

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

**February 15, 2012**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:29 P.M.

President Ramsey introduced the Black History program to commemorate the month.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:41 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

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Sylvia Greenwood, DeJean Middle School Principal; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Keith Holstlander, Director of Facilities; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Ed Services; Reyna Ortiz de Toureil, Translator; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Ann Reinhausen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Katie Von Husen, Coordinator Ed. Services; Kyra Worthy, Student Support Services Supervisor

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

Mr. Efosa Ogbemor 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 February 15, 2012 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #004 and suspend those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the recommendation of February 15, 2012 for expulsion cases #001 – 004. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstained, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the Reassignment of 44 Administrators.

**Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the Reassignment of Administrators. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond abstained, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the Release of Temporary Certificated Employees.

**Motion:** Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the Release of Temporary Certificated Employees. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstained, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

Resolution No. 88-1112: Resolution of Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees was withdrawn by staff.

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

President Ramsey requested that items E. 2 and F.1 be moved up on the agenda.

**MOTION:** Mr. Medrano moved approval of the agenda with items E.2 and F.1 moved up. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Efosa Ogbebor (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**B.7 Minutes:** February 1, 2012

**MOTION:** Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Minutes of February 1, 2012. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Efosa Ogbebor (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 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 Enterprise Resource Planning/System Software
- C.6 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3
- C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated
- C.8 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated
- C.9 Resolution No. 87-1112: Determination of Tie-Breaking Criteria for 2012-2013
- C.10 Approval of Agreement with Local One (Local One / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local One)
- C.11 Approval of Agreement with School Supervisors Association (SSA) / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the SSA
- C.12 Resolution No. 86-1112 Week of the School Administrator – March 4-10, 2012
- C.13 Resolution No. 84-1112: Disabilities Awareness Month – March 2012
- C.14 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- C.15 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- C.16 2012 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballot

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

Student Representative Efosa Ogbebor left the meeting for the evening.

**E.2 Public Comment:**

Debbie Weirich, Diane Manfredi, Debbie Antonio, Christian Anderson, Kathryn Bressemer, Miya Woodhouse, Kristen Pursley, Kim Huhta, Kris Hunt, Diane Brown, Michael Parker, Linda Ruiz-Lozito, Sarah Butler, Wanda Lee-Stevens

**F.1 Resolution No. 89-1112: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services**

Ms. Reinhagen presented information about the certificated layoff process with the required notification to certificated employees by the statutory deadline of March 15. She further said these reductions of particular kinds of service will enable budget reductions to meet contractual levels of student teacher ratios for the following year.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Discussion included budget considerations and a layoff of employees.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 89-1112: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.**

**D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**D.1 Standing Reports**

**Public Employees Union, Local One.** Scott Brown, Supervising Business Agent, thanked the Board for the re-opener negotiations and the first steps in a critical time for the employees. Mr. Brown also thanked members of the bargaining teams.

**School Supervisors Association.** Sandra Falk, Executive Director, thank the Board for the tribute to Black History month. She said it caused her to recall a time when the Board was composed of all white men. She said she felt privileged to have grown up and lived in the diverse community of Richmond and she concluded by thanking the Board for the contract agreement recently reached.

**Youth Commission.** Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the recent meeting held in Pinole where budget priorities were discussed.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba reported that committee members were present at the six recent meetings where the budget was discussed with the public. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2012.

**Linked Learning.** Mr. Medrano spoke about attending the California Partnership Academy conference in Sacramento. He reported on the new movement with linked learning and academies, and the push toward career education.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano reported on the recent meeting where concern was expressed regarding the recent vandalism damage of Nystrom Elementary School. He reported that agenda items also included the approval of the final scope of work for Montalvin Elementary, the community swim center in collaboration with the City of Richmond, and updates for Dover Elementary and the Portola/Gompers site funding.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond said that the next meeting is planned for March 14 at Ford Elementary. The agenda will include mandatory counseling for students found to be using drugs/alcohol and a possible Saturday school. The committee will also review safety data and compare it with previous years. Mr. Thurmond concluded by echoing the concerns regarding the vandalism at Nystrom and said that the safety committee will discuss such threats to staff and students. Discussion continued about a review of the safety officers and incurred costs.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi reported that the last meeting included discussion of the Helms and Kennedy QEIA close out plans, a draft plan for the middle school math initiative, and concerns about 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13 at Helms Middle School.

**Select Committee on High Schools.** Mr. Medrano reported on the recent meeting held at El Cerrito High School which included discussion of graduation rates. He said there was a good discussion with the students who attended. Mr. Ramsey spoke with concern about the percentage of African American students who receive referrals, suspensions and failing grades at El Cerrito High. Discussion continued about reviewing similar statistics at the other high schools in the District.

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Ramsey spoke about the upcoming interview process for Vanderbilt, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. He said the program hopes to send 42 students to this year's summer programs.

**D.2 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

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

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond said he was deeply saddened to lose young people and offered condolences to the families. He thanked staff who provided support to school students.

**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**

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 89-1112: Resolution of Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Kinds of Services**

This item was moved to follow E. 2.

**F.2 Parcel Tax Renewal / Extension Resolution No. 90-1112**

Superintendent Harter provided information about a proposed June ballot measure to extend the current parcel tax and add on an additional levy to generate funds to help restore some of the class size losses, bring back the elementary music program, and address underlying issues faced by the District. The additional funding will help restore programs that have been lost as a result of State funding shortfalls.

**Public Comment:**

Sarah Butler

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the needed resources, use of the funds and the need for flexibility.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about community awareness and the dire situation of the State's finances. She said the community supports the District in saving schools and programs.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke in support of the resolution.

Mr. Medrano said that he supports this resolution and feels that the community will support it as well.

President Ramsey spoke about admiration for fellow Board members to move forward with a sense of optimism while advocating for students. He continued by speaking of increases to class sizes, efforts to sustain police services, and the need to encourage the community to extend and increase the current parcel tax measure.

**MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Parcel Tax Renewal / Extension Resolution No. 90-1112. Ms. Merriweather seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voting 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**

Mr. Medrano spoke about attending a recent National School Boards Association conference in Washington, D.C. and speaking to elected representatives regarding the elementary and secondary education act.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about attending the DeAnza academic night and the excitement of the incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders. She also spoke about the new math initiative and that the District is moving in the right direction in addressing the needs of African American students.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of attending a middle school math workshop at Stanford as well as the services for the young men who recently passed away. She spoke of how deeply the loss affected the El Cerrito community.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the presenters from tonight's Black History presentations saying this sends a message that the District appreciates diversity. He said he appreciated the foundation that the Board is laying to support the plight of African American students and the responsibility to help them and all students to be successful.

President Ramsey spoke about the impact at the school site by the statistical evidence of the academic struggles of African American students. He continued to speak about recent mock trial competitions for students. He announced the open house event at the new Ford Elementary campus with the staff move in planned for next week. He concluded by supporting staff at Nystrom Elementary.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 7, 2012

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:42 P.M. in memory of Alan Blackwell.

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

BH:dh

**AAM**  
Approved 3/7/12