



**WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Academic Committee**  
Zoom Video Conference

**April 26, 2021**  
**Minutes**

**I. Opening Procedures**

**A. Roll Call, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement**

Chairperson Jamela Smith-Folds called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy read the land acknowledgement.

**Committee Members Present:** Jamela Smith-Folds, Demetrio Gonzalez-Hoy

**Staff/Presenters Present:** Rubén Aurelio, Associate Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer of Educational Services; Sherri Rivenbark, Administrative Assistant; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Christi Roscigno, Director of English Learner Achievement and Literacy; William McGee, Director of OAASA; Gabriel Chilcott, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Kristen Hardy, SELPA Director; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Director of Special Education Secondary; Rachel Avanesian, Director of Special Education Elementary; Michael Gonzales, Council of Elders; Tony Wold, Associate Superintendent of Business Services

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Smith-Folds asked Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy for a motion to approve the agenda or if he had any changes. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy moved approval of the agenda with no changes and Chair Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

**C. Public Comment**

Brandon Brown

**D. Staff Update**

Mr. Aurelio provided an update on the Spring reopening of schools. We welcomed back 6338 students on Monday, April 19th to all 54 schools. It was wonderful to see all the students and families showing up. We would like to serve more of our students that would like to come back and continue to work on increasing the number of adults on campus to serve them.

Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy asked how many hubs and interventions that we have at all of the schools. Both Trustees asked that this be included in a Friday memo with the breakdown of the demographics of the students that we are serving. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy shared that he is currently working at a hub with 8 students and it is exciting to work with them. For the school he is working at and hearing from others, we don't have a second person in every classroom and we over promised to families and staff and it is challenging for the teacher to work with students over zoom and in person. He recognizes that staff is working hard to serve as many students as possible along with taking the precautions.

Trustee Smith-Folds stated that the district needs to be transparent with the number of kids that are being served and where we are with the intention that was set to serve the neediest students. Are we meeting what we set out to do?

Trustee Smith-Folds wants to make sure the district is implementing the protocols that were set in place when there's a positive COVID case in the district.

**II. Discussion Items**

**A. Council of Elders Proposal**

Michael Gonzales, from the Council of Elders, opened up with an overview of who the Council of Elders are. They consist of former administrators, teachers, parents, grandparents, educational researchers and other professionals. They want to support the district in supporting African American children in the areas that they believe are unmet and some unique needs of African American children.

Gabriel Chilcott and Michael Gonzales presented a proposal on a pilot for a program hub and social emotional mentors. The proposal is to work with Rich City Kids to pilot tutoring/push-in into the existing class structure along with mentoring for a one year pilot for a total of \$100,000. This will be piloted in three schools: Mira Vista, Ohlone and Murphy for approximately 75 students. Rich City Kids is an academically focused organization run by a former WCCUSD teacher that uses a variety of platforms to engage students from the creative arts to more traditional academic approaches.

Trustees' questions were around the number of students targeted, how were the schools picked, what measurements/data are we using to measure success of the program, is the funding paying for the contract with Rich City Kids or also the teachers. Trustees' questions continued around the strategies/tangibles that will be left with teachers, students and families after the pilot program is complete.

**Public Comment:**

Antoinette Henry-Evans; Asedo Wilson

**Discussion:**

Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy discussed the achievement gap, giving the program a chance, having an update in 6 month or a year to revisit it to see how it is working, and would like more information on the program/contract. Trustee Smith-Folds would like Rich City Kids to come back with a presentation with the initial testing, assessments, points of growth. In essence, an IEP for each student. Data needs to be embedded in the contract.

**Motion:** Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy motioned for a 10 minutes recess until 5:00 PM. Chairperson Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried

**B. Summer School Update/Special Education (SPED) & Extended School Year (ESY) Update**

Gabriel Chilcott introduced Rachel Avanesian and Sonja Neely-Johnson, Directors of Special Education who provided an overview of the summer programming for Extended School Year (ESY) for self contained Special Education students. Mr. Chilcott provided an overview of the summer programming for all other students that are not in ESY for Elementary, Middle and High School. Mr. McGee provided an overview from the Office of African American Student Achievement (OAASA) which includes the Freedom School partnership for Black and African American students, STEAM for girls and resources for Black students, families and employees.

Trustees asked questions around surveys for general education students/families, the number of teachers needed, will program offerings be listed on the school's websites and general offerings on the district website, class size numbers, the number of elementary students were not listed on presentation-asked to include in Friday memo, newcomer program at elementary level, and COVID safety measures. Trustees questions continued around stressors when serving food to students, number of safety personnel, aides, and IEP assessments.

**Public Comment:**

Mariela Cuellar

**Discussion:**

Trustees would like the presentation to come to the full board with adjustments based on trustees questions. They would also like the Safety Committee to discuss safety measures for summer since it is a larger program. They want to make sure that PPE is in place for summer. They want to make sure that SPED is at the tables when making plans and proposals. Would like site based options to continue in the Fall with buy in from staff.

**Motion:** Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy motioned to extend the meeting to 6:10 PM. Chairperson Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried

**Public Comment:**

A hand was raised for public comment and allowed for Jean Kintscher to speak

**III. Academic Committee Next Meeting**

The next meeting date was set for Monday, May 24, 2021 but it will be a short meeting due to the reclassification ceremony that night and then June 28, 2021. There will possibly be another meeting in May before the 24th or between the 24th and June 28th.

**IV. Future Agenda Items**

May 24-New School Programs (VAPA, Virtual, Academies, Afro-centric school) & Ethnic Studies;  
June 28-Race & Equity Update;  
Additional future agenda items-Invite Dr. Hurst to come and speak with the Academic Committee;  
Conversation about Fall opening in June or July and all things academic.

**V. Adjournment**

Chairperson Smith-Folds adjourned the meeting at 6:11 PM.