

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

November 16, 2011

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

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

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 arrived 6:35 p.m.

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, District Engineering Officer; Patricia Calvert, Executive Director Human Resources; Martin Coyne, Senior Director Bond Finance; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Rod McPherson, Business Application Analyst; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Ann Reinlagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Debbie Sellers-Edwards, Personnel Technician

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from El Cerrito High School

Mr. Aidan Brorsen provided a report of activities at El Cerrito High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the November 16, 2011 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001, #002, #003 and #004.

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendations of November 16, 2011 for expulsion cases #001, #002, #003, and #004. 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.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda which included moving item E.3, Public Comment, before Consent Items. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Aidan Brorsen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: October 19, 2011; November 2, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of October 19, 2011 and November 2, 2011. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Aidan Brorsen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

E.3 Public Comment:

Harding school students Cloe Coscoy, Isabel Bustamante and Henry Lindsay; Monica Chico, Robelia de Leon, Jazmin Medina, Amanda Henderson, Michael Beer

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 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.6 Notice of Completions: Bid J068301 Richmond High School Arts Building Fire & Intrusion Alarm Project, Bid J068217 Kennedy High School Security Fencing Project, Bid J068263 Crespi Middle School Roof Restoration Project

C.7 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3

C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.9 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

C.10 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.11 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.12 Approval of Wilson Elementary School Construction Document Design Fees

C.13 Approval of Superintendent and Board Members Attending California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference

C.14 Resolution No. 73-1112: Supporting the California Cancer Research Act

C.15 Annual Williams Review

This item was pulled for comment.

C.16 Resolution No. 72-1112: Educators Recognition Resolution

C.17 Modification for Policy 7214.2

President Ramsey acknowledged Dr. Cynthia LeBlanc in the audience, for her work with the American Cancer Society as National Director.

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

C.15 Annual Williams Review

Ms. Merriweather had questions about the repair process for maintenance concerns. Mr. Fay responded that the Maintenance Department makes a priority of all Williams claims and spoke about the length of time to clear the complete list.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.15 Annual Williams Review. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Aidan Brorsen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Employee Service Anniversary Recognition

Ms. Reinhagen invited the Board and Cabinet to recognize employees for annual service awards. She also invited the union representatives in the audience to join in the recognition: Sandra Falk, Scott Brown, Sharon Lambie, Diane Brown. Ms. Reinhagen said that sixty-one employees are being acknowledged for their years of service. Those in attendance were awarded service pins.

D.2 Parcel Tax Survey Presentation

Superintendent Harter provided context regarding the Board's authorization earlier in the year, for a committee to determine whether the community would support a revenue enhancing measure on the ballot. The committee selected Godbe Research to do a survey of the community. Mr. Bryan Godbe provided a report of the survey findings.

Public Comment:

Debra Lane, Diane Brown, Marisol Sanchez, Fayza Ayyad, David Yarnell

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about the recent community support for Doctor's Hospital Medical Center and asking for the same support for education.

Ms. Kronenberg asked questions about a June or November ballot measure. Discussion continued.

President Ramsey spoke of his experience in working on eleven election measures and the political action committee For the Children of West County, that has been in place for the last fifteen years and its fundraising efforts.

Discussion continued about the possibilities of a June and November ballot measure.

Mr. Thurmond asked about different dollar amounts for the average parcel homeowner. Mr. Godbe responded.

President Ramsey said that the average combined cost is \$175 per parcel for MRAD and the current parcel tax

Mr. Thurmond expressed concern about voter turn out for a June election. Mr. Godbe responded. Discussion continued regarding the shorter interval, as well as an approach for November should June not be successful.

Superintendent Harter reported that projected revenue could be about \$1.1 million per tenth of a cent. For example a three cent increase could yield \$3.3 or \$3.5 million and five cents could yield about \$5.5 million or \$5.7 million in increased revenue.

Ms. Kronenberg said she supported a June ballot and going back in November if necessary.

Ms. Merriweather asked questions about how the sampling was done. Mr. Godbe responded that the sampling was proportionate to the expected voter turn out.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Godbe and asked Dr. Harter to approach bargaining units about support for a campaign.

President Ramsey asked the Board to consider moving item E.2, Request to Address the Board - Billy Alexander, up on the agenda to follow this item.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of moving item E.2 up on the agenda. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Aidan Brorsen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Billy Alexander

Mr. Billy Alexander spoke about Kwanza as the result of a needs assessment done for the District and previously implemented until budget cuts. He asked the Board to renew a commitment by approving a budget and giving authorization to bring this program back.

President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter to bring this item back to the December 7 meeting for consideration.

President Ramsey asked the Board to consider moving item D.6, Standing Reports, upon the agenda to follow this item.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of moving item D.6 up on the agenda. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Aidan Brorsen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D.6 Standing Reports

United Teachers of Richmond. President Diane Brown spoke about the November 18 KEYS collaboration and support meeting. She said that UTR is inviting the Board to stop by and talk with its members. Ms. Rashidchi responded about the administrators planning to attend. Ms. Brown said she hoped for a better representation for direct collaboration with teachers. She continued to speak about the language art textbook adoption process. She further said that UTR wants to invoke Article 33 of the contract regarding educational objectives, content of courses and selection of textbooks.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Robert Studdiford thanked the Board for the approval of the newest members, making the committee stronger. He also thanked the Board for approval of the Board policy bringing the committee in compliance. He said the committee is looking toward approval of new bylaws as well as approval and posting of minutes. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 6:00 p.m. at the Facilities Operations Center. There will not be a December meeting, but the January meeting will be held at Ford Elementary with a tour of the campus.

President Ramsey acknowledged Local One and School Supervisors Association representatives in the audience.

Linked Learning. Mr. Medrano spoke about a successful conference in Sacramento where districts funded by the Irvine Foundation met.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond reported that the committee will meet on December 14 at Richmond High School where agenda topics will include district programs that support mental health and drug prevention for students.

Ivy League Connection. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about recently chaperoning students to attend a symposium at Brown University. She said our students did a great job of presenting their action plans that address worldwide issues. The symposium was intended to prepare students for Ivy League schools.

Youth Commission. Mr. Greer reported on the last meeting where students were in the process of recruiting and approving members for election of officers. This year students plan to focus on working with the District in closing the achievement gap. He said students will come to future Board meetings to give updates.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on Academic Townhall Meeting which was very successful with over 250 parents in attendance. She said the discussion included districtwide data, essential program components, school specific information. She said next steps will be to summarize the feedback and share the information. The next Academic Subcommittee meeting is planned for December 13 at Helms Middle School.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the last meeting where action included approval of a resolution for complex construction projects, approval of deferred capital projects, and relocation of the California Children's Services to the old El Sobrante Elementary site. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13 at the Facilities Operations Center.

D.4 Report on Dental Clinic

Mr. Fay introduced the speakers for this presentation, Marcus Hibser of Hibser Yamauchi Architects, Inc., Rick Williams of Henry Schein Dental Equipment, Dr. Daniel Tanita, and Principal Jean Hansen. Mr. Hibser shared diagrams of the planned construction of the new clinic to be located at front of the campus. He spoke about renovating the clinic to provide services that will have a positive impact on learning environment for students. Principal Hansen spoke positively about the project and the excitement to be able provide better services to students. President Ramsey asked for a consensus of the Board to move the project forward.

Dr. Tanita said he was extremely grateful to the Board for the effort to serve students even from the humble beginnings in 1998. He said the clinic provides a first class comprehensive service with volunteer dentists and hygienists, and a great potential to help kids and the community.

Discussion continued regarding this project being unique as a school based clinic. Dr. Tanita remarked that in the 13 years of volunteer work in the Peres community, the clinic provided kids with regular dental care and has seen a change in culture as well as increased health of students.

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about the kind of equipment to be installed in the new clinic.

Mr. Williams responded and spoke of the contribution of dental professionals over the next years.

Mr. Greer presented Dr. Tanita with a certificate of recognition for outstanding service to children.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked Dr. Tanita for his commitment and spoke of his determination.

Mr. Medrano remarked that this will be the model to follow for Coronado dental clinic.

Mr. Thurmond and Ms. Merriweather added their thanks to Dr. Tanita and his colleagues for their work and dedication.

D.3 Report on the School Based Health Centers

Mr. Greer introduced health educators Bianca La Cheaux and Theresa Boone, who gave an overview of the health centers at the six comprehensive high schools. Kennedy High student Dacia Stewart gave her perspective as a youth advisory board member and advocate for the health center.

Mr. Greer spoke about the team work of Mr. Fay and the Facilities division and Ms. Gamba and Business Services for their support to the efforts of the health clinics.

D.4 Report on Dental Clinic

This item moved to follow D.6.

D.7 In Memory of Members of the School Community

Superintendent Harter recognized the contributions of members of the community who have passed away.

Student Representative Aidan Brorsen left the meeting for the evening.

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

D.5 Measure D 2010 Bond Sale

Ms. Gamba introduced the bond finance team of Dave Olson, KNN Public Finance, Jeff Barrata of Piper Jaffray, John Solarczyk and Scott Henry of De La Rosa Co., Kris Vaca of GCR, LLP and Catrina Cartagena of Stradling, Yocca, Carlson and Rauth.

Mr. Olson reported on the recent successful sale of \$100 million in bonds, the first series of bonds issued under 2010-D bond program. He spoke about new strategies used, objectives, and the primary results. He also spoke about investor outreach and participation feedback. Discussion continued regarding the aspects of the sale and comparisons with sales over previous years.

Further discussion concerned disclosure of the District's history, moving forward with the state loan payoff, and release of the state trustee.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about investors making comparisons and what the District should do to add meaningful value to its portfolio. Mr. Solarczyk responded.

Mr. Olson concluded by saying that this bond effort will result in delivery of a high quality construction program.

President Ramsey thanked the team for their work over the last 18 months.

Board members Kronenberg, Medrano, Merriweather and Thurmond thanked the finance team for their work, and leadership in this successful sale

D.6 Standing Reports

This item was moved to follow E.2.

D.7 In Memory of Members of the School Community

This item was moved to follow D.3.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

This item was moved to follow D.3.

E.2 Request to Address the Board – Billy Alexander

This item was moved to follow D.2.

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item was moved to follow B.7.

F. ACTION ITEMS

None

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

Mr. Medrano thanked the Board for their work together as a team. He also congratulated four Richmond High Juniors for their essay contest scholarships; Jillian Ortiz, Curz, Perla Ponce, Diana Osorio, and Alex Uribe. He also mentioned Pinole Valley High Environmental Studies Academy students and teachers who attended the National Career Academy Coalition recently in Anaheim. The teachers included William Harris, William Wilson, Leslie Ganick and Monica Tennison-Luthy. The students who presented at the coalition included Motasim Hassan, Khalil Ferguson, Celeste Mendoza and Mayra Martinez.

Mr. Thurmond thanked President Ramsey for his leadership in being financial stewards and bringing a level of intensity to raising the academic bar.

Ms. Merriweather thanked her colleagues for the excellent job with the bond sale and remarked at how much she has learned during her first year on the Board. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Kronenberg commented on a recent celebration of the 100 years that women have been able to vote in California and the hard work of Assemblymember Nancy Skinner on behalf of for female elected officials. She also commented on attending the Contra Costa Women's Summit where she heard Delaine Easton speak about the impact of budget cuts on women and children, and the need to maintain the length of the school day in the state.

President Ramsey wished staff a restful Thanksgiving holiday. He reflected on the past year's accomplishments, hoping to go forward with responsible conversations with voters regarding a parcel tax.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – January 4, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:58 P.M. in honor of students of the District.

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

BH:dh

AAM
Approved 12/7/11