

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

**October 10, 2012**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session.  
Clerk Medrano called the Public Session to order at 6:36 P.M.

President Ramsey left and rejoined the meeting at 7:35 PM.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Clerk Medrano led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

Clerk Medrano offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Charles Ramsey

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Cheryl Cotton, Director Certificated Personnel; Bill Fay; Associate Superintendent Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Antoinette Henry-Evans, K-12 Executive Director; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Linda Jackson, K-12 Executive Director Emeritus; Barbara Jellison, Director Food Service; Mary Jones, Administrative Services Manager; Tashaka Merriweather, Coordinator Youth Development; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Lyn Potter, Director Curriculum & Instruction; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Adam Taylor, K-12 Executive Director; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Katie Von Husen, Coordinator Educational Services; Lori Walker, Confidential Secretary; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Rebecca Dao provided a report of activities at El Cerrito High School.

**B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

None

Mr. Thurmond left the dais.

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Superintendent Harter announced that Ms. Alicia Jackson has withdrawn her request to address the Board.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the agenda. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Student Board Representative Rebecca Dao (advisory vote only) and Clerk Medrano voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 3-0-0-2.**

**B.7 Minutes: September 19, 2012**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of September 19, 2012. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Student Board Representative Rebecca Dao (advisory vote only) and Clerk Medrano voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

Mr. Thurmond returned to the dais.

**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 Notice of Completions: Bid J068310 Pinole Middle School Miscellaneous Repairs, Bid J068294 Pinole Middle School Portable Demo, Bid J068298 Richmond High School Fiber Optics Project, Bid J068266 Kennedy High School Restrooms and Field Lighting, Bid J068267 El Cerrito High School Multi-Use Sports Fields, Bid 1121341-02 Kennedy High School Replacement Softball Field, and Bid J068317 Pinole Valley High School Digital Surveillance System**

**C.6 Disposal of Obsolete and Damaged District Personal Property for the School Year 2012-13**

**C.7 Procurement Contracts for the School Year 2012-13**

**C.8 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3**

**C.9 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**

**C.10 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**

**C.11 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**

**C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

**C.13 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.14 Resolution No. 24-1213: Level I Developer Fees**

**C.15 Changes to Current Local Business Capacity Program for the District’s Bond Construction Projects**

**C.16 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report**

**C.17 Approval of Revised 2011-2012 School Level Title-I Parental Involvement Policies for Bayview Elementary, Helms Middle School, Kennedy High and Richmond High**

**C.18 2012-13 Consolidated Application for Funding**

**C.19 Richmond Charter Academy Middle School Material Revision of the Charter Petition**

**C.20 Resolution 27-1213: Full Service Community Schools**

**C.21 Red Ribbon Week Board Resolution No. 26-1213**

**MOTION:** Ms. Merriweather moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.21. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Rebecca Dao (advisory vote only) and Clerk Medrano voted yes, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

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

**D.1 Employee Service Anniversary Recognition**

Mr. Whittemore recognized veteran employees with anniversary service awards presenting 20, 25, 30 and 35 year of service. Board members joined in offering congratulations

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

Clerk Medrano acknowledged City Council Member Leonard McNeil in the audience.

Clerk Medrano called a brief recess.

**D.2 Update on Anti-Bullying Efforts in WCCUSD**

Superintendent Harter spoke about recognition of anti-bullying activities and asked Mr. Greer to introduce Mr. Tashaka Merriweather and community partners who work with the District in anti-bullying initiatives. Mr. Merriweather spoke about a play provided by the Outspoken tour group which will be presented at fourteen sites in the District. The play talks about engaging teens in dialog about being ostracized at school, at home and in the community. Some of the topics include race, religion, sexual orientation, body type and social economic background. Board members were provided with discussion topics that are used in classrooms. Kennedy High School staff and

students spoke about the Kennedy Young Men's Group and anti-bullying activities as they work as leaders in their community. The students spoke about their program as well as a video they are producing.

Mr. Will Broom of STAND For Families Free of Violence shared statistics about bullying and teen dating violence. He also spoke about programs in the District promoting gender respect, and a program for middle school boys to develop knowledge and leadership skills to in order to respond to and prevent bullying and gender violence. Mr. Broom shared that groups are working at Helms and Portola Middle Schools. These projects are expected to become a national model for teen dating and violence prevention programs.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond acknowledged the leadership of the Kennedy students and staff. He invited them to participate with the Youth Commission and consider taking their work to the District level.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the good things she sees at Kennedy and reiterated the invitation to participate with the Youth Commission, sharing what they have learned.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the NEA national study on bullying. She shared that the researchers agree that whole-school intervention programs are most promising, as well the positive component of positive school climate, in stopping bullying. She said she sees the District heading in the right direction.

**D.3 WCCUSD Counseling Services Update**

Mr. Greer introduced Ms. Antoinette Henry-Evans who has been working with District counselors in developing the college going culture. Ms. Evans spoke of the professionalism of the District's counselors. Ms. Evans read a letter prepared by a parent who praised the hard work and diligence of counselors. Counselors Portia Gossett, Juan Crespi Middle School; Theresa Pamintuan and Angela Tang, DeAnza High School; and Jennifer Cruz, Kennedy High senior spoke about working with students. Ms. Evans formally acknowledged the counselors in attendance.

President Ramsey returned to the meeting at 7:35 PM.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey acknowledged the work of counselors and the importance of the parcel tax renewal to maintain their services.

**D.4 Standing Reports**

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi reported on the recent meeting where teachers from most school sites gave feedback on the transition to Common Core Standards. She also said that the KEYS To Excellence for Schools program was also discussed with UTR President Diane Brown and a teacher who shared the process used at Stewart School. The next meeting will be held November 13, 2012, 6:00 PM at Helms Middle School.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond spoke about the recent Safety Committee meeting and discussion of reducing overall suspensions and expulsions in the District. He said the District has a downward trend in overall suspensions. Many principals and assistant principals talked about the progress for this year to reduce suspensions at individual schools. Mr. Thurmond said the committee will formulate a recommendation to the Board for an overall reduction of suspensions at the District level for this year. Ms. Merriweather said the next meeting will be held November 1st at DeJean Middle School, 9:00 AM.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Thurmond reported on the first orientation meeting with the Youth Commission will be held October 29<sup>th</sup> at Helms Middle School under the leadership by Ms. Antoinette Henry-Evans, 6:00 PM. Any students interested in serving on the commission can get applications online or at the District office.

Mr. Thurmond left the dais.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Medrano reported on a special meeting held September 25th where items included approval of the recommendation for the Wilson new campus schematic design and use of Adams Middle School. He said the committee also heard an update of the Helms Middle School project. He also reported on the October 9 meeting where actions items included approval of the El Cerrito High School baseball field. He said discussion included pre-qualifications of trade contractors and subcontractors. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13 at the Facilities Operations Center, 4:00 PM.

**Ivy League Connection.** President Ramsey reported on the recent Yale University alumni event at Hercules High and Pinole Valley High. The Connection will work with Bay Area alumni to set up student interviews in mid-January. Events with Vanderbilt and Amherst admissions officers are planned for the coming weeks. Sixty-two students recently attended an information session at Hercules High. Mr. Ramsey concluded by saying that the University of Pennsylvania a recent event held at El Cerrito High with over 400 people in attendance.

Mr. Thurmond returned to the dais.

**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 Request to Address the Board – Alicia Jackson**  
This item was withdrawn by Ms. Jackson.

**E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment**  
Shannon Culpepper, Shawn Culpepper, Justin Jones, Scottie Smith, Laura Sanchez

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Public Hearing: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**  
Ms. Rashidchi introduced Ms. Torio who provided information about the annual compliance notification for textbooks and instructional materials.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing and read instructions as specified by California Education Code 609119 regarding the use of state funds for the purpose of purchasing textbooks and related instructional materials. He encouraged public participation and the opportunity to address the Board regarding sufficient textbooks and instructional materials in Mathematics, Science, History-Social Science and English/Language Arts classes.

President Ramsey recessed the meeting in order to hold the required textbook sufficiency hearing. Ms. Rashidchi reported that the District is 100% textbook sufficient. Ms. Torio reported on surveying every teacher in the District in the mandated core areas and overseeing any insufficiencies. She reported confidence in advising the Board that the guidelines for the California Education Code 60119 have been met for this school year.

**Public Comment:**  
None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

**Board Comment:**  
None

**F.2 Adoption of Resolution No. 25-1213: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
None

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Approval of Resolution No. 25-1213: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Rebecca Dao (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted 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)

**I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of her focus on the upcoming November election and urged voters to consider support education.

Mr. Thurmond echoed Ms. Kronenberg’s remarks and asked public to allow the District to continue rebuilding schools. He remarked about hearing how the impacts of budget cuts are affecting classrooms. He acknowledged the great student speakers in attendance at tonight’s meeting.

Ms. Merriweather said she also enjoyed the student speakers. She announced the upcoming Parents as Partners Conferences to be held on October 20 at DeJean Middle School. She concluded by saying that this would be an opportunity for parents to meet and talk with Board Members about Measures E and G.

Mr. Medrano urged the audience to support the parcel tax and bond measures. He also urged support of Proposition 30. He also commented on the Parents as Partners conference inviting the public to attend. He spoke about attending a recent NALEO National Summit on Latino Education where Common Core Standards was a topic of discussion. He reported on also attending a California Latino School Boards Association conference in San Diego where civil rights legislation was a topic of discussion. He said that minority representation of students in the state is not reflected in the membership of school boards throughout the state.

President Ramsey reminded citizens of the two school board candidate forums scheduled for October 11 at El Cerrito High and October 16 at Murphy Elementary to learn about the candidates. Mr. Ramsey congratulated the El Cerrito High football team for their successful season and possible Division III playoff berth.

Mr. Medrano adjourned the meeting in honor of a fourteen year old Pakistani woman who was shot by the Taliban for taking a stand to support education for all women in her country.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – October 24, 2012

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<b><u>AAM</u></b> Approved 10/24/12
--