

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

May 14, 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; Cheryl Cotton, Director Certificated Personnel; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Phil Gonsalves, Director Ed Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Mary Jones, Administrative Services Manager; Drew Kravin, Project Assistant Education Services; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Principal Gompers Continuation High School; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Mike Wasilchin, Director Classified Personnel; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources; Marci Williams, Director Employee Relations

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Gateway to College High School

Student Representative Tookaho Takataka provided a report of activities at Gateway to College High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey asked that the agenda be reorganized so that item D.1 followed B.7 and item F.1 followed item D.2.

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the agenda with the requested change in order. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Tookaho Takataka (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: April 23, 2014

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of April 23, 2014. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Tookaho Takataka advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

D.1 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, De Anza High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Middle College High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League and nationally recognized universities and colleges

Leonard Eisen, Pinole Valley High student, spoke of his experience two years ago while attending the program at Columbia University. Mr. Eisen has been accepted to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall 2014. Tamilyn Chen told of her experiences a Cornell University last summer. She has been accepted to attend Harvard College in the fall 2014.

Ms. Kronenberg introduced Mr. Vince Rhea who continued with introductions. The nine year old program began with 7 students and this year will send 41 students to summer college programs. Each of the seven cohorts of students and chaperones were introduced. Appreciated was extended to parents and program benefactors.

Student Representative Tookaho Takataka left the meeting for the evening.

D.2 West Contra Costa Unified School District presents: “Classified Employee of the Year”

Board members joined Mr. Whittemore to recognize the 2013-2014 classified employees of the year.

Classified Supervisor	- Gary Cooper
General Services M & O	- Raymond Wong
Office & Technical	- America Pizano
	- Vickie Vargas
Paraprofessional	- Aquator Sullivan
Confidential	- Debora Haynie

F.1 Appointing a Committee to Consider Renaming Portola Middle School

Superintendent Harter related information regarding the proposal from Mr. Jim Ghidella for changing name of Portola Middle School in memory of Fred Korematsu. Staff recommended appointment of a committee of two board members to review and bring a recommendation to the Board for consideration. Mr. Ghidella made a compelling case for the proposal. President Ramsey nominated Mr. Enos and Ms. Kronenberg to serve on the committee along with Mr. Ghidella as chairperson. Superintendent Harter outlined criteria laid out in Board policy.

Public Comment:

Al Miller, Joni Hiramoto, Bobbi Griggs, Joanna Pace, Kathie Weinstein, Karen Korematsu, James Ghidella

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather said she agreed with the appointment of a committee for review of the proposal.

Ms. Kronenberg recalled her time in service as PTA President at Portola Middle School.

Mr. Enos considered the serious task to note and recognize the history behind the Korematsu civil rights case as well as others names mentioned for recognition. This case will require appropriate consideration of all aspects.

Mr. Groves thanked community and presenters for input. He remarked that it is a momentous thing to rename a school with a lesson in history.

President Ramsey spoke of change coming with a cost. He remarked that he strongly believed this is an important time in the District with transition and change. President Ramsey asked the committee to return in sixty days with a recommendation for the July 9 Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of appointing a committee to consider renaming Portola Middle School. 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.

B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment

Lisa Disbrow, Blake Mengotto, Rodrigo Pahati, Raquel Hussey, Mignon Kinney, Mike Ali Kinney, K. K. Kinney, Annie Fix, Shanea Seals, Eddie Guerna, Denise Gianni, Lavontra Dunn

C. BUSINESS ITEM

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports

C.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 76-1314: Replacement of Outdated Warrant

C.6 Resolution No. 74-1314: Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2014-15, Preliminarily Approving Engineer’s Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing

C.7 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

- C.8 2013-2014 Salary Schedules, as of January 1, 2014, for the following groups:**
UTR
Local One
SSA
Confidential
Management
WCCAA
- C.9 Resolution No. 75-1314: Classified School Employee Week, May 18-24, 2014**
- C.10 Certification of Athletic Coaches – Spring Sports**
- C.11 Middle College Students attended Student Leadership Conference April 29 – May 4, 2014**
- C.12 Students from Stewart Middle School will go to Washington D.C. May 16-22, 2014**
- C.13 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.14 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.15 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders – M&O**
- C.16 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Collins Elementary School Restroom Renovation Project**
- C.17 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Harding Elementary School Exterior Repairs and Select Roofing Replacement Project**
- C.18 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Murphy Skylight Replacement Project**
- C.19 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Ohlone Elementary School Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment**
- C.20 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Pinole Valley High School Off-Site Parking & Traffic Signal**
- C.21 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Verde Elementary School Circulation and Parking Improvements**
- C.22 Joint Use Agreement and Improvement Agreement for Health Center at Kennedy High School Site**
- C.23 Modification for BP 7214.2: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)**

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 - 9 – C.11 - C.23. Mr. Groves 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.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Item C. 10. Mr. Groves seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, with Ms. Merriweather abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

- D.1 Ivy League Summer Programs: Students from El Cerrito High School, Pinole Valley High School, Hercules High School, De Anza High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Middle College High School will participate in college readiness programs offered at respective Ivy League and nationally recognized universities and colleges**

This item was moved to follow B.7.

- D.2 West Contra Costa Unified School District presents: “Classified Employee of the Year”**

This item was moved earlier on the agenda, following item D.1.

- D.3 Teach American History (TAH) Project**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced a team of teachers working on the Teach American History Project. Ms. Natalie Wojinski provided an overview of the grant designed to raise student achievement by improving teacher knowledge. District teachers have been involved with the program for four years with 48 secondary history teachers touching 12,500 students. Teacher Ryan Shaw and Steve Hoffman provided testimonials.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked staff for the presentation regarding this valuable work.

D.4 Report on Fiscal Audit of Adult Education Program

Mr. Greer provided the context regarding sustainability of the adult school program. He provided details about Alvarado, Serra and the 36 satellite sites serving the community. 180 employees are currently involved in the robust program. He detailed the ten programs serving 8,000 residents and community members. The recent audit of April 2014 recommended a reorganization of the program to reflect best practices. Mr. Greer presented a proposed organizational chart with the intent to enhance learning into 21st century. The reorganization would include three new positions and funding. Ms. Connie Pekedis provided an overview of AB 86 funding to be used for the reorganization of the adult school program and alignment with community colleges.

Public Comment:

Lillie Clausen, Kristin Pursley

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked staff for the presentation saying he is proud of the sustainability of the program.

Mr. Groves had questions about making adult services more competitive with additional questions regarding the audit review. He said he would like to see the District's responses to recommendations in ninety days. Mr. Greer clarified the intent to put administrators in place to rebuild a viable adult school.

Ms. Kronenberg had questions about funding for older adult learning that is not provided by AB 86 funds. Mr. Greer said that state funding had not been finalized and that he hoped to be able to generate revenue to offset any loss. He said that the older adult learner is an important part of the program. Ms. Kronenberg had additional questions about home economic classes as fee based programs that pay for themselves. Connie Pekedis responded.

Ms. Merriweather asked about a \$22.5 million planning grant. Mr. Greer provided clarification regarding the unfunded mandate awaiting the 2015-16 budget. Ms. Pekedis offered additional information about the state funding stream.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi announced the upcoming Best Practices Conference scheduled for May 22 at DeJean Middle School.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported that committee members will attend the May Budget Revise workshop at the Contra Costa County Office of Education next week in lieu of its monthly meeting.

Facilities Subcommittee. President Ramsey reported on the recent meeting where discussion included refunding bonds, the debt limit waiver application process, Coronado Elementary construction project, as well as addressing water proofing and leak problems at Bayview Elementary. The Helms Middle School celebration is scheduled for May 30 at 10:00 AM on the new field. A community update will be held Saturday May 31 for the Portola community. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2014.

Safety and School Climate Committee. Ms. Merriweather reported on the last meeting of the year. The Committee will resume meetings in September. At the recent meeting the Committee heard an update on the reduction in the high school dropout rate. They also had a presentation by UC Berkeley Fellows working with the District around full service community schools and a recent survey showing the success of programs currently in place within the District. Mr. Enos spoke about ID cards and sharing information with staff. He commended emergency teams for managing safety issues in the District.

Technology Subcommittee. Ms. Phillips reviewed the recent meeting where discussion included the Microsoft voucher program. Staff members from the special education department presented assistive products targeted to students with special needs. The first technology summer camp for teachers was announced for July 14-18, 2014. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

Youth Commission. Mr. Groves reported on the last meeting of the year. Several of the Commissioners are graduating seniors and five underclassmen will return next year. The Commission will meet again in September.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter deferred the report to the May 28 meeting.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Appointing a Committee to Consider Renaming Portola Middle School

This item was moved to follow item D.2 earlier on the agenda.

F.2 Board Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Harter reviewed the recommended policy revision as reported at a prior meeting regarding the change of the cultural geography course to be effective for the Class of 2018.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the revisions to Board Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements. Mr. Groves seconded. 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.

F.3 Grade 8 Textbook Adoption for 2014-15

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Mr. Drew Kravin who presented information about the grade 8 mathematics textbook adoption. He detailed the procedure used for a blind review, teacher involvement, lessons taught and the recommendation to adopt *California Math* from McGraw-Hill for a single-year adoption.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Groves thanked Mr. Kravin for the detailed report and the adoption process. He had questions about acceleration and keeping all students engaged and growing. Mr. Kravin responded with information about more effective placement of students to meet their needs and implementation of support systems through teacher professional development and math coaches.

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the Grade 8 Textbook Adoption for 2014-15. Mr. Enos seconded. 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.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Project Status Report

Mr. Abdalla provided an update of construction projects in the District. The Coronado project report was tabled to a future meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey had questions regarding the Ohlone kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Fay responded. President Ramsey continued with questions about air conditioning at Ohlone. Mr. Abdalla affirmed.

President Ramsey also asked questions about concerns from the City of San Pablo regarding the Helms fields. Mr. Fay responded.

G.2 2014 General Obligation Bond Refunding

Mr. David Leifer from KNN Public Finance provided an update on the 2014 General Obligation Bond refunding. Also in attendance to assist with the presentation were:
Blake Bowman and Jon Armstrong from KNN Public Finance
Lisel Wells, Travis Gibbs, Graham Beck and Rudy Salo from Nixon, Peabody, LLP
Jeff Baratta and Trenis Wright from Piper Jaffrey Investment Bankers
Leonard Berry of Backstrom, McCarley, Berry & Co., LLC

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Board members had questions that were addressed with clarification by the bond finance consultants.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

President Ramsey adjourned meeting in honor of Ivy League Connection donors and university scholarships. He commended the University of Chicago for its generous scholarship donation.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 28, 2014

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 11:27 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TAG</u> Approved 5/28/14</p>
