

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

June 26, 2013

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session.
President Kronenberg called the Public Session to order at 6:35 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; 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; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director of Facilities; Germaine Quitter, Director Business Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Katie VonHusen, Coordinator Educational Services; Ken Whittmore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to appoint five administrators:

Allison Huie, Assistant Principal, Kennedy High School
Catherine Floresca, Assistant Principal, Hercules Middle High School
Paul Mansingh, Assistant Principal, Hercules Middle High School
Brianna Winn, Assistant Principal, El Cerrito High School
Rhonda Haney, Coordinator, Disaster Preparedness and Safety

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the action taken in Closed Session to appoint five administrators. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Mr. Ramsey, Ms. Merriweather, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Superintendent Harter also reported that the Board would return to Closed Session after this meeting with no report out of to follow.

B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey recommended moving item F. 1 to follow Consent Items and item E.2 to follow F.1. Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda with those amendments. Mr. Groves 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.

B.6 Minutes: June 12, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Minutes of June 12, 2013. 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.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Notice of Completions: Bid 1271223-02 Harding Elementary School Foundation ventilation, Bid 2141103-08 Portola Middle School CCS @ Downer, Bid 1171223-12 Ellerhorst Elementary School Re-Roof, Bid 1171223-13 Ellerhorst Elementary School, Bid 1591223-01 Tara Hills Elementary School, Bid 1351223-01 Lincoln Elementary School, and Bid 1271223-04 Harding Elementary School Restroom Finish Upgrades

C.4 Notification of Claim Rejected

C.5 Agreement with California Teachers Association

C.6 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers

C.7 Revised School Calendars for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

C.8 2013-14 Consolidated Application for Funding

C.9 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.10 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.11 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Grant ES & Lake ES Restrooms Renovation

C.12 Approval of Board Member Travel

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.12. 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.

F.1 Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2013-14 Budget

Ms. Gamba provided background regarding adoption of the budget for the 2013-14 school year, and her expectation to provide a 45 day revision once the State budget is signed and trailer bills implemented. She gave a detailed review of the proposed budget for adoption.

Public Comment:

Romy Douglass, Bobbie Dowling, Jim Sanders, Bill Lindsay, Eric Swabeck, Ben Steinberg, Susan Billings, Valerie Collura, Jim Rogers, Nathan Clark

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey said he appreciated the information presented and had three areas that he wanted to address: school safety, deferred maintenance, and special reserve fund allocations as well as the Local Control Funding Formula dollars. He urged the Board to consider an equitable level of School Resource Officer (SRO) / Police Officer coverage across the cities as well as modernize of equipment in support of police services.

Ms. Merriweather asked about an estimate of the cost to which Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay responded that the cost is estimated at approximately \$450,000 for two officers.

Mr. Enos agreed that funding two SRO's is a good idea.

Mr. Groves said he has had discussion with Richmond Police Chief Magnus about this as an approach to truancy issues. He is of the opinion that an additional SRO will be a magnifier of our capacity. Mr. Groves said he fully supports this idea.

Ms. Merriweather asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Ramsey responded that the SRO's would be funded from the general fund.

President Kronenberg said this is an additional opportunity to continue the partnership with Richmond and other cities and believes this is another way to offer Richmond additional support.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve funding from the 2013-14 budget for two School Resource Officers from the Richmond Police Department for Richmond schools. 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.

Mr. Ramsey continued by addressing deferred maintenance of school facilities and spoke of using Special Reserve for Capital Outlay (Fund 40) as an alternative to relying on bond money and preserve LCFF money when it becomes available.

Ms. Gamba asked that these motions be included in the 45 day revisions to the 2013-2014 Budget. Mr. Ramsey agreed.

Ms. Merriweather asked about the current balance in the deferred maintenance accounts. Ms. Gamba responded by saying there is a \$1 million balance in the Deferred Maintenance Fund and that the District used these funds in Tier 3 sweeps over last few years. With LCFF the District won't receive these funds in the future. Ms. Gamba felt this is an appropriate use of Special Reserve for Capital Outlay but advised that this would be a one-time source of funding that could be spread out over the next few years.

President Kronenberg spoke about concerns that the Facilities Subcommittee has expressed about cutbacks to funding for deferred maintenance projects.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to allocation \$4 million of MRAD funds over the next two years for deferred maintenance projects. 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.

Mr. Ramsey urged the Board to consider implementing additional class size reductions of 26 to 1 and progressing with the ultimate goal of 24 to 1 in three years for grades K-3. He felt that the Special Reserve ending funds could cover this expense.

Mr. Enos spoke about research that shows the needs of students through 3rd grade and parent surveys that indicate parents want in class size reduction in place now. He supported teachers who want to provide the best learning opportunities for their students.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about this as a priority of the Board. She said she is excited to see that Governor wants to fund class size reduction as well, and she thought that the District should start with 26 to 1 in 2013-2014. She urged her colleagues to think seriously about supporting secondary teachers as well as primary teachers.

Mr. Groves spoke of statistics for a 20 to 1 ratio of students to teacher for K-3 that do not show any impact on proficiency for students at higher grades. He said he does, however, support the thought that students need a quiet, controlled environment in classroom to promote learning for student achievement. He said that he thought it important to look at all the drivers of student achievement not just class size reduction. He said he would like to see strategies for dealing with middle school class sizes. Mr. Groves had questions about implementation accelerated over four years and how that would work if set as a priority. Ms. Gamba estimated it would cost an additional \$2-\$3 million per year, and cautioned that Board that a budget deficit still exists. She urged mindfulness when adding ongoing expenses until knowing exactly how much LCFF would afford.

Ms. Merriweather asked how much of parcel tax funds go toward class size reduction. Ms. Gamba indicated that \$2.8 million is currently being spent for K-3 at the 28 student level. Ms. Gamba approximated that an additional \$2.5 million would be required to reduce class size to 26 for K-3.

Board discussion continued and included discussion about recruiting teachers to fill classrooms.

Superintendent Harter recapped the Board's interest to return at the July 24 Board meeting with an implementation plan for class sizes at a ratio of 26 to 1 and a 4 year plan to continue to reduce class sizes to 24 to 1 with as few combination classes as possible.

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved to amend the 2013-14 Budget to include funding for class size reduction of 26 to 1 for the 2013-14 school year and 24 to 1 for the following year and thereafter with an emphasis to eliminate combination classes. Mr. Ramsey 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.

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Adoption of the 2013-14 Budget with the three amendments approved earlier. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no abstentions. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment
Sarah Creeley, Camille Winfield

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Solutions Team Report

Superintendent Harter spoke about the inception of Solutions Team which began in February 2012 with a meeting of bargaining units UTR, SSA, Local 1 and WCCAA as well as Board members to begin work in support of parcel tax Measure K. This group developed an interest in working together to solve problems and take on difficult conversations. The group has been facilitated by trained mediator Cathy Stevens, who has been implemental in moving this group to such success. It is a great model for employees to work with central administration and the Board to take ongoing problems.

Public Comment:

Sharon Fogelson, Julio Arroyo, Cathy Stevens

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves spoke of his indoctrination into world of the school district and work with people who care passionately about students and employees. The group has developed agreed upon employee discipline procedures and is stronger for having done this work. The group is moving on to address policies such as catastrophic leave, and making a better place to work.

President Kronenberg said she has worked with the team since its inception saying this is a group of people who agreed to come together to converse, to support parcel tax, and felt the value of continuing. Each member has contributed to the group and grown personally. She said the group does not solve everything, and does not replace negotiations, but serves as a productive unit for an employee voice in the District.

D.2 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Katie VonHusen shared an update on the District's transition to Common Core State Standards.

College & Career Readiness. Mr. Greer reported that the fifth annual Linked Learning Summer Institute was currently underway. Mr. Greer said that West Contra Costa has been selected to mentor other districts in northern California and the East Bay area. He gave a few details about the team of 22 people currently in attendance as at the Summer Institute in Palo Alto.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey reported the next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2013.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported that a group of students left yesterday for their summer program at the University of Pennsylvania.

D.3 In Memory of Members of the School Community

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

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 WCCUSD Public Comment
This item was moved to follow F.1.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2013-14 Budget
This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS
None

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

At 8:57 PM, President Kronenberg recessed the meeting to allow the Board to return to Closed Session.

President Kronenberg called the General Session of the meeting back to order at 9:40 PM.

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT
President Kronenberg thanked all for attending the meeting.

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

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CTR</u> Approved 7/10/13</p>
