas, Mark Bell, Dennis Hartigan-O'Connor, Lucie Stott, Jill Sprague, Mary Shaughnessy, Carmen Hernandez, Steffi Kaiser, Mel Collins, Susan Billings, Marge Essel

#### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 56-10-11: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services**  
This item was moved to follow D.1.

**F.2 Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) K-8 Summer Program**  
Ms. Rashidchi provided information about the proposed K-8 summer program and existing summer learning opportunities for students. Ms. Rashidchi introduced Carol Prest from Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) who was available to address questions of the Board.

**Public Comment:**

Diane Brown, Richard Leung, Marcus Mitchell, Mel Collins, Margaret Browne, Mary Flanagan, Karen VanWinkle, Thomas Prather, Amanda Henderson, Mary Flanagan, Eric Swabeck, Jennifer Peck, Jerome Smith

Ms. Prest addressed the Board and many of the public comments. She spoke of BELL being a non-profit organization that does not make money on partnerships. She explained that matching funds come from major foundations and philanthropic groups interested in assisting school systems. She said her organization is willing to spend as much time as needed to converse with interested parties to work toward a successful program to benefit children.

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Merriweather asked about the number of academic instructors to be hired. Ms. Prest spoke about a morning academic program and afternoon enrichment program with 100 academic teachers, 100 enrichment teachers supported by 100 teaching assistants. Ms. Prest explained the rationale behind teaching assistants with bachelor degrees and the classroom ratio of 20 to 1. Ms. Merriweather asked about custodial and food service support. Ms. Rashidchi explained that these support services are incorporated in the budget. She also explained the prioritization for students at risk of retention or not making necessary progress according to benchmark standards.

Mr. Medrano asked about the financing of computer technology. Ms. Prest said the cost of all technology and curriculum is built into the budget. Mr. Medrano asked about middle school students. Ms. Rashidchi explained the proposed special outreach to students, parents, counselors, teachers and principals at the middle schools. He also asked about teacher/parent outreach. Ms. Prest spoke about parent ambassadors approaching parents, as well as a parent orientation, telephone phone contact, field trips, parent/teacher conferences and closing ceremony celebrations.

Ms. Kronenberg asked what the District summer school program would be like without the BELL program. Ms. Rashidchi responded and discussion continued around the comparables. Ms. Prest spoke of the cost of computer equipment for site management, software, and curriculum being defrayed over the future should the program continue year to year. Ms. Kronenberg further asked about teaching aides staffing. Ms. Prest spoke about the filling the 100 slots with people who will serve as role models and support to the certificated teachers.

Mr. Thurmond expressed concern about the level of academic rigor. Ms. Prest responded. He continued with questions about computer purchases. Ms. Prest explained that seven laptops would be purchased for management of the seven sites and use by administrators, loaded with BELL software. He further asked about the hiring practice for teaching assistants. Ms. Prest and Ms. Rashidchi responded with clarification.

Superintendent Harter responded to the concern about the level of commitment by the District with high expectation for outcomes. He continued to say that oversight and implementation will be coordinated with BELL but that the District will handle hiring of staff and principals. He said that the District is committed to spending as much time as in any previous year to ensure a successful program.

Mr. Thurmond asked whether any other students would be served by summer school. Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the high school program, special education programs and at risk students.

The question was asked about delaying this vote to the next meeting. Ms. Rashidchi expressed concern about a delay in the timeline, which would include outreach with teachers, principals, families. She stressed that ongoing conversations will continue with unions and formalizing the benchmark outcomes.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved to delay a vote on this item to March 16, 2011. The motion failed for lack of second.**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) K-8 Summer Program. Mr. Medrano seconded.**

Discussion continued. Ms. Kronenberg said she thought that BELL representatives have already given the District the set of measurements for student success and did not feel that additional time will make a difference. Ms. Prest spoke about measures of average month gains and parent/teacher satisfaction scores can be available in the next few days.

Mr. Thurmond asked maker of motion to reconsider delaying action to allow BELL to frame proposed outcomes and allow employee groups additional time for their questions to be answered.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg retracted her original motion and moved to table this item until March 16, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond voting yes, President Ramsey voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion to table the item carried 4-1-0-0.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Community Roots Academy Charter School**

President Ramsey opened public hearing.

**Public Comment:**

None

President Ramsey closed public hearing.

**G.2 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction**

Mr. Savidge provided update to District construction projects.

President Ramsey had questions about Harding and the second phase. Mr. Savidge responded with information about moisture intrusion and repair work, architectural design. Mr. Ramsey also asked about restroom projects for Verde and Lupine Hills. Mr. Savidge offered details.

Mr. Medrano asked for a full schedule for the next facilities subcommittee meeting. He also asked about windows at Richmond High. Discussion continued regarding interim housing at Nystrom, ribbon cutting ceremonies, and the DeAnza industrial arts building. Mr. Savidge responded.

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

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

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the March for Peace at El Cerrito High School.

Mr. Medrano announced the dedication of Nevin Community Center.

Mr. Thurmond encouraged attendance for Assembly member Nancy Skinner's Woman of the Year Program.

Mr. Ramsey thanked the city councils, bargaining groups and the community for support of the District's bond measure debt limit waiver request pending with the State Board of Education.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 16, 2011

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 11:03 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p><b>MK</b> Approved 3/16/11</p>
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