

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

**April 22, 2015**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Groves called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:36 P.M.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

President Groves offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Liz Block, Valerie Cuevas, Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg

**Staff Present:** Patty Cuevas, Translator; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Linda Delgado, Charter School Liaison; Otilia Espinoza, Translator; Luis Freese, District Engineer; 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 & Construction; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent M & O/Bond Program; Vince Meyer, Executive Director Maintenance & Operations; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Pinole Valley High School**

Mr. Alonso Saravia provided a report of activities regarding Pinole Valley High School.

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

None

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

The following changes were recommended to modify the agenda:

Items D.1 and F.1 were moved before B.9.

Items C.10 and C.14 were pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion and action.

Item F.2 was tabled.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION:** Mr. Enos moved approval of the agenda as modified. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Alonso Saravia (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**B.7 Minutes: April 1, 2015**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2015. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Alonso Saravia (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**B.8 Request to Address the Board – Dr. Fatima Alleyne**

Dr. Alleyne spoke about experiences for her family at Washington Elementary School and herself as a School Site Council member.

**D.1 Bay Area Science Fair Winners**

Science Fair Coordinator Mr. John Iwawaki shared information about the Science Fair process and the nineteen winners whose entries went on to the Bay Area Science Fair. He introduced two of the winners who described their projects: Nicholas Tran, Hercules High School, and Samantha Sze, Pinole Valley High School. Mr. Iwawaki recognized the award winners with certificates and Board Members personally congratulated each student.

The following students were the 2015 Bay Area Science Fair winners:

Nicholas Tran, Hercules High  
Hoa Yang He, El Cerrito High  
Samantha Sze, Pinole Valley High  
Nanthaya Verweij, Pinole Middle School  
Aaron Moore, Korematsu Middle School  
Ariel Tonesi Berenyi, Pinole Valley High  
Esmeralda Aguilar, Pinole Valley High  
Grecia Ortiz, Pinole Valley High  
Nicole Douangdara, Pinole Valley High  
Loan Chung, Pinole Valley High  
Kevin Mahoney, El Cerrito High  
Niklas Datta, Korematsu Middle  
Isabel Arias, Korematsu Middle  
Zoe Harwood, Korematsu Middle  
Audrey Dowling, Korematsu Middle  
Max Mueller, Korematsu Middle  
Cloe Coscoy, Korematsu Middle  
Manvir Sambhi, Hercules High  
Kelly Doungdara, Pinole Valley High

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of modifying the agenda by moving up items D.2 and D.3. Ms. Cuevas seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Alonso Saravia (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**D.2 Recognition of Hercules High School Academy of Hospitality and International Tourism**

Mr. Greer introduced Hercules Principal Paul Mansingh and commended the staff for their recent WASC accreditation approval. Mr. Mansingh spoke about the students of the Hospitality and International Tourism Academy representing the District in Washington, D.C. He introduced chief advisor Chef Lourdes Sampayo who spoke about the student run and led company Herban Movement and the Junior Achievement Company of the Year Achievement Competition opportunity to represent Northern California in Washington, D.C. She introduced the officers of the company who told about their position and work in the company. The students were presented certificates and Board members congratulated each student.

Joseph Fortuno – CEO  
Angelica Mota – VP of Finance  
Tiffany Gonzales – HR Department, President  
Mahal Williams – Public Relations Executive  
Chelsey Winston – Marketing Executive  
Alexander Walker-Griffin – President of Productions  
Andrew Dirk – Member

**D.3 2014-15 Teaching Excellence Award Winner Recognition**

Ed Fund Executive Director Joel Mackey spoke about the excitement for teachers selected this year. The teachers were presented with certificates of recognition and Board members personally offered congratulations.

Brent Knapp, Special Education, Lupine Hills Elementary  
Maribel Lopez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Dover Elementary  
Molly Salyk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Coronado Elementary  
Andre Shie, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra, Helms Middle School  
Keith Valdez, Kindergarten, Hanna Ranch Elementary

Mr. Mackey said the teachers will be acknowledged at next week's Spring To Excellence event at El Cerrito High School. They symbolically represent teachers everywhere who make a significant difference in the lives of students. He was gratified to make a difference for teachers who contribute to the wellness of the community and enrich lives of students. Mr. Mackey also acknowledged Ms. Roz Plishner for her work with Ed Fund and her work with the selection process. Ms. Plishner shared about the selection process and reported that Mr. Valdez and Ms. Lopez will also represent the District at the county level for Teacher of the Year.

#### **F.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School Renewal Decision Hearing**

Ms. Linda Delgado presented information about the Manzanita Charter School and its inception in 2000 with charter renewals in 2005 and 2010. She said the staff report of findings supports the recommendation to renew the petition. Manzanita staff was available to address questions of the Board. Executive Director Jim Trombley introduced Math teacher Patricia Suquilanda to reflect on the academic results for math, reading and language arts used by the school.

#### **Public Comment:**

Nicole Williams, Arturo Armendaris, Rodrigo Torres, Emily Martinez, Angie Rachel Rodriguez, Utsha Rai, Eli S.M., Kimyatta Newby, Jennifer Quivoz, Terra Wilson, Toni Matullo, Audra Williams

#### **Board Comment:**

Ms. Block asked about the standard of measurement for test scores. Manzanita staff responded with clarification. Ms. Block commended the school on their growth.

Mr. Enos commended Mr. Trombley and staff for their work and acknowledged the enthusiasm of the audience in their support of the school.

President Groves asked about African American students regarding full inclusion. Mr. Trombley responded with information about the growth of the African American population at the school.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the tremendous enthusiasm from the students. She acknowledged the teaching staff, saying she supported the motion to approve charter renewal.

Student Representative Alonso Saravia said the passion and dedication of students and staff impressed him. He urged the advancing 8<sup>th</sup> graders moving to high school to maintain their passion.

Ms. Cuevas spoke about students deserving quality instruction and parent engagement. She asked the Manzanita staff about CELDT data and growth. Mr. Trombley responded with information about the progress of EL students through additional instruction and engagement with parents in the progress of their students. Ms. Suquilanda spoke about curriculum focus on literacy. Ms. Cuevas said she was supportive of renewal along with additional support to staff with the addition of a vice principal position.

Ms. Block spoke about charter school criteria for approval. She commented about all schools meeting the same standards. She expressed disappointment about lack of specificity and some of the responses to questions in the application. Mr. Trombley spoke about the teacher collaboration and capacity attendance expected for the next year. Ms. Block urged the staff to develop a plan for reaching out to parents and addressing the comments made during the meeting.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Manzanita Charter Middle School Renewal. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Alonso Saravia (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

A brief recess was taken at this time.

**B.9 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Betty Brown, Madeleine Jen Ken, Margaret Browne, Nicole Williams, Susan Wehrle, Judith Van Hoorn, Monique Swain, Natalie Walchuck, Ron Beller, Deantee James, Mary Alice Harris, Elizabeth Jimenez, Abadesa Rolon, Mason Salvador, Yolanda Lopez, Rosa Martinez, Katy Vasquez, Cara Houser, Dennis Cody, Dalia Garcia, Monzerrat Ledesma, Juanita Dixon, Leticca Hernandez, Edith Acevedo

**C. BUSINESS ITEM**

This item was moved to follow item E. 3.

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

**D.1 Bay Area Science Fair Winners**

This item was moved to follow item B.8.

**D.2 Recognition of Hercules High School Academy of Hospitality and International Tourism**

This item was moved earlier on the agenda.

**D.3 2014-15 Teaching Excellence Award Winner Recognition**

This item was moved earlier on the agenda.

**F.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School Renewal Decision Hearing**

This item was moved to follow item D.3

Student Representative Alonso Saravia left the meeting for the evening.

**E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

**E.1 Standing Reports**

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi provided a report on the Collaboration Colloquium held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. She said there was great participation from teachers, Board members and parents. The next meeting will be held May 12.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee.** Ms. Gamba announced the next meeting for April 30 at the Alvarado Adult School Campus.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Ms. Block said the committee received information on a number of project updates. Ms. Kronenberg also said that change orders were reviewed. The next meeting will be held May 12. Ms. Cuevas asked about changes in the procedures for review of change orders. Ms. Kronenberg elaborated on the discussion held detailing reasons for change orders.

**Ivy League Connection.** Ms. Kronenberg reported that 30 students have been selected along with chaperones. Alumni dinners with each group will be held soon and will include students, alumni, parents, and fund raisers. She commended Mr. Ramsey for his fund raising efforts to cover tuition costs for students. She also commended the support of funders over the years.

**Safety and School Climate Committee.** Mr. Enos said that the next meeting would be held April 23rd at San Pablo Community Center adjacent to Helms Middle School.

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips reported on the last meeting where discussion included tablets and carts for classrooms, as well as the wireless initiative for remaining schools. She commended teachers for their use of technology in the classroom as demonstrated by the Education Services Colloquium Collaborative. The next meeting will be held May 11.

**Youth Commission.** President Groves reported on the recent LCAP meeting where 150 district high school students were hosted by the Youth Commission. Students voiced their interested and staff learned about what they would like to see as part of the plan. He was proud of the commissioners for taking complex policy and making it actionable and enjoyable for their peers. At their Monday meeting the commissioners evaluated proposals from the faith community for potential projects. He said he was very proud of work they have been doing over the course of the year.

**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. President Groves asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence.

**C. BUSINESS ITEM**

This item was moved to follow item E. 3.

**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 Notice of Completions: Bid 2121102-06 Pinole Middle School Soccer & Football Field and 3601364-03 Kennedy High School Health Clinic**

**C.7 Resolution No. 64-1415: National "Day of the School Nurse"**

**C.8 El Cerrito High School Jazz Ensemble attending Reno Jazz Ensemble Band Festival**

**C.9 Middle College Students attending Student Leadership Conference**

**C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

This item was pulled for separate discussion and action.

**C.11 Ratification of Negotiated Change Orders**

**C.12 Ratification of Negotiated Change Orders – M&O**

**C.13 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Reappointment: Orlandus Waters be reappointed by the City of El Cerrito**

**C.14 Coronado Elementary School Furniture, Fixture and Equipment Project Rejection of Bid**

This item was pulled for separate discussion and action.

**C.15 Lake Elementary School Fire Alarm Modernization Award of Contract**

**C.16 Seaview Elementary School Demolition Award of Contract**

**C.17 Resolution No. 69-1415: School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week – May 4-8, 2015**

**C.18 Williams Lawsuit Complaints Quarterly Report**

**MOTION:** Ms. Cuevas moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.9, C.11 – C.13, C.15-C.18. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**C.10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts**

Ms. Block asked about the SGI management contracts. Ms. LeBlanc responded with information about transitioning the project management system and interfacing with the District's financial system. She said that these systems have changed over the course of time and that staff is endeavoring to assure that the SGI work is being captured and that there is accuracy of financial data.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Items C. 10 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**C.14 Coronado Elementary School Furniture, Fixture and Equipment Project Rejection of Bid**

Superintendent Harter asked for deletion of the last paragraph of the item as a matter of clarification in order to allow the Board to reject all bids without cause.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Swanson

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Block asked for the definition of a piggybackable bid. Ms. Gamba responded with clarification saying that it is a purchasing agreement for services or equipment that are bid, recognized across the state or nation, with lowest possible prices available to governmental agencies.

President Groves asked about any intent to rebid. Ms. Gamba explained that the recommendation before the Board was a request for proposal, not the same as a formal bid. The intent would be for staff to investigate the options available in piggybackable bids.

Ms. Cuevas asked about the vendor having opportunity to rebid to which Ms. Gamba responded with information about vendors having piggybackable bid awards and consideration. Ms. Gamba was not aware whether this vendor had this status.

Ms. Kronenberg asked if this process had been used previously. Ms. Gamba talked about both processes used to seek bids by the District in order to get the best value for the dollar while adhering to particular product standards.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved Approval of Consent Item C. 14 Coronado Elementary School Furniture, Fixture and Equipment Project Rejection of Bid including the deletion of the earlier mentioned paragraph. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 Manzanita Charter Middle School Renewal Decision Hearing**

This item was moved to follow item D.3.

**F.2 Resolution No.68 -1415: Authorization to Eliminate and/or Reduce Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees**

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Formation of a Subcommittee on Board Governance**

Superintendent Harter recapped the Board's interest in forming a subcommittee on Board governance. At the recent follow up retreat there was further discussion about a subcommittee as well as development of a governance handbook. This is opportunity for the Board to give direction to staff about the type of subcommittee including purpose, duties, and duration.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Cuevas spoke in support of the formation of a standing governance subcommittee working for continuous improvement of District transparency within governance guidelines to meet the needs of students and District staff.

Ms. Block asked whether Ms. Cuevas saw this as a forum for parents or staff to speak to the way the Board addresses needs. Ms. Cuevas gave an example about concerns regarding school site councils and related bylaws. She spoke about best efforts to examine and demonstrate efforts of communication with the community and related to governance within the Board.

Mr. Enos said he thought the principle was a good idea. He cautioned careful consideration about what kind of authority would go with the committee as well as putting communication before the public. He supported consideration with the best interests of students in mind.

Ms. Block discussed ad hoc or standing committee. Ms. Cuevas recommended a standing committee to take equal value with other committees. She spoke about the impact of the committee providing opportunity to create a process to address issues.

Ms. Kronenberg said that the idea of a governance committee had grown on her and felt this was a strategy to address how the Board operates.

President Groves said he supported the establishment of a subcommittee with an evaluation at six months and a year to determine how much work is accomplished as well as what the mission should be. President Groves asked staff to bring back a specific recommendation to a subsequent meeting.

**G.2 Addressing the Need to Keep Board Meetings to a Reasonable Length of Time**

Ms. Block said she thought keeping meetings to a reasonable hour a good idea. She said it was not fair to the interest of the public and staff participation when meetings are lengthy.

Mr. Enos supported implementation on a trial basis in order to make a determination. He recognized the need to do something and suggested starting with the current procedures outlined in the agenda, and possibly adopt after a test basis.

Superintendent Harter said that the items referenced are already in the Board Bylaws. The question was whether the Board wanted to adhere to them. He heard a consensus of the Board to go further and implement those procedures with the option to modify as necessary at each meeting.

President Groves said staff and the public are not best served with long meetings and his pledge was to be adherent to standing policies that facilitate the business of the Board.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

**G.3 Local Plan Policies**

Mr. Steve Collins reported on Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) assurances required by the State with accompanying policies. In reviewing the current policies it was determined that the State has added an additional criteria regarding disproportionality. As a single district SELPA the Board is asked to consider this addition. He said that District staff has worked diligently regarding over representation of ethnic groups for four areas of Special Education including discipline, least restrictive environment, disability, and ethnic group. He said that the District is one of ten districts in the State to receive a pilot grant over a two-year period to develop and implement an action plan to address disproportionality.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Block commended staff for the previous work done. She said she knew that the goal was to limit disproportionality with overall fairness in classification of students. She thought that making it a Board policy would improve its strength.

President Groves thanked Mr. Collins for his work and the overall work of the District. He said he was heartened by achievement on behalf of students served. President Groves agreed that elevating the item to a board policy was a just action.

Superintendent Harter said that this item will return for adoption at a future meeting.

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

None

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

Ms. Kronenberg provided details of the El Cerrito High Dance Festival coming up on Saturday, April 25. She also spoke of the May 4 My Brother's Keeper event at the Richmond Auditorium for issues regarding boys and men of color.

Ms. Block praised Ms. Rashidchi for the well done Collaboration Colloquium. She said that she saw many amazing things happening in schools where programs could germinate in a direction that involve collaboration with principals, teachers, and student efficacy. Ms. Block spoke about deceased community member Rev. Lonnie Wafer as an example of the kind of person who is always serving at the school.

Ms. Cuevas commended the students and teachers of the Linked Learning Academy at Hercules. She also commended the Science Fair winners saying she was impressed by their success. She also commended the Collaboration Colloquium on instruction. She said she was excited to work with the Board on issues facing the District in the effort to continue to build trust with the community. She also looked forward to joining her colleagues at the Cinco de Mayo parade.

President Groves commended the recent colloquium where the best thinkers in education presented. He commended the sharing of talent by the District's hardest working group of people. He said he saw the efforts resulting in change.

**J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Lovonya DeJean Middle School – May 6, 2015

**K. ADJOURNMENT**  
President Groves adjourned the meeting at 10:13 PM.

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

BH:dh

**R. Enos**  
Approved 5/6/15