



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Academic Committee
Zoom Video Conference

May 24, 2021
Minutes

I. Opening Procedures

A. Roll Call, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Jamela Smith-Folds called the meeting to order at 4:00 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; Sherri Rivenbark; Administrative Assistant; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Edith Jordan-McCormick, Principal of Vista and new Virtual School; William McGee, Director of African-American Student Achievement; Dr. Sarah Breed, Director of Learner-Centered Design; Dr. Linda Delgado, Consultant; Dr. Tony Wold, Associate Superintendent of Business Services; Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Superintendent

B. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Smith-Folds asked if any changes to the agenda and there were none. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy moved approval of the agenda and Chair Smith-Folds seconded. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

None

II. Discussion Items

A. New School Programs

(Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA), Academies, Afro-centric school)

Mr. Aurelio provided a brief update on choice programs that the district currently offers and where the district is with the new and potential new programs for the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts for Elementary and Secondary, the Trades pathway, an Outdoor School, Crespi's approval to move forward with grade 6 for 2021-2022 school year and the Mandarin school is moving to Pinole Middle's campus for 2021-2022 school year. Mr. McGee along with consultant Dr. Delgado from EdMetrix provided a deeper update on the exploration and planning that has occurred with the planning committee and what will still need to occur for a new proposed Afrocentric school to potentially open.

Public Comment:

Audrey Shields; Zelon Harrison; Scottie Smith; Jamersina Preston

Discussion/Questions:

Dr. Delgado clarified her role as a consultant for the Afrocentric school and Mr. McGee also clarified Dr. Delgado's role and clarified that this is the start of the process to work with the community, planning committee and Superintendent Dr. Hurst.

Chair Smith-Folds gave staff an open invite to come back to and provide updates on new/potential programs along with the Afrocentric school to the Academic Committee as they go through the process. Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy recommended a special meeting for the Afrocentric school be added in the future to go over a timeline for opening. Chair Smith-Folds

recommended setting it up as a town hall meeting with panel members and to get community input.

B. Virtual School Update

Mrs. Jordan-McCormick provided the Academic Committee with an update on the progress of the WCCUSD virtual school that will open in the 2021/2022 school year. Dr. Wold provided an update on the budget for the virtual school.

Public Comment:

Kim Chamberlain; Celetta Hunter

Discussion/Questions:

Trustee Gonzalez-Hoy has questions that he will send to Mr. Aurelio to put into a Friday memo. He shared concerns from the community around not being comfortable with going to regular school due to COVID at this time and families enrolling students for short term and then wanting to go back to home school. Is there collaboration with Middle College for students to take any online courses?

Chair Smith-Folds doesn't want this virtual school to be in response to COVID and kids are coming in and out. The district needs to provide another point of access for families that need a COVID option. She has questions around a counselor and RSP teacher for school. She shared again that an Info Night for families would be advertised soon and Mrs. Jordan-McCormick's email and phone number are listed on the slide deck for families to contact her.

Dr. Hurst shared that the virtual school is not a COVID solution and that needs to be communicated to the community. Also, a discussion needs to take place on what the district's COVID solution will be, if any, with the board. Dr. Wold shared the Governor's May Revision language on independent study rules and regulations.

IV. Academic Committee Next Meeting

The next meeting date was set for Monday, June 7, 2021 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. moved from June 28, 2021, August 23, 2021 and September 27, 2021.

IV. Future Agenda Items

June 7, 2021-Special Education Local Plan, Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Universal Guidance & Bylaws, and Standardized Testing.

Additional agenda items-Social Emotional curriculum for Fall; special meeting or town hall for Afrocentric School

VI. Adjournment

Chairperson Smith-Folds adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.