

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

January 7, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Sheri Gamba, Wendell Greer, Bruce Harter, Debbie Haynie, Ann Reinhagen,

II. Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items

The following speakers addressed concerns for fiscal prudence and upcoming labor negotiations:
Sandra Falk, Scott Brown, Robert Studdiford

The following speakers addressed the Board with an emphasis on support for math programs:
Jason Freeman, David Rossi, Debora Morris, Ben Steinberg, Paul Gilbert-Snyder, Teresa Harnden, John Irminger, Todd Groves, Lynda Frank, Catherine Wanger

III. Annual Organizational and Unity of Purpose Retreat

Local consultant Tracey Webb led the Board members in a discussion of how to create a unity of purpose including responses to questions such as “Why are we serving on this Board,” “What makes each of us passionate about our service”, and “What’s in it for you?” The Board discussed possible directions or a focus for the District in 2012 with a lengthy discussion on the needs and opportunities to improve mathematics at the middle school level.

IV. Closed Session: Conference with Labor Negotiators

The Board recessed the retreat portion of the meeting to hold a closed session beginning at 12:35 PM. President Ramsey re-opened the retreat meeting at 1:50 PM.

V. Continued Annual Organizational and Unity of Purpose Retreat

The Board continued its discussion noting the accomplishments of the Board and District in 2011 including the bond program; paying off the state loan; IBM and the voluntary integration debt; the improvement in the Academic Performance Index; the partnerships with the cities, local businesses as well as state and national organizations; maintaining class size reduction at the primary level; initiating transitional kindergarten; winning the Golden Bell award for the Ivy League Connection program; improving safety and the REMS grant; enhancing the college going culture and improving the proportion of graduates meeting the A-G requirements; improving middle school performance, safety and community satisfaction; and improving attendance.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 2:14 PM.

AAM Approved 1/18/12
