

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

November 28, 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 6:32 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; Jen Bender, Hercules Middle High Principal; Matthew Burnham, Portola Middle Principal; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Cheryl Cotton, Human Resources Director Certificated; Linda Delgado, Coordinator; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance/Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Millar, Employee Relations Director; Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Teonna Thompson, Senior Account Clerk; Mike Wasilchin, Human Resources Director Classified; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Guy Zakrevsky, Director

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Kennedy School

Ms. Karriana McClure provided a report of activities at Kennedy High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

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 Karriana McClure (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: November 14, 2012

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of October 24, 2012. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Karriana McClure (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 Notification of Claims Rejected

C.5 Notification of Claim Rejected

C.6 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified

- C.7 Ratification of Manzanita Charter Middle School Memorandums of Understanding**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: CCS at Downer School Project**
- C.11 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Vista High School Portables Tech Lab 1&2 Project**
- C.12 Resolution No. 51-1213: Human Rights Day**

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano spoke about working in the field of Human Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He read several points from the Declaration, describing these as tools to educate the community.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the importance of putting this resolution on the agenda to commemorate December 10, 2012 as Human Rights Day. She said she is proud of the efforts started in the District with anti-bullying education and recognizing differing cultures. She said the purpose is to get information out to high schools about Human Rights Day.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.12. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Karriana McClure (advisory vote only) and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

President Ramsey passed the gavel to Mr. Medrano and left the dais for a brief time.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

- D.1 Resolution No. 52-1213: Honoring Tony Thurmond for Four Years of Service on the Board of Education**
Superintendent Harter recognized the service of Mr. Thurmond and his efforts to raise the consciousness of the District with work on the Youth Commission, the Safety Committee, and in reduction of suspensions and expulsions. Dr. Harter presented Mr. Thurmond with a plaque.

President Ramsey return to the dais and resumed the gavel.

Mr. Thurmond thanked the Board and Dr. Harter for the recognition and also thanked the people for allowing him to serve over the last four years. He spoke about the challenges faced during his term and the work still to be done. He urged the Board to be bold in its endeavors. He commented on the pleasure working with students and staff in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members individually thanked Mr. Thurmond for his service and recalled particular areas of service.

- D.2 Resolution No. 53-1213: Honoring Antonio Medrano for Four Years of Service on the Board of Education**
Superintendent Harter recognized Mr. Medrano for his service and his accomplishments including Chair of Facilities Subcommittee, working with the bond program seeking equity for children to have deserved facilities deserve. Mr. Medrano was also a leader on the Select Committees on High Schools and also was the voice for English language learners in the District.

Mr. Medrano spoke about his term of office and his other commitments through out the state. He congratulated the voters for their passage of Proposition 30 and the newly the elected board members, Randall Enos and Todd Groves. He thanked staff and students for working so hard. He spoke about his upcoming work with a human rights commission in Mexico as well as his work in the Contra Costa County.

Public Comment:

Pamela Mirabella

Board Comment:

Board members individually expressed appreciation for Mr. Medrano's service and commitment to the District.

D.3 Recognition & Celebration of the Volunteers for Measures E and G

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to celebrate and appreciate the volunteers who supported the successful election campaigns of Measures E and G. The many volunteers in the audience were recognized with certificates of appreciation.

Public Comment:

Tony Santana, Marcus Hibser, Ken Yamauchi, Andrew Butt, Sandra Falk, Kevin MacQuarrie, Grace Murphy-Jenkins, Sally Swanton, Aquacena Lopez, Joanna Pace, John Payne, Rene Flores, Pamela Mirabella, Kerry Moriarty, Cheryl Lentini, Fred Powell, Wally Gordon, Herman Blackmon, Ben Steinberg

Board Comment:

Board members thanked the volunteers and donors for their time and generosity in supporting Measures E and G.

Student Representative Karriana McClure left the meeting for the evening.

D.4 Global Youth Service Day

Dr. Harter introduced Ms. Bertha Romo who is a graduate of the Richmond High. She went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Romo is now an intern in the Richmond City Manager's Office. Ms. Romo presented information about a service learning initiative to engage students in volunteer service. She said the City of Richmond is reaching out to Kennedy and Richmond High students to submit logo designs for the Cities of Service Coalition. The platform for engaging youth will launch with the Global Youth Service Day, April 26-28, 2013, where 600 or more youth will engage in service in the months leading up to these dates. Students will identify needs and develop service projects in the community. She is seeking participation of high school leadership classes to coordinate these events in Richmond schools.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members spoke in support of the efforts to engage students in the service learning initiative. The Youth Commission and the community group Concilio Latino were suggested as avenues to reach out to areas of the community. Ms. Romo concluded by saying that they would also reach out to the community college to involve students in the larger community.

D.5 Standing Reports

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather said the next meeting is scheduled for December 13th at North Campus, 9:00 AM. Discussion will include review of plans from schools and alternative suspension programs.

Youth Commission. Ms. Kronenberg reported on the recent meeting where discussion included establishing bylaws, standing committee appointments and upcoming elections for officers.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting for December 11, 2012, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. President Ramsey reported that the committee will review a debt limit waiver resolution at its December 5 meeting.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting for December 6, 2012 at the Alvarado Adult Education campus.

College and Career Readiness. Mr. Greer reported that secondary principals will attend the District Leadership Advisory meeting in Southern California December 4th and 5th. He spoke of the participants and their efforts on behalf of students.

Ivy League Connection. President Ramsey reported that six applications had been received for the Yale summer program. He said he would like to see more students interested in applying to this and other programs.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Medrano reported on the November 13th meeting where action items included approval of window shades for Helms and Ford schools. The Richmond High campus schematic design was also approved.

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 on School Gardens

Ms. Graciella Rossi and Ms. Joanna Pace spoke to the Board about the Growing West County School Gardens Collaborative and their work in schools since 2007. They emphasized the need to incorporate garden education in student learning.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment

Susan Ruiz, Alicia Jackson

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Reducing Suspensions for 2012-13

Mr. Greer read an amendment to this item in to the record with the following italicized text:

AB 1729 (effective January 1, 2013) requires that the District utilize other means of correction prior to using suspension as a disciplinary consequence for non-violent offenses.

Recommendation:

Consistent with AB 1729, that the Board adopt a goal of reducing out-of school suspensions in middle and high schools by 25/5m by using other means of correction for non-violent offenses.

Mr. Greer introduced Assistant Principal Jessica Smith-Kennan of Kennedy High and Principal Jen Bender of Hercules Middle High who spoke about reducing suspension for all students at their respective sites.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond commented on the schools setting high goals for suspension reduction. He asked questions about the efforts to use the Restorative Justice program and needed support from the District. Ms. Kennan-Smith spoke about the need for an in-house suspension room to provide intervention without sending students off campus. Mr. Thurmond further asked about next steps to expand a partnership with the Cha Program regarding substance abuse counseling. Mr. Greer responded and further commented about work with the school health centers and community based organizations.

Ms. Kronenberg had questions about community tutors who might be of support to the school. Ms. Kennan-Smith spoke about the number of groups offering support on campus.

Ms. Merriweather thanked staff for seeing the vision to reduce the suspensions of over 4000 students this year. She said that if students aren't in school, they won't learn, so it is important to change the thinking about student discipline.

Mr. Medrano said he is excited about the work happening at Hercules and Kennedy.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the “kick back” effect from involved people as a result of changing behavior. He asked what could be done to support Hercules in making the changes. Ms. Bender responded about building relationships and trust to make change effective.

President Ramsey spoke of the importance of the work and the resolve to make a change. He commented that the Restorative Justice program was a topic of conversation at the recent California School Boards Association meetings.

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the recommendation to reduce suspensions for 2012-13. Ms. Merriweather 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 Presentation and Public Hearing of Initial Bargaining Proposal – Public Employees Union, Local One

President Ramsey opened public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Initial Bargaining Proposal – Public Employees Union, Local One. Mr. Thurmond 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.3 Presentation and Public Hearing of Initial Bargaining Proposal – School Supervisors Association

President Ramsey opened public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Initial Bargaining Proposal – School Supervisors Association. 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.4 Presentation and Public Hearing of Initial Bargaining Proposal – United Teachers of Richmond

President Ramsey opened public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of the Initial Bargaining Proposal – United Teachers of Richmond. Ms. Merriweather 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

None

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

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Thurmond spoke of the honor to serve West Contra Costa over the last 4 years. He said that public service is hard, particularly in entities like school boards. He spoke of his experience and serving with a great staff who provided financial stability to the District. He concluded with wishing the new board members well and happy holidays to the community.

Ms. Merriweather announced the Human Rights Day celebration on December 10th, 6:00 PM at the Richmond City Council meeting. She said the public is invited to come out and celebrate. District students will be participating as well. She thanked the volunteers who worked so hard on the passage of Measures E and G. She concluded with thanks to Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Medrano for their service.

Ms. Kronenberg commented on the various groups and individuals that supported the successful passage of Measures E and G. She offered her thanks to Mr. Medrano and Mr. Thurmond for their years of service during a remarkable time in the District's history.

Mr. Medrano thanked his fellow Board members for working together as a team, making difficult decisions together. He spoke of his pride in the community for passing the tax measures and his plans to recruit community members to serve as Board members.

Superintendent Harter thanked Mr. Medrano and Mr. Thurmond for their leadership and the pleasure of working with them over the last four years. He expects to work with each of them in future endeavors.

President Ramsey said this is his final meeting as Board President. He thanked the Board for their confidence in him to lead during a difficult year. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for its focus on core matters, particularly retaining local control in governance. He concluded by saying it was a pleasure to serve with Mr. Medrano and Mr. Thurmond and that their work has made a difference in the community.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – December 12, 2012

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in memory of his mother and in honor of his daughters at 10:02 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<u>CTR</u> Approved 12/12/12
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