

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

**August 13, 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 6:30 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:** Pamala Blake, Director Student Support Services; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Martin Coyne, Executive Director Bond Finance; Linda Delgado, Coordinator Educational Services; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Mimi Melodia, Coordinator EL Services; Tashaka Merriweather, Coordinator School to Health; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Principal Gompers Continuation High School; Liz Torio, Director Academic Intervention; 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 appoint the following administrators:

Mary Kadri, Assistant Principal for Linked Learning  
Elizabeth Carmody, Director of Community Engagement

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to appoint administrators Mary Kadri and Elizabeth Carmody. 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.**

Superintendent Harter also asked the Board to ratify action taken in Closed Session to approve providing legal representation for the Board President in relationship to the subpoena from the SEC.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of action taken in Closed Session to approve providing legal representation for the Board President in relationship to the subpoena from the SEC. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, Ms. Kronenberg voted yes, and President Ramsey abstained as he recused himself from the vote and was not present during the portion of Closed Session in which the item was discussed. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

**B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption**

President Ramsey requested that Consent Items and item F.1 be moved up on the agenda.

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

**B.6 Minutes: July 23, 2014**

This item was moved to follow item F.1.

**B.7 Request to Address the Board – Alison Wohlgemuth & Urban Nutrition Initiative**

This item was moved to later on the agenda.

**B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment**

This item was moved to later on the agenda.

**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 Community Budget Advisory Committee Amended Member Ratification**

**C.7 July 2014 Refunding Bonds Cost of Issuance**

This item was pulled for separate discussion and action.

**C.8 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44328 – District Interns**

**C.9 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44258.3 – Waivers and Consent**

**C.10 Certificated Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) Request(s)**

**C.11 Approve the following New Job Description: Associate Superintendent of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Bond Program**

**C.12 Benito Juarez Elementary (formerly Richmond Charter Elementary) Special Education and Operating Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)**

**C.13 Facilities Use Agreement (FUA) for Caliber Beta Academy**

**C.14 Manzanita Special Education and Operational Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)**

**C.15 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders – M&O**

**C.16 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.17 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Reappointment: Tom Waller Reappointed by a business organization**

**C.18 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Kennedy High School Health Clinic Project**

**C.19 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Ohlone Elementary School Playground & Parking Lot Completion Project**

**C.20 Ratification of Staff Awarded Contract: Pinole Valley High School Hillside Stabilization Project**

**C.21 Approve Measure J and D 2010, Measure E 2012, Bond Program Budget Expenditure Authorization**

**C.22 Approval of Board Member Travel**

**C.23 Meeting Schedule Dates for 2014-15**

**C.24 Renaming Portions of El Cerrito High School**

**C.25 Approval of District's Response to Grand Jury Report on the California Public Records Act**

**MOTION:** Mr. Groves moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.6, C.8 - C.25. 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 Masterplan for English Learners**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Ms. Melodia who explained the rebuilding of the master plan and defined how it is organized. She provided a presentation to detail the components of the plan and acknowledged the work of the committee in its development.

**Public Comment:**

Rodrigo Corona Flores

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Mr. Enos moved approval of the Masterplan for English Learners. 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.6 Minutes:** July 23, 2014

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of July 23, 2014. 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.7 Request to Address the Board – Alison Wohlgeomuth & Urban Nutrition Initiative**

Mr. Rhea introduced Gompers students and Ms. Ali Wohlgeomuth, Director of the program. They provided an overview of the project and details of their student survey regarding school lunches and consumption of fruits and vegetables.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**B.8 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Roges Boutte, D.D. Farrell

Ms. Kronenberg left the meeting.

**C.7 July 2014 Refunding Bonds Cost of Issuance**

President Ramsey commended the financial team for the excellent work in the recent bond sale. He said the transaction resulted in savings to taxpayers of \$10 million.

**MOTION:** Mr. Groves moved approval of the July 2014 Refunding Bonds Cost of Issuance. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Kronenberg absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

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

**D.1 July 2014 Refunding Bond Sale Report**

This item was moved to follow item F.2.

**E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**E.1 Standing Reports**

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips said that at its recent meeting, the committee reviewed the progress of Technology Plan as well as the Educational Services and Curriculum use of the technology. They reviewed the Professional Development Plan and Curriculum Plan to see that teachers are trained and effectively using technology in the classroom. Mr. Groves remarked on the summer school use of technology and the strong steps to move ahead toward implementation of the academic piece of the plan. Ms. Merriweather spoke about summer school students using electronic tablets. Ms. Rashidchi said that a comprehensive summer school report will be forthcoming to detail students' use of tablets.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba reported on the first meeting of the school year and thanked Executive Director Germaine Quiter for running the meeting in her absence. She said the committee reviewed the parcel tax budget for the 2014-2015 year, as well as the adopted school budget for the year.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** President Ramsey reported that a special meeting will be held August 26 to recommend the selection and scope of the performance audit. This will be brought to the Board in September. He said that at its recent meeting the committee had a good conversation about the El Cerrito stadium complex which is expected open by September 2015. They also held a discussion regarding the Pinole Valley High School interim campus expected to open on time for school to start August 18. The committee also reviewed the Harding Elementary construction going on and the need for additional time to allow construction work to take place at off hours in order to avoid disturbing classroom time. The committee also approved of demolition for vacant sites Adams, Harmon Knolls, and Seaview. He also related that the old Richmond High auto shop will be demolished and rebuilt to house special programs.

**Ivy League Connection.** President Ramsey remarked on the tremendous summer programs for students. He said that students have returned with action plans and will be engaged leaders on their high school campuses. He shared that the University of Chicago program was wonderful for students. In all, 41 students experienced great summer programs at various Ivy League campuses and have returned home safely.

**E.2 Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Masterplan for English Learners**

This item was moved to follow Consent Items.

**G.1 Project Status Report**

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

Mr. Holtslander also provided information regarding demolition of the Seaview site. Additionally he detailed the Adams Middle School site demolition for the three story administration building by removing the top two floors but leaving the walls against the hillside. The gym, shop and music buildings will remain untouched. The Adams site will be used as temporary campus for Wilson Elementary School during its reconstruction. Mr. Holtslander concluded by saying that the Harmon Knolls facility is to be taken down to ground and the site secured.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey asked various questions to which Mr. Holtslander provided information.

**F.2 Resolution 15–1415: Resolution requesting the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to establish tax rates for bonds of West Contra Costa Unified School District which are outstanding or expected to be sold during Fiscal Year 2014-15**

Ms. Gamba pointed out a typographical error in the agenda item 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence correcting 2013/2014 to 2014/2015.

Superintendent Harter introduced David Leifer from KNN Public Finance who provided a presentation. Additional team members included Lisel Wells of Nixon Peabody, Jon Armstrong of KNN Public Finance, Jeff Baratta of Piper Jaffrey Investment Banker, Leonard Berry of McCarley, Berry & Co., and Katherine Perkins of Stifel Investment Bankers.

Mr. Leifer detailed information regarding the proposed tax rate resolution expressing the District’s desire to have the County levy bond tax rates at the target maximum levels with regard to five of six bond measures. Ms. Wells explained that the purpose of the resolution was to establish tax rates at the desired standard observed by the County. She explained that the Education Code required having the tax levy in advance of a new money transaction.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey had questions throughout the conversation that were answered by staff providing clarification.

**MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of Resolution 15–1415: Resolution requesting the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to establish tax rates for bonds of West Contra Costa Unified School District which are outstanding or expected to be sold during Fiscal Year 2014-15. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Kronenberg absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.**

**D.1 July 2014 Refunding Bond Sale Report**

David Leifer, of KNN Public Finance, summarized the results of the refunding objectives of the recent sale in order to lower interest rates, lower debt service, and apply savings to meet tax rate targets for the next three years. He reported that the sale generated \$10.3 million in cash flow savings.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey had remarks throughout the presentation.

Mr. Groves asked about municipal market data. Mr. Leifer and Ms. Wells responded.

Ms. Kronenberg returned to the meeting.

Mr. Groves continued with remarks about the rating agencies. Members of the finance team provided additional information.

Ms. Kronenberg commended staff and expressed appreciation for the work to save taxpayers \$10 million.

Ms. Merriweather said she appreciated the thorough presentation that answered questions. She commended the group on a job well done.

Mr. Enos thanked the finance team for helping the District well into the future.

Mr. Groves said that the District is doing its best to be good stewards of funds.

President Ramsey reflected back to 1998, recapping growth and improvement. He said these transactions would model future transactions. He thanked the members of the finance team, bond counsel, and disclosure counsel.

Superintendent Harter remarked on the fitting result and thanked the team.

President Ramsey thanked Ms. Gamba's staff. She extended thanks to all of team members.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Project Status Report**

This item was moved to follow Superintendent's Report.

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

None

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

Ms. Kronenberg welcomed students back to school and said that she saw teacher's returning to a positive year.

Ms. Merriweather spoke of student excitement to get back to school. She wished those starting next week good first day of school.

Mr. Groves spoke for the Board expressing appreciation for the amount of hard work that has taken place over the summer to prepare for the new school year. He applauded staff efforts.

President Ramsey continued with his recognition of Board members he has served with over the years. He spoke of Karen Fenton, Don Lau, Goy Fuller, and others. He adjourned the meeting in the names of Glen Price, George Harris III, Karen Leong Fenton, Patricia Player as well as Superintendent Dr. Gloria Johnston. He also remarked about student school board member Peter Nicholas Chau.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – September 3, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:41PM.

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

BH:dh

**TAG**  
Approved 9/3/14