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

December 10, 2014

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

Clerk Groves called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. Clerk Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:30 P.M.

B.1 Swearing In Of New Board Members

Hercules Vice-Mayor Dan Romero administered the oath of office for re-elected Board member Madeline Kronenberg and the newly elected Board members Elizabeth Block, and Valerie Cuevas.

B.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.3 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

Clerk Groves congratulated the newly elected Board members upon taking their oath of office. He offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

B.4 Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Steve Collins, SELPA Director; 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; Nicole Joyner, Director Accountability & Data; Mimi Melodia, Coordinator EL Services; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Educational Services; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Lyn Potter, Director Educational Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Adam Taylor, K-12 Executive Director; Liz Torio, Director Ed Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Regina Webber, Director Business Services; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

B.5 Annual Organization Meeting

Election of President

Motion: Ms. Block nominated Todd Groves to the position of President of the Board. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Block, Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, and Ms. Kronenberg voting yes, Ms. Cuevas voting no, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

Election of Clerk

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg nominated Randy Enos to serve as Clerk of the Board. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and President Groves voting yes, Ms. Block and Ms. Cuevas voting no, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

A separate motion was taken to appoint the Superintendent as Secretary, authorize the President to sign documents, and the Clerk to sign in the absence of President.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to affirm the appointment of the Superintendent as Secretary, authorize the President to sign documents and the Clerk to sign in the absence of President. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

A separate motion was taken to affirm the adopted Board meeting dates.

Motion: Ms. Block moved to affirm the adopted Board meeting dates. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

A separate motion was taken to establish the Board calendar for 2015. Superintendent Harter pointed out a date correction of July 8, 2015.

Motion: Ms. Kronenberg moved to establish the Board calendar for 2015 and correct the date of July 8, 2015. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions or absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

- B.6 Report/Ratification of Closed Session None
- **B.7 Presentation of Student Board Representative from Middle College High School** Mr. Amrinder Singh provided a report of activities at Middle College High School.

B.8 Agenda Review and Adoption

Public Comment: Anton Jungherr

Board Comment:

Board members Block and Cuevas commented in response to Mr. Jungherr's remarks, noting their desire to wait for the January 10 retreat and working collaboratively with their colleagues.

MOTION: Ms. Block moved approval of agenda, including removing item C.5 for separate discussion. Ms. Cuevas 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.

B.9 Public Comment:

Natalie Walchuk, Dan Romero, Yolanda Lopez, David Calderon, Dennis Cody, Roberto Rolon, Abadesa Rolon, Anton Jungherr, Ron Beller, Tom Panas, Flor Castro, Monzerrat Ledesma, Tiffany Acevedo, Dalia Gomez

C. BUSINESS ITEM

- C.1 Acceptance of Donations
- C.2 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities
- C.3 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports
- C.4 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- C.5 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
 - This item was removed for separate discussion.
- C.6 Approval of Board Member Travel This item was removed for separate discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – 4. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves, voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 Ed Fund Arts & Music Impact Grant Awardees for 2014

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Joel Mackey, Executive Director of Ed Fund, to celebrate the Arts and Impact Grant award winners. Mr. Mackey reported that this was the Ed. Fund's thirty-first year to award grants to teachers and schools in District. He said that the Ed Fund received a bequest and endowment from Brad Bradley of El Cerrito to be used for art and music programs within the District. Mr. Mackey spoke of the nearly \$30,000 in awards this year to educators and hope to grow the endowment to provide more awards. He invited grantees to come forward and share information about their programs and use of the funds. Board members individually congratulated the recipients and took a moment for photographs.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg offered congratulations and spoke of the commitment to rebuild the arts programs in schools.

Mr. Enos thanked everyone for keeping arts alive in schools and the Ed Fund for supporting student achievement in a positive way.

Ms. Cuevas thanked the community and recognized the generous bequest of the Bradly estate.

President Groves congratulated winners, commending their hard work and use of funds for children. He commended the generous donors and tireless work of the Ed. Fund.

D.2 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Actions/Services Report #2

Superintendent Harter spoke of the commitment to regularly update the Board with reports of actions and services of the Local Control Accountability Plan. Ms. Rashidchi provided background showing an infographic meant to illustrate the story of LCAP journey. She spoke of the required eight state priorities and the District's 14 goals, 49 progress indicators and 47 actions and services.

Mr. Adam Taylor and Ms. Sonja Neely-Johnson provided information pertaining to psychological services and additional staffing at middle and high schools.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment:

Ms. Block applauded staff on the thorough plan. She had comments regarding indicators and underlying goals for hiring additional staff as an aid to the reader in seeing the intent. She commended the focus in the area psychological services and intervention for students.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about making the infographic more understandable. She sought clarification of cost and expenditures for implementation. Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Collins provided additional clarification regarding added staff expenditures under their divisions.

Ms. Cuevas had questions regarding the way data and feedback was collected for the infographic as an informational tool to aid the reader. Ms. Rashidchi reported that the next Board meeting will bring a presentation on progress indicators. She detailed ongoing information gathering and surveying of stakeholders. Ms. Cuevas continued with remarks about showing student diversity and foster youth with numbers, not only percentages. She concluded with comments on indicator goals and the possible addition of benchmarks.

Ms. Block added comment about whether LCAP material was given to parents in a way that can easily be understood.

President Groves thanked staff and expressed appreciation for the work done to get to this point. He said he looked forward to next report.

D.3 Budget Development and Financial Reports Calendar

Superintendent Harter asked Ms. Gamba to share the budget development calendar. Ms. Gamba spoke about the First Interim Report and financial projections. She said the calendar provided an overview of activities during the budget development process. She urged the Board to identify dates for study sessions in January and February to coincide with information received from the Governor's' state budget development.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Block said she was appreciative of study sessions. Ms. Gamba responded.

E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

E.1 Standing Reports

Ivy League Connection. Mr. Don Gosney provided an update on the Ivy League Connection. He said that he had received numerous comments of support from community and financial supporters. He shared a reflective blog written by Magaly Rodriguez during her 2014 program at Brown University.

West Contra Costa Administrators Association. Co-executive Director Sara Danielson welcomed the new Board members. She said the newly installed WCCAA Board will be introduced in January. She spoke of the District's Solutions Team collaborative as an invaluable communication avenue for the various labor unions. She said the regular, ongoing meetings with District representatives provided for two way communication, resulting in open and honest communication for all.

Academic Subcommittee. Ms. Rashidchi reported on the recent meeting where discussion included an overview of the Smarter Balance consortium, standardized testing, overview of the summer school timeline, and the temporary EL reclassification criteria feedback from teachers. She said the next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2015, 6:30 PM at DeAnza High School. Mr. Enos shared information about the December 15th new teachers meeting to seek their perception of the first semester.

Community Budget Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamba reported on the last meeting where the committee met with JROTC students and heard a report. They also had a report regarding library and textbook materials. Committee members have also signed up for the January Governor's budget workshop.

Facilities Subcommittee. Ms. Kronenberg announced the next meeting for January 6, 2015, 4:00 PM.

School Safety and Climate Committee. Mr. Enos reported that this month's meeting was postponed, with a January date to be determined.

Technology Subcommittee. Ms. Kronenberg reported on the recent meeting where the committee heard a report on technology plan changes and updates, and a report on the Myon Reader literacy program being used by teachers and students. The committee continued review of the elements of technology plan. The next meeting will be held January 12, 2015, 4:00 PM.

Youth Commission. President Groves reported on the recent high school tours. He said the commissioners had a lot to say about what was going on in schools, what seemed to be working and what needed change. He was hopeful to leverage the information into action with specific recommendations.

E.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

C. BUSINESS ITEM - Continued

C.5 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

Board Member Block had questions about some of the change orders for Ohlone Elementary and Pinole Valley High Schools. Staff members Keith Holtslander, Karim Nassab and Tim Peel were available to address questions regarding Ohlone Elementary. Mr. Peel provided information about changes in scope for the construction projects.

Ms. Cuevas asked for information regarding the dollar amounts and percentages for added scope of work for the project. Mr. Peel offered information for clarification.

Ms. Kronenberg pointed out the original 1C standard adopted by the Board for all construction projects and detailed the adopted construction perimeters. Superintendent Harter offered additional information about the Division of State Architect's changes to the building code and the biannual upgrades to the District's design standards. He explained that many of the changes orders for the Ohlone project were implemented after the recent design upgrade. Superintendent HarterHe further explained that the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) thoroughly reviews change orders and reports publicly.

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr

Board Comment:

Ms. Cuevas asked about the timeline for approval of the change orders. Superintendent Harter explained that this item was ratification of change orders that have previously been authorized and made, putting them into the public record.

Ms. Gamba offered additional clarification saying that many of the change orders over the original contract had been previously approved by Board. Discussion continued regarding the process that the CBOC uses for its review, oversight and annual performance audit.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Negotiated Change Orders. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, Ms. Cuevas and Mr. Enos voted no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

C.6 Approval of Board Member Travel

Public Comment: Anton Jungherr

Board Comment:

Ms. Cuevas asked for budget information for Board member travel. Ms. Gamba reported \$20,000 budgeted for Board travel within the state.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Board Member Travel. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Resolution to Convey an Easement to Contra Costa County for a Pedestrian Bridge at Riverside Elementary School

Superintendent Harter said this was the concluding presentation for the construction of a pedestrian overcrossing of Interstate 80 to Riverside Elementary school. He shared that this project had been under consideration for several years. Mr. Hisham Noeimi of West Contra Costa Transportation Authority provided information regarding the major interchange modifications at I-80 and San Pablo Dam Road, McBryde Avenue and El Portal Drive. He gave background regarding the project and the community meetings.

Public Comment:

Don Gosney

Board Comment:

Ms. Block commented on hazardous traffic on Amador Street.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the various presentations made to the Facilities Subcommittee and the Board. She urged support of the project for the good of the community and safety of the children who attend Riverside School.

Ms. Cuevas asked questions of Mr. Noeimi about the project regarding the use of school property. Mr. Noeimi provided clarification.

President Groves spoke in support of the project for the community.

MOTION: Ms. Block moved approval of the Resolution to Convey an Easement to Contra Costa County for a Pedestrian Bridge at Riverside Elementary School. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 Appointing a Committee to Consider Renaming Gompers High School

Mr. Don Lau shared information regarding Mr. Sylvester Greenwood's background and challenges he faced during his many years of service to the District as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and interim superintendent. He commended Mr. Greenwood as someone who cared about the community and was highly regarded. Mr. Lau asked to Board to appoint a committee to consider renaming Samuel Gomers High School to Sylvester Greenwood High School.

Public Comment:

JP De Oliveira, Tiffani Neal, Timothy Wilson, Dave Moss

Board Comment:

Mr. Enos spoke of working with Sylvester Greenwood and how he thought this a noble action to consider renaming the school in his memory.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke in support, recalled the renaming of Korematsu, formerly Portola Middle School. She said that the new school with a new name would be a renaissance opportunity for the community.

Board Members Cuevas and Enos volunteered to serve on the committee.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of appointing Ms. Cuevas and Mr. Enos to serve on the Committee to Consider Renaming Gompers High School. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.3 Contract Extension

Superintendent Harter provided background regarding the Superintendent's contract and an additional requirement as a result of the 2012 change in Government Code Sections 53243 regarding employment contracts of certain executive public employees expressly addressing issues related to abuse of office. The proposed contract amendment updates the Superintendent's Employment Agreement in order to address that requirement. On November 12, 2014, the Board conducted and approved the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation, thereby triggering a contract extension through June 30, 2018, a two percent salary increase as well as a two percent payment to the Superintendent's tax sheltered annuity. Since that time, issues have been raised about the clarity of the Board's November 12 action. He explained that the purpose of tonight's action was to provide clarity and further ratify those previously approved actions.

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr, Ben Steinberg

Board Comment:

Ms. Cuevas asked to separate the two actions, insertion of language into the contract and ratify the superintendent's evaluation and contract extension, into two individual actions. Superintendent Harter affirmed that the Board could so.

MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved to separate the contract extension items into two separate votes. Ms. Block seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voting yes, Mr. Enos and Ms. Kronenberg voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved to amend the Superintendent's Contract with the insertion of specific language. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Board members continued the discussion regarding terms of the Superintendent's contract. Superintendent Harter affirmed that this action would be ratification of action already taken by the Board.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the Superintendent's previously approved contract extension. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voting yes, Ms. Block, and Ms. Cuevas, voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 3-2-0-0.

Ms. Cuevas left dais.

F.4 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Leadership Public High School

Superintendent Harter asked the Board for approval of a memorandum of understanding with Leadership Public Schools and their operating agreement for the year. He explained that changes with the Local Control Funding Formula required updates to the agreement.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: None

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Leadership Public High School. Ms. Block seconded. Ms. Block, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and Ms. Cuevas absent. Motion carried 4-0-0-1.

Ms. Cuevas returned to the dais.

F.5 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Initial Bargaining Proposal from United Teachers of Richmond to West Contra Costa Unified School District

Mr. Whittemore asked the Board to hold a public hearing as part of the Educational Employment Relations Act to hear any comment regarding the initial bargaining proposal from United Teachers of Richmond to the District.

President Groves opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: None

President Groves closed the public hearing.

Board Comment: None

MOTION: Ms. Cuevas moved to adopt the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh, and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.6 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Initial bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District to United Teachers of Richmond

Mr. Whittemore asked the Board to hold a public hearing as part of the Educational Employment Relations Act to hear any comment regarding the initial bargaining proposal from the District to United Teachers of Richmond.

President Groves opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: None

President Groves closed the public hearing.

Board Comment: None MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to adopt the Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District to United Teachers of Richmond. Mr. Enos seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.7 Public Hearing and Adoption of the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association (WCCAA)

Mr. Whittemore explained that through the interest-based bargaining process used with WCCAA, joint initial bargaining proposals were developed. He requested that the Board hold a public hearing regarding their joint proposal for negotiations.

President Groves opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

None

President Groves closed the public hearing.

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Ms. Block moved to adopt the Joint Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District and West Contra Costa Administrators Association (WCCAA). Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Amrinder Singh (advisory vote only) and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 WCCUSD Interim Reclassification Criteria for English Learner Students

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Mimi Melodia and Liz Torio who presented information on a temporary change to the reclassification criteria for English Learner students. Ms. Melodia explained that all districts in the state are required to select interim measures for evaluation in the absence of CST testing requirements. She said that 346 elementary and 289 second students have met EL reclassification criteria already this year but are awaiting the Board's approval of the standardized testing component. She further explained that over 9000 English Language Learners are currently enrolled in the District, approximating one-third of the District's students.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Block asked about the STAR reading test measurement. Ms. Lyn Potter, Director of English Language Arts, provided clarification regarding assessment of Common Core Standards and early reading skills. Ms. Block concluded by asking Ms. Potter to explain benchmark recommendations.

Ms. Cuevas had questions about the change in documents provided to the Board and public. Ms. Melodia pointed out a misprint in the CELT section. She continued to explain the four domains for consideration. Ms. Cuevas had additional questions about approving the alternative criteria. Ms. Rashidchi pointed out that this item was for the Board's discussion at tonight's meeting.

G.2 Board Policy Update: BP 0440 District Technology Plan

Ms. Phillips introduced the new Board Policy for the Board's consideration and noted changes in Education Code requiring the development of a technology plan.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Ms. Block asked about plan development. Ms. Cuevas asked President Groves for his opinion. President Groves said he thought the trend was moving to integrate technology in everything in education; it is becoming an integral component. He spoke of the District framing to keep eyes on technology.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the Technology Subcommittee's commitment to continued revision and updating of the Technology Plan.

G.3 Call for Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

Superintendent Harter provided details about the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly geographic region and sub-region divisions. He shared that Mr. Ramsey will finish his Delegate Assembly term this month. The Board has the opportunity to consider and nominate a member who will stand for election on the 2015 ballot. Nominations are due to CSBA by January 7, 2015.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Groves asked whether any Board member wanted to volunteer. Ms. Cuevas and Ms. Kronenberg volunteered to submit their names for consideration.

Superintendent Harter explained that this item will return for action to allow the Board to affirm the nominations.

G.4 Project Status Report

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Ms. Block had questions about trash compacters being installed at schools. Mr. Holtslander provided clarification.

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E) None

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Cuevas thanked her colleagues for being a part of her first Board meeting and their patience with her questions.

Mr. Enos welcomed the new members. He said that there was a lot of work ahead as he looked forward to budget development issues.

Ms. Block said she was pleased to be part of the Board. She had questions regarding translation services for the audience. She also commented that it would be of interest to have project status reports note academic benchmark data. She spoke of the good meeting and said she was happy to be here.

Ms. Kronenberg welcomed the new Board members. She said she looked forward to the upcoming California School Boards annual conference in San Francisco and attending with her colleagues. She said that tonight's meeting showed movement forward with teaching and learning, and the business of the school district. She concluded with comment about the anticipated big storm causing school closures.

President Groves welcomed the new members and returning member Kronenberg. He said he was humbled to be in the seat of president. He looked forward to a year of honest contemplation and collaboration to engage the community for student success.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – December 17, 2014

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Groves adjourned the meeting at 10:43 PM.

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

BH:dh