

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

**June 11, 2014**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:00 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; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Bob Evans, DeAnza Principal; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities and Construction; Nicole Joyner, Data/Accountability Officer; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Lyn Potter, Director Categorical and Instructional Support Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify administrative appointments made in Closed Session.

Hercules High School Principal Paul Mansingh  
Hercules Middle School Principal Renee Lama  
Dover Elementary Principal Ruby Gonzalez  
Maintenance Manager Ken McDaniel  
Helms Middle School Assistant Principal Jessica Petrilli  
Pinole Valley High School Assistant Principal Alison Evert

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify action taken in Closed Session regarding administrative appointments. Ms. Merriweather 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.5 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Public Comment:**

Al Kirkman, Judith Van Hoorn

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the agenda including reorganizing to place items F. 5, F. 2 and C. 12 to follow Public Comment. 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.**

**B.6 Minutes: May 28, 2014**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of May 28, 2014. 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.7 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Margaret Browne, Nicole Williams, Ben Steinberg, Mike Ali Kenney

**F.5 Public Hearing Resolution No. 82-1314: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

Ms. Gamba asked the Board to hold a public hearing regarding the Engineer's Report.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing.

**Public Comment:**

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 82-1314: Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. 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.2 Budget for 2014-15**

Ms. Gamba requested the Board to hold a public hearing.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing on the preliminary budget presented for adoption.

**Public Comment:**

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

Ms. Gamba proceeded to provide information regarding the proposed preliminary 2014-15 budget. The new budget will include the state mandated Local Control Funding Formula and other details based on legislative action.

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey reminded the Board that the budget will return for final adoption on June 25. President Ramsey expressed concerns about funds for the construction costs. He asked that this be reviewed for possible revision after the 45-day review.

Ms. Merriweather had questions about Title I funds for school community workers and parent coordinators and possible funding through the Local Control Accountability Plan. Ms. Gamba provided clarification. Ms. Merriweather had additional questions about the Safe Supportive School Grant as well as textbook replacement. Ms. Gamba clarified. Ms. Merriweather continued with additional questions about Proposition 39 funds. Superintendent Harter explained that the District won't receive these funds until sometime in the Fall of 2014 and will be included in the First Interim Report.

Mr. Groves asked about the decrease in federal funding. Ms. Rashidchi replied with information about the reductions in federal Title I funds over the last 5-7 years, a 10-15% reduction each year. Mr. Groves continued with questions about allocations for the dual immersion program. Ms. Gamba replied with clarification.

Ms. Merriweather asked for a listing of grants received from various entities.

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the preliminary report for the 2014-15 Budget. Ms. Kronenberg 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.**

- C. BUSINESS ITEM**
- C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements**
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations**
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities**
- C.4 Adoption of Resolution No. 83-1314: Replacement of Outdated Warrant**
- C.5 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education**
- C.6 Travel to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fab Lab Conference July 2 – 8 in Barcelona, Spain**
- C.7 El Cerrito High School Jazz Ensemble European Tour July 7<sup>th</sup>- July 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**
- C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**
- C.9 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**
- C.10 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Pinole Valley High School Move Management Services Project**
- C.11 Resolution No. 84-1314: Specifications of the Election Order**
- C.12 Formal Approval of the JROTC Program at DeAnza High School**  
This item was pulled for separate action.
- C.13 Reappointment to Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**  
This item was pulled for separate action.
- C.14 Ratification of Grand Jury Report on Child Abuse Training**

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C. 11, and C.14. 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.**

- C.13 Reappointment to Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

**Public Comment:**  
Mike Ali Kenney

**MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the reappointment to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Ms. Kronenberg 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.**

- C.12 Formal Approval of the JROTC Program at DeAnza High School**  
Principal Bob Evans presented information about the excitement among the students in anticipation of this program at their school. He detailed the program and the level of aerospace science, math, leadership, and life skill training. Mr. Tom Freeland, proposed JROTC instructor, introduced himself and provided additional information about the Airforce ROTC program. He gave background about the program. He said the program outcomes include promoting citizenship, developing leadership skills, critical thinking skills, and positive self-esteem. He remarked that science, technology, math, engineering, and community involvement are among the program goals.

**Public Comment:**  
Stephen McNeil, Bill Sato, Toby Blome, Margaret Browne, Betty Brown, Judith Van Hoorn, Leni von Blackensee, John Irminger, Mark Bordas, Andena Quintana, Joseph Quintana, Mildred Dandridge, James Stern, Patricia Byers, Don Gosney, Paula Roy, Mike Ali Kenney, Mary Flanagan, Tom Freeland, Cathy Conner, Gabriella Heinsheime, Jeanette Gay, Eduardo Martinez, Thomas Corbett

**Board Comment:**  
Mr. Enos remarked that the comments made were heartfelt. Everyone agrees that the goals mentioned are all valid. He is in favor of the program and would like to incorporate an evaluation piece at end of first year of the program to give opportunity to provide oversight.

Ms. Kronenberg said she was struck by the characterization of the program as inherently violent. She believed that is in alignment with restorative justice programs and humanitarian missions. She felt it unfair to cast a military career as evil. She spoke about WWII's D-Day and the soldiers who freed victims held in concentration camps. She felt that this is an opportunity to offer this program to DeAnza's students.

Ms. Merriweather asked questions regarding fulfilling the PE requirements as well as teacher qualifications. Superintendent Harter asked Principal Evans to respond. Mr. Evans said that the program meets the fitness standards for students and the instructor will be certified with the State of California. Mr. Evans detailed the PE and elective credits for freshmen and sophomore students. Ms. Merriweather said she was concerned that the program has been

depicted as something bad and a tool to recruit into the military. She commented that she hoped someone would address war on the streets among youth.

Mr. Groves asked whether the Airforce will assume funding in the future. Mr. Evans responded that the Airforce will assume financial responsibility in the third year of the program. Mr. Groves questioned whether the program was open to all students, even disabled students. Mr. Evans affirmed that the program is open to all students, with disabled students currently enrolled. Mr. Groves spoke in support of the program since the DeAnza community has shown a strong interest.

President Ramsey thanked the speakers. He spoke of his family's involvement in ROTC and US military. He said he was puzzled that people don't think that students and parents can make rational, informed decisions for themselves. He supported site based decision making and felt strongly that the site should be provided opportunities to make their program decisions, giving students choices.

**MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the JROTC Program at DeAnza High School for two years at an allocation of \$100,000, including a program evaluation component following the first year. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voting yes, Ms. Merriweather voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.**

Mr. Groves left the meeting for the evening.

President Ramsey called for a brief recess.

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

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

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

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Kronenberg reported on the recent meeting and good conversation around a program to provide tablet computers for DeJean students, a research proposal about technology in classrooms, and a potential program to add laptop computers for juniors at Kennedy High School. The next meeting will be held July 14.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** President Ramsey reported that the committee discussed the potential issuance of bonds and awaiting the County Assessors release of assessed property valuations. President Ramsey said the committee also heard a report on possible bond sales in 2015 and 2017. They heard a presentation regarding Ellerhorst Elementary's traffic flow, selection of an architect for the Chavez Elementary construction project, as well as discussion about the fields' projects at Ford, Dover, and King schools.

**Ivy League Connection.** Ms. Kronenberg that the first student groups will leave Monday and Tuesday morning for Cornell, Brown and Columbia Universities. She asked the public to check blog pages to read about the students' experiences.

##### **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.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Board Comment:**

None

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Public Hearing on the Local Control Accountability Plan**

Superintendent Harter said this was the second public hearing on the Local Control Accountability Plan. He provided background information. He said that the plan will return to the Board for approval incorporating much community input.

**Public Comment:**

Nicole Williams, Gabino Arredondo, Valerie Cuevas, speaker from the Latino Center, Tamisha Walker, Mike Ali Kenney

Superintendent Harter asked for opportunity to respond to several of the comments made. He asked Ms. Gamba to detail a report of the distribution of funds by school. The report provides information about site discretionary money and programs available by school site. Ms. Rashidchi addressed concerns regarding African American and Latino parents, as well as other, for support to parents. She pointed out items in the plan to provide support for parents and additional support through school liaison community workers. She continued to detail the Parent University to assist in navigating the school and District systems as well as special outreach to African American parents for training to parents and staff to change mind set for success. Mr. Greer spoke about need for additional counselors and adding four college and career counselors, with additional services in the following years.

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg asked questions about where funds are allocated in plan. Ms. Gamba and Ms. Rashidchi responded.

Ms. Merriweather asked about additional clerical support for data input. Ms. Gamba responded that work hours will be increased for elementary and middle school clerks. Ms. Merriweather said she wanted the community to know that this is only the first year of implementation of the plan. The plan is flexible and the LCLAP parent committee will meet three times over the next year to review and adapt the plan.

**F.2 Budget for 2014-15**

This item was moved to follow item F.5.

**F.3 Special Education Local Plan**

Superintendent Harter said this is an annual procedural action.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the Special Education Local Plan. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Mr. Enos, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Groves absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**F.4 Special Education Annual Service Plan**

**Special Education Annual Budget Plan**

Superintendent Harter said this is an annual procedural action requiring a public hearing.

President Ramsey opened the public hearing.

**Public Comment:**

None

President Ramsey closed the public hearing.

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Special Education Annual Service Plan and Special Education Annual Budget Plan. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Mr. Groves absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

- F.5 Public Hearing Resolution No. 82-1314: Approving Engineer’s Report, Confirming Diagram and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015**  
This item was moved to follow item B.7.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Project Status Report**

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

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Merriweather asked questions about the thermal wall installation at Gompers. Mr. Abdalla responded for clarification.

- G.2 Draft Resolution No. 86-1314 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2014 Series A, in an Aggregate Principal Amount not to Exceed \$100,000,000, Including Bond Subject to the Compounding of Interest, and Approving Certain Other Matters Relating to Said Bonds**

Ms. Gamba introduced the finance team of:

Jon Armstrong, KNN Public Finance

Lisel Wells, Nixon Peabody LLC

Graham Beck, Nixon Peabody LLC

Rudy Salo, Nixon Peabody LLC

Jeff Baratta, Piper Jaffray Investment Bankers

Vince McCarley, Blackstrom, McCarley, Berry & Co. LLC

Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance

Mr. Armstrong provided a presentation on the 2014 General Obligation Bond refunding proposal. Attorney Lisel Wells provided information regarding the steps of the process, including the public presentation at tonight’s meeting. She detailed requirements of the law requiring public information disclosed at a consecutive Board meeting to be held June 25th, for action by the Board. She reported that the final documents will include additional disclosure items, financing and term of the bonds, the need for capital appreciation bonds, and inclusion of growth in assessed property valuation rates.

**Public Comment:**

Ben Steinberg, Alex Aliferes, Mike Ali Kenney

**Board Comment:**

Members of the finance team addressed the questions from members of the public.

President Ramsey had questions about comments that came out of a recent Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Graham Beck responded to the specific points. President Ramsey continued with questions about the assessed property valuations that are expected to be released from the County Tax Assessors office. The finance team addressed the questions.

Ms. Gamba said this item will return on the June 25 agenda for Board action.

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

None

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

Mr. Enos remarked about the beginning of summer.

Ms. Kronenberg wished Mr. Groves a good trip to New York. She also remarked about Ms. Rashidchi's upcoming trip to Spain and the El Cerrito High School's jazz band trip to Europe.

Ms. Merriweather spoke about the last LCAP hearing. She said she is glad this is moving forward, with an engaged community for student success.

President Ramsey thanked everyone for another successful school year saying he is pleased with the proposed 2014-2015 budget.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – June 25, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:41 PM.

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

BH:dh

**TAG**  
Approved 6/25/14