

Board meeting agenda available for review at the Administration Building,
the District's six high schools, and at public libraries throughout West County.
Participants and spectators are requested to set cell phones and
pagers to silent mode during Board meetings.

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009
6:30 PM
RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER AUDITORIUM
403 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
RICHMOND, CA**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Open Session Board Meeting will begin at **6:30 PM** in the Richmond Convention Center Auditorium

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A.1 Pledge of Allegiance
- A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures
- A.3 Roll Call

B. ACTION ITEMS

* **B.1 Resolution 67:0809: School Closure Consolidation Recommendation**

Comment:

The District has been aware for several years that the operational costs of having small schools was limiting the District's ability to provide the fundamental educational services to which all students are entitled. Since November 12 when the Board held a special workshop meeting on school closures, there have been 13 meetings in which the community has been involved in shaping the resolution that is now before the Board. Additionally, two independent firms, Schreder & Associates and MGT America, provided an external review of school closures in West Contra Costa Unified.

Since the preliminary recommendation was provided to the Board and public on January 29, 2009 and since a draft resolution was distributed on February 4, 2009, District staff have conferred with staff from the City of Richmond regarding the City's plans for redevelopment of a large portion of the Nystrom Village housing. That plan calls for a substantial increase in the density of the housing in that neighborhood which suggests that the District can expect additional students who would attend Nystrom Elementary School.

Therefore, the recommendation in the resolution before the Board includes placing Grant Elementary among the schools that would be closed should the District not be able to find external funding to keep it open after the funds committed by the City of Richmond are no longer available after the 2010-11 school year.

Recommendation: That the Board adopt Resolution 69-0809 on school closures.

Fiscal Impact: More than \$18.6 million in operational savings over the next five years.

* **B.2 Temporary Relocation of Portola Middle School**

Comment:

The Portola Middle School upper campus area is underlain by historic landslide debris which is potentially unstable in the event of a major earthquake. Staff and consultant teams have studied the site intensively over the last four years. The California Geologic Survey has concurred with findings that an “earthquake-induced landslide hazard” exists at the site. The Division of State Architect has notified the District that “The potential for landslide is such that the health and safety of the students is at risk and must be corrected.”

The District has been actively working towards a permanent relocation of Portola Middle School and has completed Environmental Reviews of the proposed Castro site as the future home of the school. Full construction completion is not expected for 2-3 years for the Portola/Castro project.

It has been requested that the District consider a temporary relocation of the Portola campus to address safety concerns immediately. Staff presented two options to the Board for temporary relocation of Portola at the regular meeting of January 21, 2009. The first option is the Portola lower pad. The second option presented is to use the existing El Cerrito High School temporary campus. Pros and cons for each approach were presented to the Board and discussed during the meeting. If the temporary relocation is approved by the Board, staff recommends that the Portola lower pad option be selected. The lower pad option, while more expensive than using the existing modulars at El Cerrito High, allows the District to immediately begin design and construction of the campus without engaging in the potentially prolonged Environmental Review which may result from the selection of the El Cerrito High option.

Recommendation:

First, that the Board approve the temporary relocation of Portola Middle School prior to completion of the new permanent campus. Second, if the temporary relocation is approved, that the Board approve the Portola lower pad option for the temporary campus site.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated at \$3.7 million for construction of Temporary Campus and \$300,000 for relocation and closure costs.

C. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

March 4, 2009 – Lovonya DeJean Middle School

D. ADJOURNMENT

The public may address items which are marked with an asterisk ()*

Special Accommodations: *Upon written request to the District, disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, will be provided. Please contact the Superintendent’s Office at 510-231-1101 at least 48 hours in advance of meetings.*

West Contra Costa Unified School District
1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, California 94801
Office of the Superintendent

ITEM REQUIRING ATTENTION----BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: Board of Education **Meeting Date:** February 11, 2009
From: Bruce Harter **Agenda Item:** B.1
Subject: Resolution 67-0809: School Closure Consolidation Recommendation

Background Information:

The District has been aware for several years that the operational costs of having small schools was limiting the District's ability to provide the fundamental educational services to which all students are entitled. Since November 12 when the Board held a special workshop meeting on school closures, there have been 13 meetings in which the community has been involved in shaping the resolution that is now before the Board. Additionally, two independent firms, Schreder & Associates and MGT America, provided an external review of school closures in West Contra Costa Unified.

Since the preliminary recommendation was provided to the Board and public on January 29, 2009 and since a draft resolution was distributed on February 4, 2009, District staff have conferred with staff from the City of Richmond regarding the City's plans for redevelopment of a large portion of the Nystrom Village housing. That plan calls for a substantial increase in the density of the housing in that neighborhood which suggests that the District can expect additional students who would attend Nystrom Elementary School.

Therefore, the recommendation in the resolution before the Board includes placing Grant Elementary among the schools that would be closed should the District not be able to find external funding to keep it open after the funds committed by the City of Richmond are no longer available after the 2010-11 school year.

Recommendation:

That the Board adopt Resolution 67-0809 on school closures.

Fiscal Impact: More than \$18.6 million in operational savings over the next five years.

DISPOSITION BY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____
Approved _____ Not Approved _____ Tabled _____

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Resolution on School Closures**

RESOLUTION NO. 67-0809

February 11, 2009

Whereas the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) must address a structural deficit (spending in excess of revenue) and has adopted a budget that includes school closures for 2009-10 and 2010-11; and

Whereas the Contra Costa County Superintendent, as is required under state statute, approved the 2008-09 WCCUSD budget contingent upon school closures and other specified remedies for the WCCUSD structural deficit; and

Whereas on December 10, 2008 the WCCUSD Board approved the criteria, the process and the timeline for school closures as well as authorizing a contract for expert review and recommendation on school closures; and

Whereas the District has held 13 public meetings to follow the process for school closures and involve the community in the process; and

Whereas District staff have used public input and expert review in formulating a recommendation for school closures for 2009-10 and 2010-11; and

Whereas the City of Richmond on February 3, 2009 adopted a motion that specifies that the City would pay WCCUSD \$1.5 million to keep open two elementary schools (Olinda and Nystrom) and one secondary school (Kennedy High School) for 2010-11 when those schools would have closed according to the WCCUSD staff recommendation; and

Whereas the City of San Pablo has expressed an interest (but made no commitment) to keep one of the schools (Lake Elementary) open for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Therefore be it resolved that the WCCUSD Board adopts a closure plan in accordance with the adopted budget plan.

Schools / Facilities Closed for 2009-10:

- El Sobrante Elementary
- Castro Elementary
- Shannon Elementary
- Lake Elementary
- Adams Middle School
- Seaview Staff Development Center
- Furniture Warehouse

Schools that are included in the Staff Recommendation for closure in 2010-11 and subject to an agreement between the City of Richmond and WCCUSD to remain open:

- Olinda Elementary (would remain open for 2010-11 with funding from the City of Richmond and for longer if another external source of funding is forthcoming)
- Grant Elementary (would remain open for 2010-11 with funding from the City of Richmond and for longer if another external source of funding is forthcoming)
- Kennedy High School (would remain open for 2010-11 with funding from the City of Richmond and for longer if another external source of funding is forthcoming)

The following schools / operations will be consolidated into Kennedy High School if and when that school loses the external funding needed to stay open, or before that time if suitable alternative spaces can be identified and approved by the Board:

- Gompers Continuation High School
- North Campus Continuation High School/ Pupils Services Center
- Serra Adult Education School
- Alvarado Adult Education School

That the District make the following grade level changes:

- Mira Vista to K-7 beginning 2010-11 and K-8 beginning 2011-12
- Chavez, Wilson, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, Dover and Stege to K-6 beginning 2009-10

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February, 2009, at a special meeting of the Board of Education by the following votes:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted by the members of the Governing Board of the West Contra Costa Unified School District at the public meeting of said Board held on February 11, 2009.

Bruce Harter
Secretary, Board of Education

West Contra Costa Unified School District
1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, California 94801
Office of the Superintendent

ITEM REQUIRING ATTENTION---BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: Board of Education

Meeting Date: February 11, 2009

From: Bill Fay
Associate Superintendent for Operations

Agenda Item: B.2

Subject: Temporary Relocation of Portola Middle School

Background Information:

The Portola Middle School upper campus area is underlain by historic landslide debris which is potentially unstable in the event of a major earthquake. Staff and consultant teams have studied the site intensively over the last four years. The California Geologic Survey has concurred with findings that an "earthquake-induced landslide hazard" exists at the site. The Division of State Architect has notified the District that "The potential for landslide is such that the health and safety of the students is at risk and must be corrected."

The District has been actively working towards a permanent relocation of Portola Middle School and has completed Environmental Reviews of the proposed Castro site as the future home of the school. Full construction completion is not expected for 2-3 years for the Portola/Castro project.

It has been requested that the District consider a temporary relocation of the Portola campus to address safety concerns immediately. Staff presented two options to the Board for temporary relocation of Portola at the regular meeting of January 21, 2009. The first option is the Portola lower pad. The second option presented is to use the existing El Cerrito High School temporary campus. Pros and cons for each approach were presented to the Board and discussed during the meeting. If the temporary relocation is approved by the Board, staff recommends that the Portola lower pad option be selected. The lower pad option, while more expensive than using the existing modulars at El Cerrito High, allows the District to immediately begin design and construction of the campus without engaging in the potentially prolonged Environmental Review which may result from the selection of the El Cerrito High option.

Recommendation: First, that the Board approve the temporary relocation of Portola Middle School prior to completion of the new permanent campus. Second, if the temporary relocation is approved, that the Board approve the Portola lower pad option for the temporary campus site.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated at \$3.7 million for construction of Temporary Campus and \$300,000 for relocation and closure costs.

DISPOSITION BY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Motion by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Approved _____

Not Approved _____

Tabled _____