

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

**December 17, 2014**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Groves called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Groves called the Public Session to order at 6:37 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:** Mark Bonnett, Executive Director Bond Finance; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; 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; David Johnston, Director General Services; Nicole Joyner, Chief Accountability/Data Officer; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent M & O/Bond Program; Mimi Melodia, Coordinator EL Services; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Coordinator Education Services; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Lyn Potter, Director Education Services; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Paul Shatswell, Principal North Campus High School; Liz Torio, Director Education Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ken Whittemore, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from North Campus High School**

Ms. Jamonnie Price provided a report of activities at North Campus High School.

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

None

**B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Board Comment:**

None

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

**B.7 Public Comment:**

David Calderon, Leticia Hernandez-Torres, Ofelia Alons-Sorreno, Robert Studdiford, Jose Quintanilla, Sofia Mata, Oscar Quintanilla, Tom Panas, Pablo Ramirez

**C. BUSINESS ITEM**

\*CI C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

\*CI C.2 Acceptance of Donations

\*CI C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

\*CI C.4 Contracts

- \*CI C.5 Adoption of Resolution No. 44-1415: Replacement of Outdated Warrant
- \*CI C.6 New Board Policy: BP 0440 District Technology Plan
- \*CI C.7 WCCUSD Interim Reclassification Criteria for English Learner Students
- \*CI C.8 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
- \*CI C.9 Approval of Negotiated Change Orders
- \*CI C.10 Approval of Board Member Travels

**MOTION:** Mr. Enos moved Approval of Consent Items C. 1 – C.10. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Block, Ms. Cuevas, Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, Student Representative Jamonnie Price (advisory vote only), and President Groves voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

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

### **D.1 Richmond Art Center Presentation**

Superintendent Harter introduced Mr. Ric Ambrose, Director of the Richmond Art Center and partner with the District. Mr. Ambrose presented a report about their outreach program and how it has grown over the last two years. He shared that the Richmond Art Center has been a part of the Bay Area and the Richmond community's cultural fabric for nearly eighty years making it one of the oldest arts organizations in California. He shared that the Center is known for its pathway of lifelong learning for people of all ages, backgrounds and interests. He provided information about the art in the community program taking place at sixteen sites, engaging approximately 1,600 students. The Center partners with Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, the California 4H, as well as the UC Berkeley Art Practice Program. He spoke of the program continuing to evolve.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg commended the Richmond Art Center and spoke of the embodiment of District's mission to involve the whole child, whole community. She thanked Mr. Ambrose for the center's work in the community.

President Groves said he appreciated the partnership and asked how to continue to support the program. Mr. Ambrose spoke of capacity and funding as well as evaluation of the program. He concluded by commenting on professional development as well as the learning, fun, and feeling of accomplishment.

Ms. Block said the Art Center was a gem in the community. She asked about the percentage of schools taking part in the program. Mr. Ambrose spoke of the challenge to afford transportation and 2,000 students touring the studio. He said that most activities take place after school, showing new opportunities beyond formal education.

Ms. Cuevas asked Mr. Ambrose for his perspective of art as a bridge with the Common Core curriculum standards. Mr. Ambrose responded that they are studying how to integrate the standards. He said that more resources are needed to assist with the study and analysis of Common Core standards.

Mr. Enos said he appreciated Mr. Ambrose's work and the ability to transfer education and art to critical thinking skills for the college going culture of students.

### **D.2 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goals & Progress Indicators Report #2**

Nicole Joyner, Chief Accountability/Data Officer, provided the second report on LCAP progress indicators. She reviewed increases for ELL proficiency on CELT testing and spoke of baseline and goals for this year and next. She provided information about EL reclassification rate increases, Healthy Kids survey parent response rates, as well as recruiting and training high quality teachers and principals. Her report included data for eight of the measures in the LCAP as well as a graphical representation of what the District's overall data dashboard. .

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Board Comment:**

Student Representative Jamonnie Price said that some of the information presented was familiar to her. She asked about performance on the CAHSEE. She would like to see improvement for students passing each portion of the test with the first attempt.

Ms. Block asked about methods to increase parent survey responses. Ms. Joyner responded with information about involvement of school community workers and school site involvement. Ms. Block continued with questions about the percentage increase on CELT testing as well as administrative movement or placement of principals. Ms. Joyner spoke of challenges in the initial writing of the Plan without baseline data, saying that review will require looking at data and making modifications. Superintendent Harter provided information about the commitment requirement for principals to stay at the school for four years as a foundational approach. He also addressed retirements, promotions, as well as voluntary and involuntary reassignments.

Mr. Enos commented on linking test scores and curriculum taught, as well as student preparation for exams.

Ms. Kronenberg talked about English Language Learners reclassification and the state time limit. Ms. Joyner responded with information about looking at students in two different groups – those who have been here five years or more and those who have been here five years or less. Superintendent Harter responded with information about state funding only for students who have been here five years or fewer. Ms. Rashidchi shared information about the EL Master Plan's focus and addressing EL Learner needs, placement of teachers and professional development.

Mr. Marin Trujillo spoke about children very close to meeting CELT criteria. He said that staff might use informal reassessment of the domain of CELT to analyze, work with the student, retest and then reclassify. He said that often this is handled student by student, one at a time, helping the student take ownership of their own learning.

Ms. Cuevas asked about some of the other indicators and assessment for measuring how students are doing. Ms. Joyner spoke of the partnership with UC Berkeley for transcript evaluation service and getting quarterly reports for each student. She also spoke of various other reports and measures.

Superintendent Harter spoke of the 49 LCAP indicators, of which 20 are state required. He said that the dashboard will be a tool to look at a moment in time for any holistic indicator. Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the over-time reporting with district-wide information and benchmark assessments.

President Groves commended the work done to provide data in a consolidated place. He spoke of interest in a larger study of meta data to track student trajectory and patterns that could be used at an earlier time to keep students on track.

## **E. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**United Teachers of Richmond.** President Robert Mann congratulated Mr. Groves and Mr. Enos on their election to the seats of President and Clerk of the Board. He also congratulated Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Block and Ms. Cuevas on their election. He said he looked forward to working with new Board.

**Public Employees Union, Local One.** Business Agent Jeff Apkarian offered congratulations and welcome to the new Board Members. He spoke in support of the employee benefits package item on the agenda and the approach for mutual benefit to employees. He said he was hopeful for positive negotiations going forward.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi said the next meeting was planned for January 13, at DeAnza High School. She spoke of the recent event to support teachers who have been with the District between one and three years. She said that 150 teachers attended to share successes, challenges, and look at solutions. The event was well attended with good feedback. She shared that Board Member Enos promoted the event. Mr. Enos thanked Ms. Rashidchi and staff for making the event a success.

**Facilities Subcommittee.** Ms. Kronenberg said that the next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2015.

**Safety and School Climate Committee.** Mr. Greer thanked the El Cerrito High School staff for handling the recent bomb scare with professionalism. He spoke of the cooperation with the El Cerrito Police Department and Communications Director Marcus Walton in getting the message out to parents and working with media to let people know that the children were safe.

**Technology Subcommittee.** Ms. Phillips said the next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2015.

**Youth Commission.** President Groves reported on the next meeting planned for January 11, 2015.

**E.2 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report on activity in the District.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**F.1 First Interim Report, 2014-2015**

Ms. Gamba provided a detailed financial update for the reporting period through October 31 2014.

Student Representative Jamonnie Price left the meeting for the evening.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Studdiford

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Cuevas had comments regarding the enrollment demographic study and enrollment driven growth. Ms. Gamba and Superintendent Harter provided information regarding the impact of charter schools on enrollment. Ms. Cuevas had questions regarding the District's STRs obligation, and salary increases through negotiations. Ms. Gamba said it was helpful to know Board Member's interests for inclusion in future reports.

Ms. Block had questions about the District's attendance rates. Ms. Gamba spoke about the current high percentages and explained that student excused absences are no longer applicable for Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Students do not qualify for ADA if not in class. Mr. Greer spoke of meeting the goal of 95% attendance last year and the challenge of mobility within the community. He said that the Full Service Community Schools program was developed to address improved attendance. Superintendent Harter also spoke of chronic non-attenders.

Ms. Block continued with questions about technology budgets and hiring for temporary contracts. Both Ms. Gamba and Mr. Whittemore responded with clarification.

**MOTION: Ms. Block moved adoption of the First Interim Report, 2014-2015. 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.**

**F.2 Benefits Package for all employees for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 / AB 1200 Public Disclosure**

Mr. Whittemore provided details regarding the bargaining agreement with all union groups for the 80 - 20 percent split for employee benefits based on the Bay Area Kaiser rates. The Kaiser rates will decrease for 2015 while rates for other benefit groups will increase resulting in a financial impact to many employees. He explained that the bargaining units approached the District to ask consideration in keeping costs at last year's rates. At that time, the Board approved a memorandum of understanding to allow negotiations outside the contract where each group considered and agreed on a concession back to the District. Mr. Whittemore asked the Board to consider and approve the benefits package rates for all employees to be implemented for the January 1, 2015 period.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Mann, Jeff Apkarian

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of this as a positive solution and showing collaboration with the labor groups, taking care of one another. She spoke in favor of approval.

Mr. Enos commended the measured steps toward building positive relations with the labor groups.

Ms. Cuevas said that she celebrated the instances of collaborative work, willingness and tenor to move forward with budget decisions.

President Groves said he was mindful of loss of income by employees when the benefit structure changed. He said this was a fair agreement that he was happy to support.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Benefits Package for all employees for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. 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.**

**F.3 Independent Contractor Agreement for Unarmed Security Guard Services**

Mr. Greer provided background about the District's Safety Officers and the three current officers trying to maintain the graveyard shift. The agreement with Public Employees Union Local One will move the officers to day shifts and promote additional protection for students at school sites. The agreement will provide unarmed security protection, including security cameras at high risk areas. This will be an ongoing expense from the general fund. Comparable staffing would require a minimum of five officers with seven-day a week, around the clock service. This will eliminate overtime and holiday costs. The agreement includes alarm response by Silicon Valley Security Patrol (SVSP) and contacting the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
Ms. Block asked about the selection process. Mr. Greer provided information regarding the request for proposals, solicitation of bids responses, review of proposals and of the company that best met the needs of the District.

President Groves spoke of the innovative thinking and responsible manner to keep the community and students safe.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Independent Contractor Agreement for Unarmed Security Guard Services. Ms. Block 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.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Initial Bargaining Proposal from School Supervisors Association (SSA), IFPTE Local 21 to the West Contra Costa Unified School District**

Mr. Whittemore spoke of sunshining the initial proposal of the School Supervisors Association as part of the Educational Employment Relations Act. SSA's works with an open contract and has elected to select three articles for bargaining including salaries, benefits, and leaves. He said this item will return to a future meeting for hearing and action.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
None

**G.2 Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District to School Supervisors Association (SSA), IFPTE Local 21**

Mr. Whittemore spoke of sunshining the initial proposal of the District to School Supervisors Association as part of the Educational Employment Relations Act. He said the District has selected three articles for bargaining including salaries, benefits, and holiday structures. He said this item will return to a future meeting for hearing and action.

**Public Comment:**  
None

**Board Comment:**  
None

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

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

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about this being the last meeting of the year. She said she looked forward to attending student performances this week. She also looked forward to the New Year and wished everyone a good holiday season.

Mr. Enos wished the audience and staff happy holidays and a restful break.

Ms. Block spoke of attending the recent CSBA conference and the time spent with Board colleagues. She said they attended good meetings, heard good speakers and came away with the sense that the Board will work well together. She looked forward to working with the Board for the best interests of students.

Ms. Cuevas thanked everyone for their time and reminded the public of the committee appointed to explore the renaming of Gompers High School. She encouraged the public to be engaged in the process as an opportunity to learn more about Sylvester Greenwood and what he represented to the community. She said that dates will be scheduled in the New Year. She said she look forward to the January retreat to talk and work together as a Board. She concluded by wishing students, families, teachers, and staff a wonderful holiday season.

President Groves spoke about the good week at the CSBA conference with Board members returning full of information. He said the presidents' workshop he attended gave him a clear sense of focus to forge unity of purpose for the Board. He said he looked forward to a lot of thoughtful discussion about direction in order to serve the students of the community.

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

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – December 17, 2014

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Groves adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

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

BH:dh

***R. Enos***  
Approved 1/7/15