

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

**February 26, 2014**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:32 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ramsey led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

President Ramsey 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; Denise Cifelli, Confidential Secretary; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

**B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

None

**B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption**

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

**B.6 WCCUSD Public Comment**

None

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**C.1 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers**

**C.2 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.2. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

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

None

**E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Resolution No. 60-1314: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering an Election to Authorize the Issuance of School Bonds, Establishing Specifications of the Election Order and Requesting Consolidation with Other Elections Occurring on June 3, 2014**

Superintendent Harter provided background around making recommendation for a Bond measure for June 2014. Dave Olson, KNN Public finance; Jeff Baratta, Piper Jaffrey Investment Bankers; Lisalee Wells and Graham Beck, Nixon Peabody legal firm; were available to provide information.

Mr. Olson provided a summary of the resolution to order a June 2014 election for a \$70 million bond with the proceeds to continue the District’s modernization program for another ten years. The purpose of the measure would be to authorize funds for issuance to continue the program at a good pace allowing projects to proceed even while large projects such as Pinole Valley High School (PVHS) are going on. He shared information regarding the project list highlights, accountability standards, and tax rate impact.

**Public Comment:**

Jeanette Ramirez, Juanita Anguiano, Stephanie Seguiera, Saray Rio, Lorraine Humes, Mike Ali

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey spoke about the concerns of Chavez Elementary School parents and new state standards for that school, as a well as providing equity for all schools.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about the variety of alternative financing structures. Mr. Olson provided an example of information about an insurance type of bond, a program paying at a reduced percentage. She continued with questions about upgrades of science and computer labs. President Ramsey spoke about upgrading sites to meet new standards and providing the same facilities at current schools. Ms. Merriweather continued with questions about the forty year term of repayment. Mr. Olson and President Ramsey responded with information about the option to take up to forty years.

Mr. Enos spoke of opportunity to move ahead and parity for schools.

Mr. Groves asked about tax rate stabilization. Mr. Olson responded for clarification. Mr. Groves also asked about ramifications if the measure does not go forward. Mr. Olson said that the construction program will slow down and may have to allow for large projects like PVHS to squeeze out smaller projects. Mr. Groves had questions of Attorney Lisalee Wells and the use of word “handicapped” in the resolution language. She clarified that several consultants felt the word “handicapped” resonated with public with a stronger impact than the word “disabled.”

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the project list being broad enough to cover needs for the foreseeable future. She said that polled voters spoke in support of equity across the District and the fairness to complete all schools with new construction opportunities. She spoke about giving voters a chance to decide about keeping the program growing.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 60-1314: Resolution of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Ordering an Election to Authorize the Issuance of School Bonds, Establishing Specifications of the Election Order and Requesting Consolidation with Other Elections Occurring on June 3, 2014. Mr. Groves seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

President Ramsey left the dais.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Strategic Plan / Local Control Accountability Plan**

Superintendent Harter provided information regarding the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and District options with the Local Control Accountability Plan and Strategic Plan, highlighting initial recommendations. He reviewed the goals of the Strategic Plan, outlining accountability for each measurable goal. Superintendent Harter provided examples for target setting to improved learning.

President Ramsey returned to dais.

**Public Comment:**

Martha Bajamas, Dulce Galicia

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Enos spoke about development of the implementation over time. He expressed concern about the practical barriers to be worked through. He expressed particular interest in the focus on student achievement in all six areas of the plan.

Mr. Groves had questions about equivalent numeracy diagnostics for grades K-3. Ms. Rashidchi responded that staff is working on determining an alternative. Superintendent Harter responded with information about assessment data through advance placement exams and the need for assessments in 4<sup>th</sup> – 7th grades. Discussion continued.

Mr. Merriweather spoke about improving student achievement and using PSAT data for high school students as well as moving to the Smarter Balance assessment. Ms. Rashidchi reported that the District is a piloting district and will have targets for elementary, middle and high school grades.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about budget calculations for LCAP funding. Ms. Gamba responded.

Ms. Kronenberg commended Superintendent Harter for a thorough presentation. She concurred with Mr. Groves in thinking about enrichment versus intervention. She was hopeful that the parent community will embrace the plan.

President Ramsey spoke about additional counselors, teacher salaries, and support of high school athletics in addition to the arts programs.

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

None

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

Mr. Enos commented that it was important to reflect and focus on the needs of students. He encouraged getting parents involved at all levels.

Ms. Kronenberg said she felt this was a very good plan to share information with parents.

Ms. Merriweather agreed saying the good discussion will make the Board more accountable. She looked forward to hearing from the parent accountability group.

Mr. Groves said he recently returned from Southern California and meetings with educators addressing the needs of high performing, low income students, foster youth and English learners. He discussed incorporating ways to address needs for advanced students.

President Ramsey thanked his colleagues for a robust discussion saying he felt the key is execution and implementation. He called his colleagues to be leaders in the community with the message about better results. He asked Superintendent Harter for an update with real estate consultants for a future meeting. He concluded by thanking the Board for support of a new bond measure.

President Ramsey recently lost an important person in his life, Richard Garber. Mr. Enos recently lost his mother-in-law Barbara Gauthier.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – March 12, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TAG</u></b> Approved 3/12/14</p>
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