

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting
Study Session
DeJean Middle School
3400 Macdonald Ave.
Richmond, CA 94805**

December 12, 2012

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

A.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Ramsey offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

A.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey. Tony Thurmond arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Staff Present: Mike Aaronian, Coordinator; Pamala Blake, Director; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Susana Coracero, Student Support Supervisor; Rosa Cornejo, Staff Secretary; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Julio Franco, Principal Richmond High; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent for K-Adult Operations; Superintendent Bruce Harter; Antoinette Henry-Evans, Executive Director; Nicole Joyner, Grant Writer; Brenda King-Randle, Coordinator; Sue Khan, Principal Pinole Valley High; Kibby Kleiman, Assistant Principal Richmond High; David Luongo, Principal El Cerrito High; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Cecilia Mendoza, Executive Director; Tashaka Merriweather, Project Assistant; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Maria Leticia Oregon, Interpreter; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator; Mike Walsilchin, Coordinator Disaster Preparation/Safety; Kyra Worthy, Student Support Supervisor

B. Public Comment

None

C. 180° Program

Superintendent Harter asked Ms. Kronenberg to give a brief description of the 180° Program. She said that the program is an opportunity to provide an afterschool and life skills program for 350 students from each of the secondary schools including continuation schools. The program will help students improve their grade point average, discipline problems and attendance. The program is fully funded by the Agape Foundation.

Mr. Darryl McMillon, Administrative Director, and Mr. Jaymes Parker, Program Director of the 180° Program gave an in depth presentation.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked about the student selection process. Mr. McMillon clarified that the focus of the program is to identify students that are operating beneath their potential. The school will select the students to participate. Mr. McMillon explained that the program has a web based interaction component. Ms. Merriweather asked about staff from the District working with the group. Superintendent Harter responded.

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of the content of several slides. Superintendent Harter responded.

President Ramsey thanked the presenters.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the 180° Program. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and with Mr. Thurmond absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. High School Academic Performance Update: El Cerrito, Pinole Valley and Richmond High Schools
President Ramsey talked about the procedure of the meeting. He asked Ms. Kronenberg to join the El Cerrito High focus group, Mr. Medrano to join the Richmond High focus group, Ms. Merriweather to join the Pinole Valley High focus group and Mr. Thurmond to join the group of his choice.

Mr. Thurmond said he is hopeful to listen to ideas. He asked the Board to keep in mind ways to ensure supporting students.

The school groups, Board members, central staff and the public discussed the challenges at each school for approximately one hour. At about 7:30 p.m., President Ramsey reconvened the general meeting to allow the individual schools to report out.

David Luongo, El Cerrito High Principal, shared that their group conversation focused on differentiated instruction and professional development. They would like to see more than two professional development days in the school year. Secondly, they would like to work as a staff with an emphasis around conversations related to race and how race directly impacts the school climate and achievement. They would like to come up with strategies to specifically address the needs of African American students and Special Education students with in-house support and training.

President Ramsey asked what would be the cost of a one day professional development. Mr. Luongo responded. Mr. Ramsey asked if it would be a goal to have a professional development day in May. Mr. Luongo responded affirmatively. President Ramsey asked about their second goal. Mr. Luongo spoke of continuing support with the S3 Grant funding, and the school wide restorative justice which will take more additional funding than they have in the S3 funding. Mr. Ramsey asked for a better idea of what would be addressed. Mr. Luongo stated that they would focus on student engagement, increasing enrollment of African American students in Advanced Placement classes, decreasing suspension and referral rates. President Ramsey suggested reaching out to other groups for additional support.

A student from El Cerrito spoke about her thoughts about the importance components of education.

Julio Franco, Richmond High Principal, introduced Mr. Kibby Kleiman, Assistant Principal. Mr. Kleiman shared the two items his group discussed. The first initiative would be student intervention starting early and often. They felt that by the time the student comes to high school they are already behind. The second initiative would be teacher support, training and enrichment. President Ramsey asked what it would involve. Mr. Kleiman responded that they would hope to build a bridge program for incoming freshmen, with opportunity for teachers to meet students prior to the beginning of the school year. President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter to look into that concept.

Mr. Medrano said he was very supportive. He mentioned that a teacher shared information on a Math Circle program offered at Laney College that requires student transportation. Funding for transportation costs would be required.

Ms. Sue Khan, Pinole Valley Principal, shared two items from her group. The first item was funding for afterschool programs and the second item was class size reduction. Ms. Lambie shared the importance of the afterschool programs, how those programs help students achieve and keep them motivated.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Thurmond thanked all the participants saying they need to provide structure for the teams to go back and refine what was talked about. He said he would like to see all the schools come back with an actual plan.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the need to prioritize their resources and thinks everyone is on the right track.

Ms. Kronenberg shared that she learned an enormous amount from El Cerrito High. She continued to speak about the academic needs and climate assessments. She said she would be willing to be part of the committee.

Mr. Medrano thanked all the parents that participated. He said he felt that the key is student intervention starting in middle school. He shared that a concerns of students at Richmond High was funds for fieldtrips to visit colleges. He said he was excited about the strategic intervention for ninth and tenth graders.

President Ramsey announced the dates of the next meetings for January 12 at Richmond High, February 9 at El Cerrito High and March 8 at Pinole Valley High. He thanked everyone who participated.

E. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:04PM.

BH:rc
Min sp 12-12-11

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 1/4/12</p>
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