

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

**September 7, 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 6:36 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, and Tony Thurmond

**Staff Present:** Mike Aaronian, Coordinator Linked Learning; Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Pamala Blake, Director; Linda Cohen, Principal; Rosa Cornejo, Staff Secretary; Martin Coyne, Executive Director/Bond Finance; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-12 Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Rhonda Haney, Health 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 Preparation/Safety

**B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

None

**B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Mr. Ramsey requested that items D.1 and F.1 be moved to follow item B.6 to accommodate speakers.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with the moving of agenda items D.1 and F.1 to follow B.6. Ms. Kronenberg 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 Minutes:** August 17, 2011

**MOTION: Ms. Merriweather moved approval of the Minutes of August 17, 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 Summer Legal Fellowship Program**

Superintendent Harter introduced Ms. Nancy Schiff who provided an indepth presentation of the Summer Legal Fellowship Program and extended an offer for partnership with the District. Ms. Schiff introduced three students from Richmond High School to share their experiences in the program.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg shared that she had the pleasure to meet with Ms. Schiff and Judge Ramsey to discuss the details of the program. The program will provide Mock Trial coaches to the Law Academies at Kennedy and Richmond High. Mr. Thurmond thanked the group for providing youth with this opportunity and for accepting more students into the program. He said he would like to see the program expanded.

Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Medrano said they were in support of the program.

Ms. Kronenberg clarified that this will be a \$50,000 program cost.

Mr. Thurmond asked if the source of funding had been identified. Mr. Greer responded.

All Board members were supportive of the program.

**F.1 Resolution No. 15-1112: State Loan Pay Off and Budget Implications**

Ms. Gamba gave a presentation on the state loan and budget implications.

**Public Comment:**

Tim Banuelos, Mark Bell, Diane Brown, Leigh Brown, Tom Butt, Tammy Campbell, Shelby Chapel, Mel Collins, Charles Cowens, Arturo Cruz, Karen Fenton, John Fischbach, Cathy Garza, Adrienne Harris, Amanda Henderson, Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Bell Kavanagh, Juan Kenyon, Bea Lieberman, Debbie Long, Robert Mann, Maria Poblano, Patricia Ponce, Thomas Prather, Eric Reed, Helen Couture Rodriguez, Katrina Soelter, Jill Sprague, Mark Suarez, Robert Studdiford, Eric Swabeck, Roy Swearingen, Laurie Tanaka, Lea Taylor, Esmeralda Topete

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey acknowledged and commended former Board members for their experiences in the District over the last 20 years. He also thanked former Superintendents who served in the District. Mr. Ramsey invited Council Member from the City of Pinole Debbie Long and Council Member Cecilia Valdez of the City of San Pablo to speak.

Mr. Ramsey stated that he was ready to vote to keep Shannon and Lake off the closure list.

Mr. Thurmond thanked all the speakers, commending former Boards members. He said he would like to encourage taking a step by step approach in order to look what the revenues will be in November and begin to assess priorities.

Mr. Medrano agreed with Mr. Thurmond in taking a step by step approach. He also agreed with the need to set priorities. He asked for different budget scenarios to include keeping Shannon and Lake open.

Ms. Merriweather said she believed this was an historical moment and that the Board should give the Shannon and Lake communities assurance that both schools will be kept open.

Ms. Kronenberg also supported keeping both schools open.

Mr. Thurmond asked for clarification as to the action required by the agenda item, saying he understood that the Board was being asked is to take action on paying off the debt. Mr. Ramsey clarified.

Mr. Thurmond asked if the Board had the legal standing to take such action at this time. Mr. Ramsey responded that the Lake and Shannon closures were on the agenda item. Mr. Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter to put into the record what his understanding was. Superintendent Harter said he heard Mr. Medrano state to keep Shannon and Lake open and develop that into the 2012-13 budget as a priority.

Mr. Thurmond said that he does not feel comfortable voting on how to spend savings that have yet to be achieved. He is not opposed of keeping Lake and Shannon open.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 15-1112: State Loan Pay Off and Budget Implications. 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.**

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval to keep Lake and Shannon schools open. 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.**

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval to have a Special Board meeting in October regarding the budget. Ms. Kronenberg 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.**

**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 **Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3**
- C.6 **Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.7 **Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)**
- C.8 **Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**
- C.9 **Resolution No. 17-1112: Hispanic Heritage Month, September 14, 2011 – October 14, 2011**
- C.10 **State Approved Course List/A-22 Course Approval**
- C.11 **Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.12 **Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.13 **Helms Middle School Surveillance Cameras Project Award of Contract**
- C.14 **Pinole Valley High School Surveillance Cameras Project Award of Contract**

Superintendent Harter read the following revision into the record for item C.14:

**Background Information:**

The District has been working closely with the City of Pinole, including Pinole Police Department, to develop a surveillance camera system for the Pinole Valley High School campus. The system will enhance student safety on the campus.

TCG International consultants has prepared plans and specifications for the project. The District conducted a public bid process for the project. Bids were opened on August 24, 2011. Two Contractors submitted bids. They are as follows: ERA Construction \$335,000; and, Ojo Technology \$330,000. The apparent lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Ojo Technology, at \$330,000.

*Unfortunately, after opening the bids the District received a Bid Protest relating to local hiring compliance by the apparent low bidder. In reviewing the bid documents and requirements it was clear that neither bidder had provided required information regarding local hiring. In addition, the District received information regarding the bid process, license and qualifications requirements, and completeness of the bid documents which raised questions regarding the bids. Staff considers that the best approach would be to reject all bids, update and revise the bid documents with additional information, and rebid the project. While this will delay the installation, nonetheless staff believes this will provide a better project. .*

**Recommendation:** *Reject all bids and authorize rebid of the project.*

**Fiscal Impact:** *None at this time.* Funded by the Measure J Bond, under the Pinole Valley High School project budget.

- C.15 **Approval of Valley View Elementary School Master Plan**  
This item was pulled for discussion.
- C.16 **Selection of the Independent Performance Auditor for the Bond Program**
- C.17 **Contra Costa County School Boards Association Representative Alternate**
- C.18 **Antonio Medrano earns California School Boards Association (CSBA) Masters in Governance certificate**
- C.19 **National School Boards Association (NSBA) Program and the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE)**
- C.20 **Change of Meeting Date**

**MOTION:** Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.14 and C.16 - C.20. 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.

- C.15 **Approval of Valley View Elementary School Master Plan**  
A representative from DLM Architects gave a presentation of the Valley View Master Plan.

**Board Comments:**

Mr. Ramsey asked about community involvement. Mr. Savidge responded.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Item C.15 Approval of Valley View Elementary School Master Plan. Ms. Merriweather 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. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**D.1 Summer Legal Fellowship Program**

This item was moved to follow B.6.

**D.2 Standing Reports**

**Bayside Parent Teacher Association.** President Laura Ramos gave an update. She encouraged everyone to become members. She also commented that Bayside was the only council in Contra Costa County to increase memberships in the last year. She announced the next meeting will be held Monday, September 26 at 7:00 at Alvarado Adult School.

**United Teachers of Richmond.** Diane Brown, UTR President, took the opportunity to introduce UTR Board Members.

Diane Brown, President (Mira Vista)  
Amanda Henderson, Vice President (Chavez Elementary)  
Robert Mann, Secretary (Riverside Elementary)  
Eric Reed, Treasurer (Middle College)  
Mike Rossi, Area 1 Director (Pinole Valley High School)  
Thomas Prather, Area 2 Director (Grant Elementary)  
Christine Nordstrom, Area 3 Director (El Cerrito High School)  
Holly Ruff, Elementary Director (Kensington Elementary)  
Pallop Wilairat, Jr. High/Middle School Director (Helms Middle School)  
Tiffani Neal, Senior High Director (Gompers)  
Grace Murphy-Jenkins, Special Services Director (DeJean Middle School)  
Eric Swabeck, State Council Representative (Lake Elementary)  
Mel Collins, State Council Representative (DeJean Middle School)  
Robert Ellis, State Council Representative (Washington Elementary)

**Public Employees Local One.** Peter Tiernan introduced Julio Arroyo, new Local One Business Agent.

**Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.** Chairperson Robert Studdiford gave an update on the last meeting, including discussion on a program update report. The Executive Board of CBOC was reelected and administrative regulations were approved. He announced the next joint meeting with the Board of Education on September 21, 2011.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond announced the upcoming meeting on September 14, 2011 at King Elementary. They will tour the new school and District Attorney Mark Peterson will attend to discuss truancy.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba gave an update on the last meeting. They discussed the state of the district budget and looked at state triggers.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi announced the first meeting on September 13, 2011 at 6:30 at Helms Middle School.

**Ivy League Connection.** Ms. Kronenberg announced being nominated for the Golden Bell Award from CSBA. West Contra Costa Unified School District is the only district competing from Contra Costa County.

**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**

Tammy Campbell, Charles Cowens, James Sanders

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 15-1112: State Loan Pay Off and Budget Implications**

This item was moved to follow D.1.

**F.2 Resolution No. 16-1112: Reimbursement Resolution – 2010 Series A Bond Sale**

Ms. Gamba gave background information on the 2010 Series A Bond Sale. She explained that bond counsel had been working with staff to advise on the validity of charging current costs associated with the Gompers/Leadership project to the future issuance of the 2010 Series A Bond – QSCB (Quality School Construction Bond). Counsel prepared a resolution so that costs recognized as “capital costs” can be tracked and charged to the new issuance, once those bonds are sold. Approving this resolution will permit the District to go back 60 days from the date of this resolution to capture these costs. Ms. Gamba introduced Mr. Olson of KNN Public Finance and Ms. Catrina Cartagena representing Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth, the District Bond Counsel.

**Public Comments:**  
None

**Board Comments:**  
Mr. Ramsey asked if this resolution related to the QSCB Bonds, 2010 regular Bonds and the Gompers/Leadership project. Ms. Cartagena responded that it includes both. Mr. Ramsey asked for clarification some of the language. Mr. Olson responded that he was comfortable and that many districts approve the same type of resolution. Mr. Ramsey asked for the resolution to be amended.

After further discussion this item was withdrawn to a future meeting for revisions.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction**

Mr. Savidge provided a status report of construction activities in the District.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Mr. Ramsey asked about Ohlone’s ground breaking ceremony. Mr. Savidge responded that it was scheduled for September 20, 2011. Mr. Ramsey asked for updates of the Peres Dental Clinic and Montalvin. Mr. Savidge said he will bring updates to the next meeting.

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

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

Ms. Merriweather said she was glad to be part of the historical night. She wished everyone a good school year. Ms. Kronenberg recalled the hunger strike and march to Sacramento and efforts by Dolores Huerta to reduce the debt. She announced that on September 13, 2011 the City of Richmond will host the Richmond Economic Summit. Mr. Thurmond welcomed back students, parent and staff. He congratulated the Board members for retiring the debt. Mr. Medrano said he was proud to have been part of the discussion process to pay off the loan. Mr. Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the names of former Board members and Superintendents and most of all the current Board Members and Superintendent, Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, President Ramsey and Superintendent Harter.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 21, 2011

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:45 PM.

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

<b><i>MK</i></b> Approved 9/21/11
--------------------------------------