

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

March 7, 2012

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:45 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

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, Director Facilities Construction; Joe Abrego, Executive Director Technology; Pat Calvert, Director Certificated Personnel; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Personnel; 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; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; June Kalfsbeek, Sr. Confidential Secretary; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Ann Reinhagen, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Reyna Ortiz de Toureil, Translator; Latoya Williams, Principal Gompers Continuation High School

Mr. Thurmond left the dais.

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Pinole Valley High School

This item was moved to follow F.1.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the March 7, 2012 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 - #003 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 March 7, 2012 for expulsion cases #001 – #003. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather abstained and Mr. Thurmond was absent from the dais. Motion carried 3-0-1-1.

Administrative Appointment

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the appointment of Cheryl Broomall, Interim Coordinator Educational Services.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the administrative appointment of Cheryl Broomall, Interim Coordinator Educational Services. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, and President Ramsey voted yes, Ms. Merriweather abstained and Mr. Thurmond was absent from the dais. Motion carried 3-0-1-1.

Mr. Thurmond returned to the dais.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey requested that the following items be moved up on the agenda; F.1 to follow minutes, Public Comment, and G.1.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda with the requested changes. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Theresa Nguyen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: February 15, 2012

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of February 15, 2012. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Theresa Nguyen (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Nystrom Vandalism – Reward for Information

Superintendent Harter spoke about the felony level crimes of vandalism recently committed with damage to be estimated in excess of \$500,000. Rewards have been offered by the Richmond Police Department of \$10,000 and an additional \$2,500 from Congressman George Miller’s office. The recommendation to the Board is to offer an additional \$10,000 reward for information leading to arrest and conviction.

Captain Mark Gagan of the City of Richmond spoke of the extent of the vandalism and the senseless act on a building that has helped to revitalize the neighborhood. He spoke of the gesture of offering the reward to show that the community is working as a team to solve this crime and as an incentive to bring someone forward to speak up.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Board members discussed the nature of the crime and the ongoing investigation. An anonymous telephone tip line is available at 510-232-TIPS or the police department’s non-emergency number 510-233-1214. The Board expressed appreciation for the police department taking the first steps.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Nystrom Vandalism – Reward for Information. Mr. Medrano seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Theresa Nguyen (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Pinole Valley High School

Theresa Nguyen provided a report of activities at Pinole Valley High School.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

David Moudgil, Andrea Rivera Rosales, Christian Anderson, Albert McKenzie, Yolanda Jimenez, Edgar Rosales, Miya Woodhouse, Debbie Antonio, Joan Gallegos, Marlo Grant, Wanda Lee-Stevens, LeRobb Lee

G.1 Richmond Charter Academy Middle School

Mr. Greer provided information about the charter petition presented to the Board for consideration. He asked for opportunity for public comment. Mr. Jorge Lopez, lead petitioner, was available to address questions.

Public Comment:
Tana Monteiro, Elmer McCormick, Bob Dycus

Board Comment:
None

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**

- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.4 Adoption of Resolution No. 93-1112 Replacement of Outdated Warrant**
- C.5 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Intern and Student Teachers**
- C.6 Resolution No. 92-1112: Women’s History Month – March 2012**
- C.7 Resolution No. 91-1112: Arts in Education Month – March 2012**
- C.8 Resolution No. 94-1112: California Adult Education Week – March 12-16, 2012**
- C.9 Students from Kennedy and Richmond High are visiting the nation’s capital April 9-13, 2012**
- C.10 Students from Richmond High going to Robotics Regional Tournament, March 6-11, 2012**
- C.11 Contra Costa County Mental Health Memorandum of Understanding**
- C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

Mr. Thurmond had questions about contractor J. Majors & Associates, LLC. Mr. Fay provided information about this company and community outreach for services to facilitate participation of local vendors and contractors. President Ramsey, Mr. Medrano and Kronenberg also commented.

President Ramsey had questions about the contract amount for RGA Environmental, Inc. for the Nystrom vandalism damage. Mr. Freese responded with information about the condition of the damage. Dr. Harter suggested approving the item with direction to the Superintendent to increase the contract to the appropriate level, bringing it back for Board approval at the March 21 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the recommendation to the RGA Environmental, Inc. contract and seeking a more comprehensive review of the damage costs. Mr. Medrano seconded.

President Ramsey spoke about construction extensions at King due to delays. Mr. Fay responded about enforcement of the contract.

- C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.14 Boiler Replacement Project for the Nutrition Center, 750 Bissell Avenue, Richmond, CA**
- C.15 Soils Removal and Site Work at Gompers/Leadership Public Schools**

Mr. Fay reported that the lowest bidder, WR Forde, has withdrawn its bid due to a mathematical error. The apparent lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Applied Water Recourse and staff recommends award of the contract to Applied Water Resource.

- C.16 E-Rate Funding Year 13 Additional Funding for project upgrades. Board Approved 2/10/10**
- C.17 E-Rate funding Year 15- Contract Award of Vendor upon E-Rate Funding Approval**
- C.18 Letter in Support of AB 1081 - TRUST Act**

Mr. Medrano spoke about immigrant and refugee rights, urging support of this bill.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.18 with the additional direction regarding the RGA contract. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Theresa Nguyen (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Budget Report Update

Ms. Gamba provided an update regarding the Governor’s Budget and its “revenue neutral” status.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

Student Representative Theresa Nguyen left the meeting for the evening.

D.2 Standing Reports

Ivy League Connection. Don Gosney spoke about scholarships awarded and the number of applicants for the upcoming summer’s program. He provided an update on the number of students interviewed and selected. He also

spoke of the response by the college admissions officers regarding the caliber of students applying to their summer programs. President Ramsey spoke of a Hercules senior's recent admission to Brown University.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Don Gosney spoke on behalf of Chairperson Robert Studdiford, about the committee's oversight of the budgets, projects, and quality of construction work. The performance audit will be available in the coming weeks and he urged the public to read this important document.

United Teachers of Richmond. Diane Brown spoke about a recent CTA presentation regarding common standards with the next presentation to be held April 17 and invited the Board to attend. She continued with a request regarding monitoring and nurturing the KEYs tool process. She concluded by saying that the Lupine teachers have asked her to deliver their vote of no confidence in the principal.

Linked Learning. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about a recent trip to Sacramento sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The seventy students in attendance were able to present to Superintendent Torlakson and legislators regarding the shifting of the returned QEIA funds into currently unfunded linked learning programs. Senator Loni Hancock responded very positively regarding adding continuation schools into the linked learning programs.

Safety Committee. Mr. Thurmond announced the next meeting planned for March 14, 6:00 PM at Ford Elementary. Agenda topics will include discussion of programs for students dealing with drug and alcohol programs, Saturday school and capturing ADA. The Committee will also look at suspension and expulsion data, vandalism in schools, and amounts paid by cities to support School Resource Officers.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond said the next meeting is planned for March 12, 6:00 PM at the Pinole Round Table Pizza. He said discussion will include the disproportionality in suspensions with students of color at higher rates.

Select Committee on High Schools. President Ramsey said the next meeting will be March 22, at Pinole Valley High where data from El Cerrito suspensions and achievement gap issues will be reviewed to bring back to an April meeting.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano said the next meeting is planned for March 13, 4:00 PM.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba said the next meeting will be held at Alvarado Adult School on March 22.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi said the next meeting will be held March 13, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School. The agenda includes three schools presenting QEIA closeout reports. Stewart Elementary staff will share the KEYs process used at Stewart.

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 B.4.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Nystrom Vandalism – Reward for Information
This item was moved to follow tem B.7.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Richmond Charter Academy Middle School
This item was moved to follow item E.2.

G.2 Project Status Report

Mr. Magdy Abdalla provided a report of construction projects in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey asked questions about Harding Elementary work. Mr. John Grossmann of the Grossmann Design Group addressed the concerns. Mr. Abdalla also offered further information. President Ramsey continued with questions about the El Cerrito High School roofing water intrusion. Mr. Grossmann responded. Discussion also included the Pinole Middle status of the soccer field. Mr. Jeff Feldman of Powell and Partners spoke about design change requests. Mr. Abdalla spoke about the schedule for completion. Mr. Medrano asked about the Helms site. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Fay spoke about completion of projects.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about recently attending a charter school conference and the opportunity to learn more about the role of charter schools in the state. She will attend the upcoming CAFE conference with her Board colleagues to learn more about bilingual education.

Mr. Medrano spoke of attending an upcoming Linked Learning conference in the Central Valley in Porterville. He said the charter school conference was interesting for him to see the mindset of small charter schools. He was impressed with a presentation by an Oakland school regarding the Khan approach to algebra. He spoke about the first parcel tax community meeting and the next one planned for March 17, 7:30 AM at the Local One office. He concluded by distributing information to board members regarding scholarships available for undocumented students.

Mr. Thurmond expressed concerns about disproportionality of student suspensions for minority students. He would like to see this addressed regularly at board meetings and an action plan set in place. President Ramsey responded with information about rounds of meetings at all high schools and bringing back the collected information to the Board at the April 4 meeting. Mr. Thurmond said he would like to look at the issue preliminarily with major details to follow.

Ms. Merriweather said she was impressed with the response to the Transitional Kindergarten parent night. Another meeting will be held in April. She concluded by speaking of her participation in the Read Across America program.

Superintendent Harter announced score of El Cerrito basketball game where the team played in a division playoff game.

President Ramsey recalled the college recruitment of a Richmond High student, Eli Holman, and his recent play in this year's college basketball playoffs.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 21, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<u>AAM</u> Approved 3/21/12
