

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

October 2, 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 6:36 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; Linda Delgado, Coordinator Education Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent 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; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from El Cerrito High School

Mr. Bowie Lee provided a report of activities at El Cerrito High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey asked that Consent Items, D.1 and G.2 be moved up on the agenda and approved the agenda with those changes. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Bowie Lee (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 WCCUSD Public Comment

This item was moved to follow D.1.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.3 Contracted Services

C.4 Community Budget Advisory Committee Amended Member Ratification

C.5 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3

C.6 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.7 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.8 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Hercules Middle High School Additional Exterior Lighting

C.9 Red Ribbon Week Board Resolution No. 36-1314

C.10 Resolution No. 37-1314: Close the Commercial Property Loophole

C.11 Approval of Board Members Travel

C.12 Board Policy Updates: BP 3515 Campus Security

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

Mr. Ramsey left the dais.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, 2013 – October 15, 2015 through WCCUSD student performances

Students from Montalvin and Dover Elementary Schools provided presentations and dance performances in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members applauded the efforts of students, staff and parents for the presentations.

B.7 WCCUSD Public Comment

Giorgio Cosentino, Lenson Wong, Madeline Cope

G.2 Richmond Charter Elementary School

Ms. Linda Delgado provided information regarding the charter petition received by the District on September 13, 2013. She reported that staff and counsel will review the petition making a recommendation to the Board. She introduced Mr. Jorge Lopez, Executive Director of Amethod Public Schools. He introduced staff members Evelia Villa, Chief Academic Officer, and Peter Cordero, Chief Operations Officer, who assisted in providing information regarding their achievements as a core value organization.

Public Comment:

Maria Gallardo, Zalma Gallardo, Gabriel Jimenez, Jawan Thompson, Kaeila Reynoso, Leslie Ayala, Nancy Sanchez, Laura Martinez, Felipe Rico, Sergio Moreno, Ihazmine Lopez, Claudia Padilla, Mariela Armendariz, Dr. Pedro Cuevas, Rosa Moreno, David Pizena, Takeyia Maryland, Angelica Ortega, Antonio Aguilar, Maria Leticia Nunez, Martha Serrano, Jesus Maldonado, Jose Andrade

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves commended Mr. Lopez for a thoughtful and coherent application. He continued with questions of concern about incidents at their schools. Mr. Lopez responded that their schools do not participate in corporal punishment and addressing parent concerns. Mr. Lopez said that his staff is available to serve the community. He further addressed questions about parent complaints.

Mr. Enos had questions about the number of instructors holding California teaching credentials. Mr. Lopez responded that one hundred percent of their teachers are state certificated.

Ms. Merriweather asked for information about the school's discipline policy. Mr. Lopez responded with information about school wide goals, expectations, and progressive discipline, trying as much as possible to avoid suspensions. Ms. Merriweather asked about the ethnic balance of the school. Mr. Lopez responded that the make-up of their school population is 84% Latino, 1% African American, 1% Caucasian, and 22% Special Education students.

President Kronenberg remarked that she had not heard any criticism regarding the school's academic program. She said there was issue about responsiveness to criticism around discipline and asked for Mr. Lopez's thoughts to remedy. Mr. Lopez spoke of the huge transition and adjustment for students coming from public schools and offering a summer academic readiness program. He spoke about the intent of the program to prepare students academically as the prime driver of the school. He noted that they have not expelled a student since 1994.

Student representative Bowie Lee spoke of the wonderful representation of strong community in the audience.

President Kronenberg said that the Board had listened to all the information, will review and visit the campus again. She said that a decision will be made at a future meeting.

A short recess was taken at this time.

Mr. Ramsey returned to dais.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS
(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the next meeting to be held October 15, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School. The agenda will include a presentation from the Common Core State Standards group.

Citizens' Budget Oversight Committee. President Kronenberg appealed to parents willing to serve on the committee to contact the Superintendent.

Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Ramsey said the committee will meet next week.

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Ramsey reported on an upcoming dinner with the Yale admission's director, as well as Northwestern and Cornell visits to the District. President Kronenberg reported on outreach to students at Richmond High and DeAnza's ILC Club.

Safety Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported that the next meeting would be held on October 3 at El Cerrito High, 9:00 AM.

Youth Commission. Mr. Greer said the next meeting will be held October 14, 6:30 PM at Helms Middle School.

E.2 Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Public Hearing: Grades K-12 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
This item was tabled to a future meeting.

F.2 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Initial Bargaining Proposal from the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) to West Contra Costa Unified School District
Mr. Whittemore asked the Board to hold a public hearing for comment regarding the proposed bargaining. Following the hearing he requested Board approval.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:
None

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Initial Bargaining Proposal from the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) to West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Bowie Lee (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

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Public Comment:
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Board Comment:
None

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F.4 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association

Mr. Whittemore asked the Board to hold a public hearing for comment regarding the proposed bargaining. Following the hearing he requested Board approval.

President Kronenberg opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:
None

President Kronenberg closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:
None

MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Ramsey, Student Representative Bowie Lee (advisory vote only), and President Kronenberg voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Public Hearing on Proposal Strategic Plan

Superintendent Harter spoke of the work to develop a new strategic plan funded by a grant from Chevron.

Mr. Jay Schenirer of Capitol Impact and Jonathan Kaufman of Third Plateau provided a presentation to update the Board on the most recent developments with the plan. Mr. Schenirer highlighted the changes and next steps. He detailed the consolidation of the original 58 objectives into 34 workable objectives.

Public Comment:
None

Board Comment:
Mr. Ramsey commended the good effort in developing the new plan. He would like to see the executive summary lead with success and a sense of optimism. He said this is a District that believes in itself and leads in educating children every day. Mr. Ramsey had questions regarding redefining and decentralizing site-based management. He also spoke about key strategies and the success of the bond program and renewed school facilities. He suggested strategies for future Boards to maintain.

Mr. Enos said he liked this draft and commended the authors for sighting the urgency of key program alignment. He talked about language clarity for the public, teachers, parents, and students.

Mr. Groves commended the consultants for the great job and thorough listening campaign. He spoke of creating high expectations, placing college and career readiness as a high priority. He remarked that good careers in military, trades, in fields that are every bit as challenging intellectually as any four year college. He wants students to be critical consumers of post-secondary education options. He also spoke about getting away from the boundary of compliance thinking in relation to innovation.

Ms. Merriweather said she enjoyed the perspective of the second draft. She thought the 34 objectives was a lot to accomplish in a five year plan. She suggested that less is better when trying to accomplish key strategies. She was in favor of honoring the whole process to in order to accomplish the key strategies. She would like to see a strategic plan accountability committee to monitor the implementation. She said she was also pleased with the early childhood section to invest in children in order to be more successful in school. She commended this draft plan as a great document with more refinement needed to accomplish goals for the next five years.

Mr. Schenirer responded that the steering committee tried very hard to honor what has been heard. He spoke about the sequencing and resources for administration to move toward implementation. He spoke about the unique time in education with the Local Control Funding Formula and Common Core State Standards and accountability plans. Some of these will drive the sequencing while the Superintendent and staff will determine what can be accomplished.

Mr. Ramsey spoke about expanding the concept of a communication plan with Board members knowledgeable as they communicate with the public. He said he did not feel that a communication firm would fit well. He felt it important for the community to see their elected officials.

President Kronenberg spoke about responsive communications being more powerful when the message comes from the elected officials. She said she felt it important for the community to have easy access to information. She continued to talk about key strategies where four strategies support one goal. Her opinion is that the District's goal or action is to provide quality instruction. All others factors should come under quality instruction. She said she liked the way the new draft is organized, wanting the casual reader to get something from the plan as well as the in-depth reader.

Superintendent Harter suggested that the steering committee and consultants take tonight's feedback and bring the final Strategic Plan back in another month in order to incorporate all feed-back. He recommended bring the final draft to the November 20 meeting for adoption.

G.2 Richmond Charter Elementary School

This item was moved to follow item B.7.

G.3 Project Status Report

Mr. Abdalla provided an update of construction projects in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey requested presentations at the next meeting to include Stege, Downer fields, El Cerrito stadium, Pinole Middle School fields and Montalvin. Mr. Abdalla responded with information for clarification. Mr. Ramsey requested a special October 30th meeting if the information cannot be presented by October 16.

Superintendent Harter repeated Mr. Ramsey's request for information to clarify.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about the Helms Middle School green area. Mr. Abdalla responded.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Groves remarked that the Strategic Plan was off to a good start with a strong developmental push to raise the quality of everything the Board does for next five years.

Ms. Merriweather agreed with Mr. Groves that this is a great start. She said she looked forward to the next draft and moving the District forward.

Mr. Enos said that the plan will get to good working order for implementation in the classroom.

Mr. Lee thanked the Board saying he appreciated the experience and especially liked the student performances.

Mr. Ramsey said he was glad that Mr. Lee was interested and engaged in the meeting. He continued to echo thoughts about the strategic plan. He also had comments about California School Board Golden Bell evaluators and the need for them to see a news media piece highlighting the program.

President Kronenberg reported that she will attend the Council of Urban Boards of Education national conference in San Antonio and have opportunity to collaborate with other boards concerning urban issues. She looked forward to sharing what she learns.

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting in honor of Mr. Izzy Ramsey's birthday.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – October 16, 2013

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Kronenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:19 P.M.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CTR</u> Approved 10/16/13</p>
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