

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

October 24, 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. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:31 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, Charles Ramsey, Elaine Merriweather, Tony Thurmond.

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Matthew Burnham, Portola Principal; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Bill Fay; Associate Superintendent Operations; Wendy Forrest, Montalvin Principal; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities and Construction; 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; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Kim Moses, Wilson Principal; Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical & Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Adam Taylor, Executive Director K-12; Janice Thompson, Preschool Coordinator; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Ken Whitemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Miss Courtney Williams provided a report of activities at El Cerrito High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the Superintendent's annual evaluation and extend his contract by one year.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the action taken in closed session to approve the Superintendent's annual evaluation and extend his contract by one year through 2016. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

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

B.7 Minutes: October 10, 2012

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of October 10, 2012. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Courtney Williams (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 Contracted Services**
- C.5 Resolution 23-1213 - Authorizing Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)**
- C.6 Actuarial Valuation of Postemployment Health Benefits**
- C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Board Re-Approval of Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs) from Federal Program Monitoring Visit Requirement**
- C.11 Resolution No. 41-1213: Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month November 2012**
- C.12 Notification of Claim Rejected**

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.12. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Courtney Williams (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 2012 Academic Performance Index Growth (API) Targets – Report on and Recognition of Schools

Ms. Rashidchi provided a report on the Academic Performance Index growth as well as school-wide and district-wide efforts. She also wanted the Board to celebrate the schools reaching their academic performance index targets this year. She explained the statewide school and district performance measurement system. She explained the 800 target goal for the District and the slow, steady progress toward that goal.

Ms. Rashidchi invited principals Wendy Forrest, Montalvin Elementary; Matthew Burnham, Portola Middle; and Kim Moses, Wilson Elementary, to speak about their school’s approach to meeting API targets. They shared strategies and the impact of the hard work for teachers and students to advance to proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Board Members joined in recognizing the following schools for reaching API targets:

Chavez Elementary	Olinda Elementary
Downer Elementary	Pinole Valley High School
Ford Elementary	Portola Middle School
Gompers Continuation High School	Tara Hills Elementary
Hanna Ranch Elementary	Valleyview Elementary
Highland Elementary	Washington Elementary
Madera Elementary	

Board Members also joined in recognizing the following schools for reaching API and AYP targets:

Kensington Elementary	Montalvin Elementary
Middle College High School	Wilson Elementary

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of the Restorative Justice, BEST, and ToolBox programs used for character building by various school sites. Mr. Collins and Ms. Rashidchi clarified.

Mr. Thurmond offered congratulations and remarked about setting high expectations and providing resources to meet those expectations. He said he would like to hear what schools do to assist students who need additional help. Ms. Rashidchi responded with information about the 31 afterschool tutoring programs and supplemental afterschool programs. He further asked about the component of teacher training. Ms. Rashidchi responded. Mr. Thurmond

concluded by asking questions about classroom instruction and teachers finding the time to implement all the standards as well as a longer school day. Ms. Rashidchi responded with information.

Ms. Kronenberg acknowledged three schools with scores in the high 700s - Collins, Washington and Fairmont. She further spoke about the academic success of Tara Hills, Pinole Valley and Kennedy.

Ms. Merriweather commended teachers, students and parents for the successes. She urged keeping up the good work and improvement within the District as well as monitoring the plan going forward.

President Ramsey spoke about the difficulty with limited resources that schools are still finding ways to make academic achievement. He echoed Mr. Burnham's remarks about CST goals and achievement. He also commended Leadership Public Charter School for their API improvements and suggesting sharing their achievement data with the District. He concluded by speaking about the standard of expectation for all high schools.

Mr. Medrano congratulated parents, students, teachers, and community for the improved performance. He would like to see the same enthusiasm carried on to middle and high schools. Mr. Medrano commented on Montalvin Principal Wendy Forrest and her contract to dye her hair blue once students achieved their improvement goals.

Mr. Thurmond challenged the Board to share the experience of Leadership with opportunity to exchange best practices with the charter school to help all students achieve.

Student Representative Courtney Williams left the meeting for the evening.

D.2 Energy Balance 4 Kids

Ms. Jill West, registered dietitian with Energy Balance 4 Kids and Mr. Evan Kennedy, program manager for Playworks, spoke about the program implemented at four elementary schools. They discussed the aim to reduce childhood obesity and improve nutrition and fitness levels for children. The focus is to promote play and foster a healthier school climate. They commended the District's Food Services staff for its collaboration in implementing healthy menus for students.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey spoke of the importance of health and nutrition reiterating the importance of exercise and diet.

Ms. Kronenberg asked whether any of the Energy Balance staff has gone through the Toolbox training. Mr. Kennedy responded that several of the Playworks staff have participated in the training. He will encourage all staff to do the same.

Mr. Medrano complemented the work.

Mr. Thurmond commended Ms. Wendy Gosliner with the UC Berkeley Center for Weight and Health, who had vision for the District to apply for this program.

D.3 Preschool Program Update

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Dr. Janice Thompson who provided a report on the program. She commented about the 15 schools across the District based upon the state framework core program. She spoke about the curriculum, parent involvement, and developmental appropriate practices. She explained the instructional cycle and assessment of the program. She concluded by explaining the new state required family fees based on income and family size.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked about the public posting of the fee schedule. Ms. Thompson said the schedule will be posted in each classroom. Parents will have to pay for every school day whether or not the student attends that day. Ms. Rashidchi responded about Spanish literature availability and parent meetings in both English and Spanish.

D.4 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba provided an update of fund balances and the expected outcomes with and without funding sources from Proposition 30. She commended the Board for their work toward fiscal solvency and weathering the tough economic times ahead. She explained the potential cuts if the proposition funding is not forthcoming. The next steps in the budget process will be preparation of the first interim report for the December 12 Board meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano commented about retiree health benefit costs. Ms. Gamba responded.

D.5 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the recent meet where discussion included the KEYs program and feedback from schools regarding transition to the common core standards. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 6:00 PM at Helms Middle School.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported on the last meeting where discussion focused on school suspension rates. She said that most schools were represented. The next meeting is planned for November 1st, 9:00 AM at DeJean Middle School.

Youth Commission. Mr. Thurmond reported that the next meeting will be held Monday, October 29, Helms Middle School, 6:30 PM. An invitation has been extended to students to join the commission by completing the application and attending the meeting. Mr. Greer reported on the recruitment of students wanting to participate.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported that the next meeting is planned for October 25 at Alvarado Adult School. The public is invited.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Don Gosney reported that recruitment of eligible sophomores and juniors has begun. He told about the preparations as students begin looking toward college. The committee is looking to set up the application review process and interviews before the end of the year. He concluded by saying that Ms. Kronenberg will chaperone a group of five students who will attend the Brown University Women in Leadership program in November.

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.3 In Memory of Members of the School Community

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

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

Crystal Bing

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 CalPERS Retiree Benefit Resolutions

Resolution No. 28-1213: Unrepresented Classified Confidential

Resolution No. 29-1213: Public Employees Union, Local 1

Resolution No. 30-1213: School Supervisors Association

Resolution No. 31-1213: Unrepresented Certificated Management

Resolution No. 32-1213: Unrepresented Classified Management

Resolution No. 33-1213: West Contra Costa Administrators Association

Ms. Gamba provided information about the resolutions.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of CalPERS Retiree Benefit Resolutions 28-1213 through 33-1213. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 CalPERS Retiree Benefit Resolutions

- Resolution No. 34-1213: Unrepresented Classified Confidential**
- Resolution No. 35-1213: Public Employees Union, Local 1**
- Resolution No. 36-1213: School Supervisors Association**
- Resolution No. 37-1213: Unrepresented Certificated Management**
- Resolution No. 38-1213: Unrepresented Classified Management**
- Resolution No. 39-1213: United Teachers of Richmond**
- Resolution No. 40-1213: West Contra Costa Administrators Association**

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of CalPERS Retiree Benefit Resolutions 24-1213 through 40-1213. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Reducing Suspensions for 2012-13

Mr. Greer spoke about the goal set at a recent Safety Committee meeting where Board members urged addressing a reduction of suspensions rates at secondary schools. He reported that school sites have developed a 25% reduction plan for the District. He spoke of the best practices at Richmond High and their reduction rate of over 50%. Mr. Greer said that staff is recommending approval of an out of school reduction of suspensions by 25% this school year.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano would like to convene the select committee on secondary schools and reporting of suspension rates by schools. He complimented staff who have worked to reduce expulsions as well.

Mr. Thurmond suggested discussion take place earlier on the agenda at the meeting when constituents are present in the audience. This item will return for action at the November 14th meeting. He further highlighted Richmond High and their 50% of reduction of suspensions and the pledge of the DeJean principal to set a similar goal as well. He thanked Ms. Merriweather and Board members for bringing this item forward.

G.2 Project Status Report

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

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
None

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)
None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Thurmond commented about a recent meeting with AC Transit about student safety as well as calling attention to an incident with a local hospital carrier regarding an injured student. Mr. Thurmond concluded by commenting on his participation with a recent fourth grade field trip to the Sacramento capitol building.

Ms. Merriweather reminded the community that the next Board meeting will be held after the election and urged voters to get out and vote. She invited the public to attend the upcoming Building Blocks for Kids Empowering Parents Education Summit.

Ms. Kronenberg said that this is the time for people who care about education to go to the polls and vote. She stressed that every vote counts toward education, urging support of Measures E, G, 30, and 38.

Mr. Medrano spoke of recently attending a Restorative Justice program at Richmond High School. He concluded with a reminder about the November 10th free College Day for the public at Contra Costa Community College.

President Ramsey congratulated the El Cerrito High football team for their successful season. He also urged the public to vote on November 6th. President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the name of the Chevron Corporation which made a contribution to the political action committee For the Children of West County.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 14, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p><u>AAM</u> Approved 11/14/12</p>
