

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

May 18, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:39 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: Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Personnel; 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; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Joe Mayes, Manager Building & Maintenance; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention

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

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

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the May 18, 2011 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 through #006.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of May 18, 2011 for expulsion cases #001 through #006. 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 action taken in Closed Session regarding a West Bay Builders settlement agreement.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding a West Bay Builders settlement agreement. 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: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the agenda including moving item E.2 Request to Address the Board – Andrew Gooden, Gooden Family Scholarship Fund to follow the Consent Items. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Selene Calderon (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: May 4, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of May 4, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Selene Calderon (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 Acceptance of Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund Raising Activities

C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Central Printing Lease Renewal

C.6 Community Budget Advisory Committee

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.8 Approval of Resolution No. 69-1011: Resolution to Enter into an Energy Service Contract, and approval of the Contract with selected vendor

C.9 Kennedy High School ADA Compliance Project Award of Contract

C.10 School Consolidation Modularity Award of Contract

Mr. Fay read a revision to the fiscal impact for this item into the record for clarification. He stated that \$498,586.00 is funded by Special Reserve for Capital Facilities. None of the projects listed will be funded using bond proceeds.

C.11 Approval of contract for furniture, setup and installation at Pinole Middle School main building

C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.14 2011-2012 Designation of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Representatives to the League

C.15 Resolution No. 73-1011: Resolution in Support of Contra Costa College's Capital Bond Initiative

C.16 Resolution No. 74-1011: In Support of Assembly Bill 402 (Skinner) Hunger Free Kids Act

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

E.2 Request to Address the Board - Andrew Gooden, Gooden Family Scholarship Fund

Mr. Gooden spoke briefly about the Fund and asked the graduating student scholars to introduce themselves and share the college they plan to attend in the fall.

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked the organization for its good work on behalf of students.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 WCCUSD Elementary Poet-Athlete Students from Grant Elementary Performed at the Apollo Theater in New York City on April 11, 2011 in Celebration of National Poetry Month

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Ms. Liz Torio recognized two Grant Elementary students who participated in the America SCORES afterschool program. She also introduced Mr. Collin Schmidt, Executive Director of the America SCORES program, who provided an overview to the program. Student poets Christian Suarez and Nayeli Cuiriz-Galvan recited their work and were awarded certificates of appreciation.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked the students for representing their school and sharing their work. Mr. Medrano offered congratulations in Spanish.

D.2 The Ed. Fund's 2010-2011 Scholarship Winners

Executive Director Joel Mackey of the Ed Fund celebrated the scholar award winners for this year. He thanked Chevron, the Schroeder Family Fund and the Irvine Foundation for their support in awarding \$2500 scholarships to 20 students. Mr. Zuhair Saadat, program manager, introduced each scholar who was recognized with a plaque.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke of the pride and pleasure to acknowledge these students as an example and pride to the community.

D.3 Recognition of the Northern California MESA Day 2011 Competition Winners from WCCUSD

Mr. Greer introduced the MESA enrichment program and students participating in regional and Northern California competitions held at California State University East Bay. Mr. Greer also acknowledged Chevron's funding support to keep this program active in the District.

Pinole Middle Principal Katie VonHusen, acknowledged staff and the student award winners from her school.

Middle College High Principal Hattie Smith acknowledged her students as well as their parents for their commitment.

Principal Carol Butcher of Stewart School spoke about the number of middle school students who qualified to participate and introduced the award winners.

Mr. Aurelio Garcia, MESA teacher at Richmond High, talked about his students' activities and commitment, and acknowledged his school's winners.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano invited the parents of the student winners to stand for recognition.

D.4 Recognition by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for the Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) completion and submission

Mr. Greer introduced Ms. Antoinette Henry-Evans who gave a brief description of work done by secondary school counselors in the development and submissions of SPARCs. She introduced counselors Amar Nalic of Helms Middle School, Sarah Larson of ECHS, Michelle Hart of Middle College who provided details about their work with students as well as the development of the SPARCs criteria and implementation. Ms. Henry-Evans presented certificates to all secondary counselors and/or their school representatives.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked staff for hard work.

Student Representative Selene Calderon left for the evening.

D.5 Contra Costa College Capital Initiative

Superintendent Harter introduced Contra Costa College President McKinley Williams who provided information about programs and facilities at the San Pablo campus. President Williams also shared the need for funds for capital improvements to the facilities.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey said the Board is very much in support of the effort to improve facilities and that he hopes the College will be able to get this initiative on the November ballot for voter approval.

D.6 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba shared a budget update based upon the May revision recently released by the Governor's office.

Public Comment:

Maria Alegria, Carlos Rullier, Ana Ramirez, Kristen Pursley, Tad Toomay, Marge Essell

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked about the previously recommended cuts as they relate to the new information. Ms. Gamba responded with information about the School Resource Officer's and the adult education program being items for review with the preliminary budget to be presented in June.

D.7 Standing Reports

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting will be held May 26 at the Alvarado Adult Campus and welcomed any interested community members.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford announced the next meeting for May 25 where the local capacity building report and the city and District partnership will be reviewed for discussion.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about steering committee meetings and the 22 academies. There is now a link on the District website for Linked Learning. She announced the Academy Awards program for graduates from the program to be held on May 31st. She further spoke about connections to summer programs at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and Holy Names College in Oakland. Mr. Medrano spoke about Junior Achievement programs and Youth Works programs at Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo. He also said that San Francisco General Hospital will host an internship program during the summer. Helms Middle School will have the opportunity to participate in the Linked Learning program through the new engineering academy.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond reported on the talent show held last Saturday which showcased students from the District. He would like to invite some of the participants to come to a future Board meeting to perform. The next meeting will be held May 23rd at the RYSE Center at 6:30 p.m.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting for May 24 at DeJean Middle School.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced that the committee met last week and heard a presentation on the District emergency response plan. He said the next meeting will be held at the Richmond Civic Center in the Emergency Services building, June 15, at 6:00 p.m.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the May 10 meeting where updated program budgets for Measure J and Measure D 2010, and updated elementary program standards were discussed. He further reported that the following schools are scheduled to be rebuilt: Wilson, Fairmont, Valley View, Stege, Highland, Coronado, Nystrom, Portola PVHS and Ohlone. He also spoke of an upcoming contractors fair.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported on recent dinners with alumni and campus representatives and an upcoming dinner with Vanderbilt University representatives. He further announced that students will make a presentation to the Hercules City Council on May 24th.

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 Request to Address the Board – Andrew Gooden, Gooden Family Scholarship Fund

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Community Roots Academy Charter School Petition

Ms. Linda Jackson introduced this item for the submission of the charter school petition. Ms. Jackson provided background information pertaining to the staff analysis findings.

Dr. Francine Shakir and Mr. Wesley Jacques from Community Roots Academy read statements regarding the recommendation to deny the petition, with points to counter the staff analysis. They asked for opportunity to address the report's inaccuracies and provide amendments to the petition.

President Ramsey asked whether the school was open to putting this item over to allow opportunity to resolve details. Mr. Jacques responded affirmatively.

Ms. Jackson spoke about the legal requirement when the time frame begins upon receipt of a petition. President Ramsey said the Board is required to act if the petition is not withdrawn in order to allow time to address and respond to the findings.

Dr. Shakir and Mr. Jacques acknowledged they would be happy to withdraw if given the opportunity to sit with District officials to review the final pieces.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked for staff's review of whether the petition has merit since Community Roots has said the findings presented do not fairly characterize the petition.

Ms. Merriweather asked whether the clock was ticking since the time of the original petition. Ms. Jackson responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked Ms. Jackson to respond to the comments made by the petitioner. Ms. Jackson responded with information about measuring the petition application as it compares to the Education Code and the review by staff members.

President Ramsey asked the petitioners to return when the petition has been revised.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to officially accept the withdrawal of the Community Roots Academy Charter Petition. 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.

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

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the week of legislative action in Sacramento with 200 educators. She said she felt they made a positive impact.

Mr. Medrano spoke about attending a school board training as well as legislative contacts during his time in Sacramento. He also spoke about the successful immigration forums held in the District. He further spoke of activities in San Pablo and an upcoming contractors fair for recruiting local contractors.

Mr. Thurmond reminded the audience of the Ed Fund Banquet scheduled for May 20 at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. He expressed cautious optimism on financial impacts for education from the proposed state budget. He asked Superintendent Harter to bring recommendations for the Board strategic plan regarding rigor at middle schools that focus on implementation. He concluded by speaking proudly of the scholars and poetry participants at recent meetings.

Ms. Kronenberg announced the May 19 event at Kennedy High School; open house and community event featuring the AC Transit Freedom Bus.

President Ramsey remembered the Nashville sit-in and spoke of the group of District students attending Vanderbilt during the summer. Mr. Ramsey asked where the District's charter schools are sending their graduates to college. He asked for review of Mr. Thurmond's request for some type of FTE for the Youth Commission for the Board to consider.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in honor of Robert Studdiford for his work in the District as the Ed Fund honors his service.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 1, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MK</u> Approved 6/1/11</p>
