

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

August 7, 2013

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Madeline Kronenberg called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. MEETING OVERVIEW

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

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools; Superintendent Bruce Harter; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Ken McDaniel, Maintenance Supervisor

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM

None

IV. DISTRICT'S FOCUS SCHOOLS FOR 2013-2014

Superintendent Harter related that this meeting provided opportunity for the Board to take an in depth look at some of the District's most challenged schools. Staff began the meeting by providing presentations and then allow the opportunity for Board members to circulate and engage in dialogue with school representatives.

Ms. Rashidchi provided a background presentation regarding Decile 1 / Performance Improvement 5 schools. She shared that fourteen schools became Focus Schools by their Decile 1 statewide rating or year five program improvement status. Ms. Rashidchi provided data regarding the academic performance index for the last two years as well as other performance indicators. She said there will be three areas of focus for 2013-14 including academic, social/emotional and stakeholder outreach. The school staff provided input to their plans to improve and accelerate student achievement.

Dr. Jose Lopez of California State East Bay spoke about the development of an English Language (EL) support system within the District. The system will increase the capacity of schools to work with teachers to accelerate EL Learners outcomes and build sustainable best practices in schools for teachers of EL students.

The remainder of the meeting was spent with Board members talking with staff from the Focus Schools regarding plans of action for 2013-2014 at Bayview, Chavez, DeJean, Dover, Downer, Grant, Kennedy, King, Lake, Mira Vista, Nystrom, Richmond, Stege, and Verde.

V. BOARD DIRECTION AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE ACADEMIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Ramsey thanked everyone for participating in this positive experience to learn what the Board needs to do to support schools. He spoke about the group he participated in saying they understood the challenges and the need for an ongoing dialogue to improve achievement for all students including black and brown students.

Mr. Enos spoke about his personal experience as a student, teacher and principal in Richmond schools and the importance to see the challenges to overcome. He said his group shared a desire to make a difference with students.

Mr. Groves spoke of protecting the rights of students to learn. He said there is good opportunity in the work ahead holding everyone accountable.

Mr. Merriweather said she participated in an enlightened group of schools with large populations. She said the educational goals are very clear as are the signs of progress. She remarked that staff acknowledged areas for improvement. She saw that staff at these schools is aware of the need for cohesiveness and collaboration in order to be ready for the challenge for improvements.

President Kronenberg reported on her group. She said she was impressed by the level of energy around the things needing to be accomplished. She was happy to have this group come together to share with the Board regarding moving the most at risk students forward. This is the first time that staff, as colleagues, was provided the opportunity to articulate with one another. She felt this was a valuable conversation that needs to continue in order to report measurable progress and next steps.

President Kronenberg thanked everyone for attending and their hard work.

V. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM.

BH:dh
8-7-13 Min Sp

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