

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

**April 23, 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 6:30 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; Bob Evans, DeAnza Principal; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Cecilia Mendoza, Executive Director; 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 Vista High School**

Student Representative Christian Prior provided a report of activities at Vista High School.

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

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

- Effective immediately: Jose DeLeon, Principal, Richmond High School and David Gutierrez, Principal, Helms Middle School
- Effective for the Extended Learning Program: Linda Takimoto, Principal, Harding Special Education
- Effective July 1, 2014: Eric Peterson, Director Special Education

**MOTION: Board Clerk Groves moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session approving administrative appointments. 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.**

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**MOTION: President Ramsey requested that items F.1, F.2 and F.3 follow Public Comment and item D.3 be moved to follow E.3. Board Clerk Groves moved approval of the amended agenda. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.7 Minutes: March 26, 2014**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of March 26, 2014. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Giorgio Consentino, Maude DeVictor, James Ghidella, James Sanders

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Approval of Agreement with West Contra Costa Administrators Association / AB1200 Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with WCCAA**

**Public Comment:**

Sara Danielson

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Board Clerk Groves moved approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with WCCAA. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**F.2 Salary and Health Benefits Package for Unrepresented Management, Cabinet, Board Members and Confidential Employees / AB 1200 Public Disclosure**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Board Clerk Groves moved approval of the Salary and Health Benefits Package for Unrepresented Management, Cabinet, Board Members and Confidential Employees. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**F.3 Resolution No. 71-1314: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Board Clerk Groves moved approval of Resolution No. 71-1314: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey 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 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**

**C.4 Contracts**

**C.5 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports**

**C.6 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated**

**C.7 Routine Personnel Changes – Classified**

**C.8 Approve the following New Job Description: Equipment Control Warehouse Worker/Driver**

**C.9 Approve the following New Job Description: Accounts Payable Specialist**

**C.10 Acceptance of Contra Costa County Office of Education 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for Williams Settlement Legislation**

**C.11 Resolution No.72-1314: California “Day of the Teacher”**

**C.12 Resolution No. 73-1314: National “Day of the School Nurse”**

**C.13 Revision of Board Bylaw 9323**

**Public Comment:**

Sara Danielson

**Board Comments:**

President Ramsey clarified that a members of public have a right to say what they want to say at the podium. They will be asked to be polite and respectful while the Board will be sensitive to issues.

- C.14 Board Policy 5145.3 “Nondiscrimination/Harassment” and Policy 5145.9 “Hate Motivated Behavior”**
- C.15 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.16 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.17 Approve Measure J and D 2010, Measure E 2012, Bond Program Budget Expenditure Authorization**
- C.18 Award of Contract: Ohlone Elementary School Move Management Services**
- C.19 Dover Elementary School Parking and Site Improvements Phase 2 Award of Contract**
- C.20 Olinda & Shannon Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement Project Award of Contract**
- C.21 Pinole Middle School Soccer and Football Fields Award of Contract**
- C.22 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Downer Elementary School Playfield Renovations**
- C.23 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: El Cerrito High School Air Conditioning for Dance Studios and Multi Use Classrooms**
- C.24 Resolution No. 67-1314, Level I Developer Fees**
- C.25 Resolution No. 69-1314: School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week – May 5-9, 2014**
- C.26 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report**
- C.27 Approval of District Local Control Accountability Plan Parent Committee Nominees**
- C.28 Approval of Board Member Travel**

Mr. Fay announced administrative revisions to the recommendations for items C.19 – C.22 in order to provide clarity.

**MOTION: Board Clerk Groves moved approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.28. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Christian Prior (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

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

**D.1 WCCUSD Teachers of the Year and the Ed Fund Excellence in Education Recognition**

Ms. Rashidchi invited Joel Mackey, Robert Bunce and Roz Plishner of Ed Fund to introduce the five teachers who have been selected to receive Teacher of the Year awards: Bruce McCormick, Portola Middle School; Patricia Simon, Montalvin Elementary; Keith Johnson, El Cerrito High School; and Adam Quintero, DeJean Middle School. Mr. McCormick and Mr. Johnson have also been selected as District representatives for the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year competition.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**D.2 Update on the Development of the Masterplan for English Learners**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Dr. Jose Lopez, California State University East Bay, who presented the update. Dr. Lopez discussed the data gathering process and update on the findings. The Plan will be completed by June and brought back to the Board for consideration with a phased-in implementation process.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Groves said he appreciated the frank assessment and openness, and would like to see an overview of current research on major schools of thought on English Learner development.

Mr. Enos asked what could be done to bring classes to the appropriate levels.

Ms. Kronenberg said she was interested in long-term student improvement strategies. She also asked about the impact of the Local Control Accountability Plan and budgeting.

Ms. Merriweather reiterated that everyone involved in the plan had been very open, honest and hardworking to provide the framework.

Student Representative Christian Prior left the meeting for the evening.

#### **D.4 Update on Linked Learning**

Superintendent Harter asked Ms. Mendoza to introduce Ben Crosby, Internal Coach for Linked Learning, who presented the update. Pathways students Andre Monk, Iris Wong and Enrique Lara shared their stories. Ms. Mendoza also recognized DeAnza Lead Teacher Steven Thomas who is the latest candidate to receive full Linked Learning certification. Rebecca Ross invited the Board to the Academy Awards celebration of both students and teachers on May 20, 2014.

##### **Public Comment:**

None

##### **Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg asked questions regarding the 55% of students enrolled in Pathways throughout the District. She congratulated Mr. Thomas for his work and Ms. Ross for her extraordinary outreach work.

Mr. Groves expressed interest in seeing the cost per student spent on Linked Learning particularly at the high school. He expressed concern about what will happen when funding is pared down. He also expressed appreciation for the overall great work and everyone's hard work.

**MOTION: President Ramsey requested to move item G.1 up on the agenda. Board Clerk Groves made the motion to move Item G.1 to the next agenda item. 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.**

#### **G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **G.1 Board Policy 6146.1 "High School Graduation Requirements"**

Mr. Greer explained the rationale for flexibility for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade electives to better meet the needs of the students. Cultural Geography is currently required in 10<sup>th</sup> grade as a graduation requirement. Due to growth of pathways, it is recommended to provide better options such as a pathways elective class or A-G course to meet CSU and UC requirements. If unable to provide an alternative course, Cultural Geography would become the default course. This change would be implemented with the class of 2016.

##### **Public Comment:**

None

##### **Board Comment:**

None

#### **E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **E.1 Standing Reports**

**Ivy League Connection.** Mr. Don Gosney reported that 41 students plan attend this year's summer programs. This year's partners include Brown University with five full scholarships, Vanderbilt University with 1.3 scholarships, Cornell with 1 scholarship, University of Chicago with 4 scholarships, and Columbia University with half scholarship. The generous scholarships total \$75,000. The ILC students will attend the May 14 Board meeting to be introduced.

**United Teachers of Richmond.** Ms. Diane Brown offered comments on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Common Core State Standards Professional Development presentations. She said that CTA provided a presentation on the ELA Common Core State Standards, emphasizing four shifts to the common core. United Teachers of Richmond sponsored a Local Control Funding community meeting with the Richmond Mayor and had great participation.

**Safety and School Climate Subcommittee.** Ms. Merriweather said that at the last meeting the committee heard a presentation by the Coordinated School Health and Safety Office and discussed partnering with the District on adolescent health. Mr. Enos added that he is very pleased with the way the committee is working together to solve problems with outcomes to serve students. Ms. Merriweather said the next meeting will be at Vista High on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips advised that the last meeting was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> where the committee approved use of the Bright Bytes assessment system and tablet carts for summer school. Discussion included ways to better serve students at Monterey Pines apartment complex. The next meeting will be May 12 at 1300 Potrero Avenue.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi advised that the meeting included discussion on the Local Control Accountability Plan led by Dr. Harter. The Pivot Learning program provided information about the interviews held with the instructional leadership teams. Mr. Enos added that the teams' voice has become stronger as the members believe they are being heard. Ms. Merriweather mentioned the upcoming annual Best Practices Conference to be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at DeJean Middle School.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba noted the next meeting will be April 24 at Alvarado Adult School and welcomed anyone wishing to attend.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** President Ramsey advised that the committee held an initial discussion regarding refunding opportunities with key issues on how to provide support necessary for handling staffing. Discussion also included issues around waterproofing. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Facility Operations Center.

**E.2 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

**E.3 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

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

**MOTION: President Ramsey requested that item G.2 be moved to the next item on the agenda. Board Clerk Groves made the motion to move Item G.2 to the next agenda item. 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.**

**G.2 Project Status Report**

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

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey asked questions regarding the Helms Sports Field completion, fencing, and for an update at the June 11 Board meeting. Discussion also included a ribbon cutting ceremony for the week of May 27.

Ms. Kronenberg had questions about use of a resource loading schedule. Mr. Fay provided clarification.

**D.3 Introduction of Bond Finance Team for Potential Bond Refunding, July 2014**

Ms. Gamba introduced the bond finance team for the potential July 2014 refunding. Present at the meeting were Lisel Wells and Graham Beck from Nixon Peabody (Bond Counsel), Blake Boehm from KNN Public Finance (Financial Advisors), Jeff Baratta and Trinis Wright from Piper Jaffray (Underwriters), and Vince McCarley from Backstrom, McCarley, Berry & Co.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey had questions for the financial advisors and bond counsel regarding timelines and communications. Ms. Gamba provided information. Ms. Wells also provided additional clarity around processes and communications.

Ms. Kronenberg raised questions about timeliness and accuracy of documents to which Ms. Wells and Mr. Boehm were able to respond.

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

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

Mr. Enos said he is looking forward to a spirited conversation about high school graduation.

Mr. Groves said he knows that everyone is working at a fast pace and thanked staff for their work and dedication.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked everyone for their work, and reminded everyone that the LCAP parent committee meeting is April 28 at 6:30 at Dover Elementary.

President Ramsey thanked Mr. Gosney for all his work with the Ivy League Connection. He also thanked Mr. Groves and Ms. Kronenberg for attending a recent meeting at the El Cerrito Democratic Club where the District Bond Measure was unanimously endorsed.

Dr. Harter introduced Marcus Walton, Communications Director.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 14, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:52 PM in honor of De Anza High School.

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

BH:dc

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