

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

**March 20, 2013**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:31 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Kronenberg led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

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

**B.3 Roll Call**

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

**Staff Present:** Magdy Abdalla, Engineering Officer; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Linda Delgado, Coordinator; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance/Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Marco Gonzales, Downer Elementary Principal, 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; Keith Holtslander, Director of Facilities; Phil Johnson, Kennedy High Principal, David Johnston, Director General Services; Sue Kahn, Pinole Valley High Principal; David Luongo, El Cerrito High Principal, Reyna Ortiz de Touriel, Interpreter; Daniela Parasidis, Director Business Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical/Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Katie VonHusen, Coordinator Education Services; Kenneth Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

This item was moved to later in the meeting to accommodate Ms. Smith's late arrival.

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to terminate a classified employee.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to terminate a classified employee. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with Ms. Merriweather abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

Mr. Ramsey asked the Board to consider moving items E.1 Superintendent's Report and G. 1 Charter Hearing for Caliber Schools to follow Consent Items.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda with the recommended changes. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.7 Minutes: January 15, 2013; January 29, 2013; March 6, 2013**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Minutes of January 15, 2013; January 29, 2013; and March 6, 2013. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- C.1 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.3 Contracted Services**
- C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**
- C.5 Resolution No.73-1213: Directing Preparation of Annual Engineer’s Report - MRAD**
- C.6 Notification of Claim Rejected**
- C.7 Approve the following New Job Description: Senior School Facilities Planning Specialist**
- C.8 Approve the following New Job Description: Preschool Cashier**
- C.9 Approval of Sabbatical Leave Requests for 2013-2014**
- C.10 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3**
- C.11 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs)**
- C.12 Day of Recognition for César Chávez - March 31, 2013**
- C.13 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.14 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.15 Approval of Awards of De Anza High School Furniture Contract**

This item was pulled for discussion.

Superintendent Harter read the following revision to this item into the record:

*The new construction of De Anza High School is nearly complete. The next step for the District is to purchase new furniture for the school. The District has prepared preliminary furnishing criteria with classroom configurations, specialty spaces including computer labs, special education, admin furnishings, offices and staff work areas.*

*The District engaged in a public bid process, using its preliminary furnishing criteria to select the vendor for this contract. Public bids were opened on March 14, 2013. They are as follows: Concept Furnishings \$1,012,263.48 (non-responsive), Contrax Group, LLC \$1,199,950.36.*

**Recommendation:** Approve contract for De Anza High School furniture, setup and installation to Contrax Group, LLC

**Fiscal Impact:** Total for this action: \$1,199,950.36. Funded by Measure J Bond, under the De Anza High School Furniture and Equipment Budget.

- C.16 Approval of Riverside Elementary School Master Plan Fees**
- C.17 Measure J and D 2010, Measure E 2012, Bond Program Budget Expenditure Authorization**  
Mr. Ramsey amended the recommendation regarding the Kennedy Swim Center to clarify the funds budgeted to be \$7.2 million including the cost for the District to handle the bid process and construction management of the project.
- C.18 Revised E-Rate Funding for Year 15 – Form 470 Technology Services**
- C.19 E-Rate Funding Year 16-Contract award to Vendor, Upon E-Rate Funding Approval for RFP# IT2012**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.10, C.12 - C.19. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

- E.1 Superintendent’s Report – César Chávez Recognition**  
Principal Marco Gonzales introduced students from the Downer Elementary’s guitar class Little Kids Rock program who played and sang the song *Si Se Puede*.

Ms. Bertha Romo, working with the cities of Richmond and San Pablo, shared their Service Learning project for students working in service to the community. Some of their projects included a walk-a-thon and a mural along the Richmond Greenway. Global Youth Day Leadership committee members introduced themselves and told about their involvement: Jaime Alvarez, Monroe Ayala, Maria Laira, and Hugo Perez. They shared how Service Learning taking place in the District falls in line with the beliefs of César Chávez.

- F.1 Approval of Agreement with United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with UTR**  
Superintendent Harter reported that staff had removed this item from the agenda at this time.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey motioned to remove item F.1 Collective Bargaining Agreement with UTR from this agenda. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0 to remove the item from the agenda.**

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey motioned to amend the agenda by moving item E.2 Public Comment to follow D.4 Academies Readiness for College & Career. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

#### **G.1 Caliber Charter School**

Linda Delgado introduced Allison Aknoukh to provide background on the Caliber Charter School petition. Once complete this item will return for Board action at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Ms. Allison Aknoukh presented information regarding their proposed K-8 school serving families in the West Contra Costa area.

At 7:11 PM the record reflected the arrival of Student Representative Ashlyn Smith.

#### **Public Comment:**

Mary Alice Harris, Pastor Aaron Roy, Matt Arciniega, LaRon Belcher, Hilary Harmssen, Tameka Cato, Richard DeLao, Kirsten Scheu, Sam Humphrey, Carolina Guerrero, Yasmin Barraza, Jeff Leach

#### **Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said staff would review the application for its merits.

Mr. Groves had questions about the academic program. Ms. Aknoukh asked Ms. Scheu to respond to the inquiries about curriculum, Read 180 and Singapore Math. Other topics discussed included alignment to California Common Core Standards and personalized learning plans.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the location of the school. Ms. Aknoukh said they have a strong preference to locate in the Richmond area and with accessibility to families in El Cerrito and San Pablo. If the charter is approved, they intend to submit a Proposition 39 facilities application to the District. They have also begun preliminary research for private facilities.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about length of school year and the proposed innovative school calendar. Ms. Aknoukh spoke about learning loss during summer months and that the school is looking to shorten the summer break with a longer break in winter months. The school day will consist of a nine hour school day with afterschool enrichment, and a modified day on Wednesdays. Professional development and teacher benefits were also touched upon.

#### **B.4 Student Representative from Hercules High**

Ms. Ashlyn Smith provided a report of activities at Hercules High School.

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

##### **D.1 Richmond Association of School Administrators (RASA) Award Winners**

Superintendent Harter introduced Sue Kahn to recognize Administrators of the Year. Principal Kahn recognized the following administrators as ACSA Region VI / RASA Award winners for 2013. Ms. Kahn also announced that Julio Franco, Steve Collins and Nia Rashidchi will be recognized as ACSA Region VI winners.

Judy Sanders  
Matt Burnham  
Julio Franco  
Sonja Neely-Johnson  
Emily Millar  
Luis Freese  
Martin Coyne  
Steve Collins  
Nia Rashidchi  
Pamala Blake  
Haidee Foust

Janice Thompson  
Dottie Holland

**Public Comment:**  
Nathalie Van Linder

**Board Comment:**  
Board members offered their congratulations.

**D.2 Mock Trial**

Mr. Greer recognized the participation of Hercules, Richmond, Kennedy and El Cerrito High Schools in the Mock Trial Program. He introduced Ms. Nancy Schiff who provided an update and overview of mock trial activities that took place in the Martinez courtroom. Teachers Greg Whaling of Kennedy and Robert Fairwell of El Cerrito High Schools commented on the students' achievements. The students told of their participation and the skills and knowledge they gained from Mock Trial.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Mr. Ramsey asked about the summer component of the program. Mr. Stan Friedman related information about the summer legal fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Enos said that he was a mock trial coach during his teaching career and could relate to what this program offers students.

Ms. Merriweather asked questions about the competition for the summer program. Ms. Schiff said that fifteen slots are guaranteed to District students and she is hopeful for more.

Board members offered their congratulations.

**D.3 Extended Learning (Summer School) Program Update**

Liz Torio reported on the upcoming summer program planned for June 17 – July 12, 2013.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Mr. Groves inquired about evidence of student improvement in the subsequent year's courses. Ms. Torio reported that last year's data showed significant gains. Mr. Greer interjected that the majority of students in summer school are seeing credit recover and if passed successfully will advance toward graduation requirements. Discussion continued about the curriculum used and the ATPD program.

Mr. Enos said he noticed the range of choices for student engagement in the various programs. He would also like to see the data about success rates for students in the year following summer school.

Ms. Kronenberg asked about the number of students to be served in this year's summer programs. Ms. Torio, Ms. Rashidchi and Mr. Greer responded that elementary will serve about 1000 students and between 1200 – 1500 students at secondary schools.

The record reflected that Student Board Representative Ashlyn Smith left for the evening at 8:45 PM.

**D.4 ARCC -- Academics Readiness for College & Career**

Linda Delgado provided an update on college and career readiness. She reported on a recent California Partnership Academy conference attended by 53 district employees. She also told of the upcoming May Residency event where the District will host the program as an opportunity for others to view the progress being made here in West Contra Costa. The event will be held May 21 and 22. Ms. Delgado concluded with an update of the Project Lead the Way bio-engineering and bio-medical curriculum and methodology used in the academies.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Board members asked questions about teacher training and retention. Mr. Greer and Ms. Delgado responded for clarification.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Sharon Johnson, Joanna Pace, Elissa Batiste, Jeff Rubin, Norma Martinez-Rubin, Ericca Wall, Jocelyn Straus, Brannan Markert, Max Hauser, Elaine Brady, Heather Hernandez

Mr. Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter about the Shannon Elementary School's selection of architectural firm and moving the reconstruction process forward. Superintendent Harter responded. Mr. Abdalla detailed the process for Shannon's reconstruction.

**D.5 Standing Reports**

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting for April 16 at DeJean Middle School, at 6:00 PM. She said this meeting will be a town hall meeting addressing the common core standards and assessments.

**Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee.** Mr. Ramsey reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 6:00 PM and the Facilities Operations Center.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba announced the next committee meeting for March 28 at the Alvarado Adult Education Campus.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Mr. Ramsey reported on the discussion regarding strategies for passage of the debt limit waiver and his attendance of the March State Board of Education meeting. He announced the next Facilities Subcommittee meeting for April 9.

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Don Gosney reported that 34 students had completed the selection process and chaperones have also been selected. Students will attend the May 15 Board of Education meeting for recognition. Mr. Ramsey spoke about successful fundraising efforts and an upcoming mentor event with Yale and Brown universities.

**Safety Committee.** Ms. Merriweather spoke about the recent meeting where a coordinator from the Contra Costa Health Department shared information about services provided to the high school health centers and conversation about school safety. Mr. Enos shared concerns about parent pick up and drop off of students at school sites. The next meeting will be held in May.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Greer announced the next meeting for April 8, 6:30 PM at Helms where agenda items will include a review of the District's debt limit waiver application. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the voting student member seated on State Board of Education and urged youth commissioners to write as constituents.

**E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

**E.1 Superintendent's Report**

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

**E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment**

This item was moved to follow C.4.

**C.11 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs)**

Mr. Groves had questions about the approval of school site plans for the year. Ms. Rashidchi responded with clarification and information about a new template developed by the State in February 2013. She also spoke about the careful balance to include state mandated elements and adding engaging information for the reader. School Site Councils have ongoing conversations about their school's data.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of C.11 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs). Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Approval of Agreement with United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with UTR**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**F.2 Second Interim Report, 2012-13 / Financial Update**

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> interim financial report. She reported that staff recommended a positive certification for the District's budget.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked questions about retiree benefits. Ms. Gamba provided clarification about the summary of the current year's payment activity. He continued with questions about the proposed ratification of one of the union groups benefit package offer. Ms. Gamba elaborated with information about the Second Interim Report as a financial presentation for action taken since January 2013.

Mr. Groves had questions about Title I and Title II funds spent. Ms. Gamba responded with information regarding the income component.

Ms. Merriweather asked questions about deficit spending and reports from Legislative Analyst's Office regarding deferred funds. Ms. Gamba offered clarification about deferred revenue and accounting procedures to reflect the funds actually received. Ms. Gamba also talked about the District's cash flow circumstances.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Second Interim Report, 2012-13. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Charter Hearing for Caliber Schools**

This item was moved to follow item E.1.

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

None

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

Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Abdalla about the opening of the Portola/Castro demolition bids. Mr. Abdalla responded with information about the timeline. Mr. Ramsey continued with questions about the King Elementary construction plan. Mr. Abdalla responded that repairs would be completed during spring break. Mr. Ramsey had remarks about the Swim Center at Kennedy High. Mr. Ramsey concluded with remarks about feeder patterns for elementary and middle schools to high schools and issues before the State Board of Education.

Mr. Enos commented about Board members being informed about the state's budget planning.

Ms. Merriweather said she enjoyed tonight's presentations particularly the Mock Trial program presentation. She asked staff to provide an update regarding Proposition 39 funds at a future meeting.

Mr. Groves wished luck to the El Cerrito High debate team headed to state championship competition. He also reported on the Portola math competitors at the upcoming state competition.

President Kronenberg commented about the student member serving on State Board of Education who also serves on her district's youth commission. President Kronenberg commented on the State Assembly Bill AB182 regarding responding to financial abuse and its potential effect to the District's bond program.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – April 10, 2013

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:53 P.M.

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

BH:dh

**CTR**  
Approved 4/10/13