

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Workshop of Education Meeting
Lovonya DeJean Middle School
Multipurpose Room
3400 Macdonald Ave.
Richmond, CA 94805**

December 19, 2012

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

A.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Kronenberg led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

A.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Kronenberg offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

A.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey

Staff Present: Madgy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Education Services; Teonna Thompson, Senior Account Clerk; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Ateire Lombard, Head Custodian; Marco Gonzalez, Downer Principal; Carolyn Wendell, Head Custodian; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance/Operations; Abigail Sims-Evelyn, Teacher

City of Richmond Representative: Council Member Jim Rogers

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 Community Hearing on Priorities and Funding Sources / Opportunities

Superintendent Harter provided a report of current conditions, priorities and context for the meeting and introduced speakers to give additional perspective.

Abigail Sims-Evelyn, a teacher at Lovonya DeJean Middle School, spoke about large class sizes, lack of classroom supplies, and strategies for working with large classes.

Maria Resendiz, a parent and employee of WCCUSD, spoke about classrooms not having enough room to accommodate student's desks, and regular English classes being combined with bilingual classrooms. She spoke about witnessing the excitement of students at newly constructed schools. She recommended the Board support principals to assist them to become great leaders as well as continue to seek input from the community.

Carolyn Wendell, the head custodian at Stewart Elementary, spoke about Stewart school requiring more maintenance and upkeep. She recommended the hiring of more custodians. Ms. Wendell provided the Board with additional written background information.

Ateire Lombard, the head custodian at El Cerrito High, thanked everyone who had involvement in the newly constructed school. She spoke about the new amount of restrooms and classrooms at El Cerrito and the need for more maintenance. She also spoke about the new health center facility that requires specific cleaning methods. She recommended the hiring of more custodians. Mr. Groves asked about the turnover in custodians. Ms. Lombard responded.

Derrick Duren, a junior at Pinole Valley High School, spoke about large class sizes, outdated textbooks, and the lack of current technology. He recommended decreasing class sizes and improving access to current technology to aid students in preparation for college readiness.

Marco Gonzalez, principal at Downer Elementary, spoke about the decrease in the Downer site budget. He spoke of not being able to accommodate teachers with necessary classroom supplies and of teachers using personal funds to provide students with basic needs. He thanked the Board for hearing community input.

Public Comment:

- Peter Tiernan spoke on behalf of the Public Employees Union. Kimberly Chamberlain spoke on behalf of SSA.
- Maria Resendiz spoke about reducing class size.
- Janet Duckart and Kristen Pursely spoke in support of keeping adult education programs.
- David Sharples, Sharon Fogelson, Leslie Reckler, Felicia Robertson and Jennifer Loughrey spoke about funding priorities for the District.
- Jim Rogers, Richmond City Council Member, spoke about funding and collaboration of the city and the District.
- Eduardo Martinez spoke about parcel tax increases to provide more funding sources for the District.
- Demetria Saunders spoke about retaining good teachers.
- Cathy Garza spoke about setting priorities.
- Diane Brown spoke about working conditions in the district.
- Bobbie Dowling spoke about teacher quality, academic performance, and language in the curriculum.
- Tana Monteiro spoke about keeping good teachers, mental health, bullying and violence.
- Aja Dotson suggested training teachers with procedures for use of epinephrine auto-injector pens.

Board Comment:

Clerk Ramsey suggested holding a joint meeting with the Richmond City Council to discuss individualizing the city and community to address funding gaps. Council Member Rogers responded.

Clerk Ramsey asked Mr. Eduardo Martinez's opinion about tax hikes for more student programs. Mr. Martinez said he believed the tax hike would be supported because the community wants quality education. He said the District needs more funding for teachers and custodians. He said the District needs to allow teachers to have more of a voice in the classroom. Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about the increase in square footage of the newly constructed schools. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Freese spoke of the new constructions requiring additional maintenance and technological training for the upkeep. Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Fay about ideas or concepts for discussion at an upcoming Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Faye responded.

Clerk Ramsey suggested looking at safety measures, the context of mental health services, reduction in truancy, and early intervention. Clerk Ramsey also asked public speaker Derrick Duren about his view of priorities for Board consideration. Mr. Duren suggested additional classrooms supplies, better textbooks, and advanced technology. Mr. Ramsey asked about the impact of large class sizes. Mr. Duren responded.

Mr. Groves asked Dr. Harter what would be required to reduce class sizes at the secondary level. Superintendent Harter responded. Mr. Groves also asked about the increase in the special education budget, cost savings and consolidating of operations. Superintendent Harter responded. Mr. Groves concluded with suggests to look for additional funding with reducing class size for K-12 and rapid intervention for K-2 as priorities.

Ms. Merriweather asked Dr. Harter about programs currently in place to retain good teachers. Superintendent Harter responded.

President Kronenberg discussed the District's encroachments and looking for additional monies. She suggested polling voters to make sure there is a consensus within the community. She discussed local funding mechanisms and possibly another parcel tax with previous polling results of voters indicating class size reductions and academic excellence as priorities. She asked the Board members their opinions and input on regarding another funding measure.

Clerk Ramsey asked Dr. Harter to bring back a proposal for a community survey to consider timing, amounts, issues, and possibilities for another parcel tax measure. Clerk Ramsey asked for a consensus of the Board.

Ms. Merriweather asked for clarification on the reason for the special meeting and the consensus. Clerk Ramsey responded.

Mr. Enos discussed the challenges of retaining good teachers and encouraged continued dialogue. He said he is happy to continue the discussion after the winter break to work for the students and teachers.

Board members thanked the speakers and community for their input.

President Kronenberg said she was grateful for the community input and the importance to look at possible ways to help the students.

C. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – January 9, 2013

D. ADJOURNMENT
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

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

Min 12-19-12 sp

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CTR</u> Approved 1-23-13</p>
