

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

July 9, 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 6:32 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; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director of Facilities; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Tim Peel, Deputy Program Manager-Construction; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Lyn Potter, Director Educational Services; Adam Taylor, Executive Director K-12; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve the following administrative appointments for 2014-2015:

Dan MacDonald, Principal at Shannon Elementary
Jeff Carr, Principal at Ellerhorst Elementary
Christine Hatcher, Principal at Riverside Elementary
Athena Valdez, Assistant Principal at DeJean Middle School
Greg Whaling, Instructional Specialist at Helms Middle School

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to approve 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.

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve an employee settlement agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to approve an employee settlement agreement. 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.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey asked that item F.1 be moved to follow Consent Items and that item D.1 be moved to follow G.1.

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the agenda as amended. 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 Request to Address the Board – Mr. Al Kirkman

Mr. Kirkman and Mr. Marcos Garcia addressed the Board regarding support for a proposal of a one cent parcel tax to be placed on the November general election that would fund camp experiences for students.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey said that the Board would confer and consider the proposal.

B.7 WCCUSD Public Comment

None

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 Contracts

C.6 Routine Personnel Changes - Certificated

C.7 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3

C.8 Approve the following New Job Description: Director, Community Engagement

C.9 2014-2015 Salary Schedules, as of July 1, 2014, for the following groups:

UTR

Local One

SSA

Confidential

Management

WCCAA

C.10 2014-15 Consolidated Application for Funding

C.11 Data and Wireless for Pinole Valley High School

C.12 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

Superintendent Harter read a correction into the record due to pages missing in the printed packet.

C.13 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.14 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Nystrom Elementary School Modernization Project

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

C.15 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Ohlone Elementary School Playground & Parking Lot Completion Project

C.16 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report

C.17 Resolution Nos. 01-1415 through 14-1415: Board of Education Annual Resolutions for the 2014-2015 School Year

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.13, and C. 15 - C.17. 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.

F.1 Renaming of Portola as Fred Korematsu Middle School

Superintendent Harter recapped the events related to consideration of renaming Portola Middle School and the series of public hearings held in the community. He added that at the last meeting, the committee voted unanimously to recommend renaming the school as Fred T. Korematsu Middle School.

Committee Chair, James Ghidella, provided additional background. He related the criteria for the community meetings based on Board Policy, the District's Strategic Plan and a Full Service Schools resolution. He also spoke about the opposition to the name change. He provided a history of Gaspar de Portola, for whom the school is currently named, as well as land owner Don Victor Castro, another historic Spanish land owner. Mr. Ghidella provided additional background information for the Board's consideration.

Public Comment:

Bill Sato, Mary Ann Furuichi, Yoshio Murakawa, Katherine Weinstein, Ray Dennen, Sue Roberts, Peter Chau, DDL Lewis, Toru Saito, Adrienne Ramsey, Jo Ann Scherich, Joni Hiramoto

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather had questions for Chairperson Ghidella regarding the various names put forward for consideration and how he felt the process went. Mr. Ghidella responded.

Mr. Enos spoke in support of the action to rename the school and made a motion to approve the committee recommendation.

Superintendent Harter asked Mr. Enos to clarify whether the recommendation, if approved, would rename the school starting immediately. Mr. Enos affirmed.

President Ramsey explained that he felt this event was important as illustrated in the recent committee meetings. He also spoke of the diversity of the District along with the lack of recognition of the Asian-American community.

Mr. Groves spoke about the Sycamore Congregational Church which hosts the oldest Japanese-American congregations on the west coast and its proximity to Portola Middle School. He related the pain experienced by his extended family members as a result of the internment camps for Japanese-Americans. He said that this was an opportunity to memorialize the lesson of history.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked everyone who participated in the process. She said that she respected the heartfelt contributions made by community members. She spoke about the process as detailed by Board Policy and the democratic process. She concluded by speaking about having the best schools for students and the name Korematsu will bring that.

MOTION: Mr. Enos moved approval of the Renaming of Portola as Fred T. Korematsu Middle School effective immediately. Ms. Kronenberg 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.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Update on the Impact of the Assessed Valuation for 2014-15 on Bond Finance

This item was moved to follow item G.1.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Public Employees Union Local One. Business Agent Peter Tiernan introduced new business representatives, Madeleine Jen Kin and Chung Park.

Ivy League Connection. President Ramsey spoke of the 32 students who are currently visiting colleges and universities on East Coast. He remarked that college admissions officers have been meeting with the students. Superintendent Harter spoke about this ninth year of the program and seeing improved college admissions and acceptance rates. Ms. Kronenberg added that the students are using Twitter and blogging daily.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Renaming of Portola as Fred Korematsu Middle School

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

F.2 Authorize Construction on Valley View Elementary

Architects Wally Gordon and Scott Berg of DLM Architects provided an overview of the construction plan for the 15 acre Valley View site. Juan Garrahan of SGI Construction provided information regarding the phases of the project.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey had questions about the time line for purchasing portables and set up on the interim campus. Mr. Garrahan responded. Mr. Abdalla also responded for additional clarification.

President Ramsey requested that all paper work be done and notice to proceed be prepared by November. He said that he would like to see the bidding process for the new campus take place in May 2015.

MOTION: President Ramsey moved approval to Authorize Construction on Valley View Elementary. 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.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Project Status Report

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

Mr. Garrahan, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Berg detailed the DeAnza Career Technology building construction. Ms. Phillips commented about the technology package for the buildings at DeAnza.

Mr. Peel provided an update of the Kennedy Swim Center construction project.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey asked various questions during the presentations to which staff responded.

D.1 Update on the Impact of the Assessed Valuation for 2014-15 on Bond Finance

Superintendent Harter introduced the bond finance team. The team shared details regarding the 2014-2015 assessed property values with an increase of 10.8% and its impact on bond construction finance and the upcoming bond sale.

Blake Boehm, KNN Public Finance

Erwin Tam, KNN Public Finance

Graham Beck, Nixon Peabody LLC

Rudy Salo, Nixon Peabody LLC

Leon Berry, Backstrom, McCarley, Berry & Co. LLC

Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance

Mr. Enos left the meeting for the evening.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey had various questions that the team addressed throughout the presentation.

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

None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

President Ramsey presented plaques to Superintendent Harter and Associate Superintendent Greer from the Young Black Scholars Program to express their appreciation. Superintendent Harter thanked the group for the award as well as the work they do for students. Mr. Greer spoke of the group as a model for growth and development for men of color.

Ms. Kronenberg reminded the audience of the Summer School graduation ceremony planned for the following night.

Ms. Merriweather said she was glad to be back after missing the last meeting. She remarked that summer programs are going well for students. She looked forward to all the work to prepare for opening school in August.

Mr. Groves thanked staff for all the work being done for students in summer school.

President Ramsey asked Superintendent Harter to speak with Board members about Mr. Kirkman's proposal and reply with comments.

President Ramsey spoke of valuing resiliency and moving the District forward. He was happy about the good news around improved assessed property valuations.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the names of former Board members Woodrow Wilson Snodgrass, Karen Ortega and Diane Easton.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – July 23, 2014

K. ADJOURNMENT
President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 10:51 PM.

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

BH:dh

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TAG</u> Approved 7/23/14</p>
