

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
October 29, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

November 4: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

November 8: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 6:00 PM

November 9: Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM

November 11: Veterans' Day Holiday

Next Board of Education Meeting November 4– Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Closed session will begin at 4:30 PM.

Communications Update–Ryan Phillips

[WCCUSD in the News: Week ending October 29, 2021](#)

October 25, 2021

East Bay Times - [Students at three Richmond schools sent home after foul odor hits campus](#)- Rick Hurd
A strong odor on the campuses of three Richmond schools on Monday caused the school to send its students home, employees from the school. Dr. Kenneth Hurst said "staff became aware of a smell of gas in the air on the campuses of three of our school sites... PG&E alerted us to follow normal procedures and close each of the schools where the odor was detected,". PG&E spokesman John Kaufman said "We [PG&E] have not received any indication that we have a natural gas leak near the high school specifically," Matthew Kaufmann, Contra Costa County's director of hazardous materials programs, said "crews did not detect any air monitoring readings of concern at these locations." He also said the refinery still was occasionally flaring on Monday."

San Francisco Chronicle - [Richmond school closed amid mysterious gas odor](#) - Andres Picon
Richmond High School sent students and staff home early Monday following reports of a gas odor in the air, the source of which remained unclear. Kenneth Chris Hurst, superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, said Pacific Gas & Electric Co. notified administrators that there was a gas leak in the area, prompting the school to shut down for the day. However, PG&E says its representatives investigating in the area have not found any evidence of a gas leak. "We have found no presence of gas that is leaking, and we have not received any calls or indication that there is a natural gas leak near the high school specifically," said John Kaufman, a PG&E spokesperson. Some people speculated on social media that the gas smell may have originated at the nearby Chevron refinery as a result of gas flaring.

The Richmond Standard - [Richmond High drumline takes first place in Santa Cruz competition](#) - Kathy Chouteau

Marching to the beat of their own drummers is working out just fine for the Richmond High School drumline, which took first place in the 50th Santa Cruz Band Review Marching Band Competition Sat., Oct. 16, according to the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). Richmond High's band beat out more than 50 Northern California high schools and middle schools that competed in the annual musical parade and which were judged in categories including music, showmanship and marching. "not only by showing them a glimpse of the world beyond our city limits, but [also by] showing them that they

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can thrive in that world. It is important that we are representing our city in a positive light to other communities throughout the state,” said Band Director Andrew Wilke. Fresh off their first place finish, the band will polish off the football season and will start preparing for the upcoming Richmond High School Music concert on Dec. 16th.



October 27, 2021

The Richmond Standard - [Substitute teacher shortage in Contra Costa County prompts job fair](#) - Alex Aldax

A shortage of substitute teachers and other school personnel in Contra Costa County has prompted a job fair scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, in Pleasanton. “We are facing a shortage of educators in our community and across our state,” Superintendent Lynn Mackey said. The West Contra Costa Unified School District is among the districts attending the job fair.