

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

**April 22, 2009**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Audrey Miles called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Miles called the Public Session to order at 6:38 PM.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Miles led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

President Miles offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Audrey Miles, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

**Staff Present:** Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Pat Calvert, Director Certificated Personnel; Martin Coyne, Director Accounting/Audits; Lisa Erwin, Executive Director Business Services; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Human Resources, Luis Freese, Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; David Johnston, Director General Services; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Supervisor; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Phyllis Rosen, Legal Assistant; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement.

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Cari Tam, Middle College High School**

**B.7 Minutes:** April 1, 2009; April 4, 2009; April 6, 2009

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of the minutes of April 1, 2009; April 4, 2009; and April 6, 2009. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tam (advisory vote only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- C.1 Contracted Services
- C.2 Grants/Awards/Agreements
- C.3 Acceptance of Donations
- C.4 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities
- C.5 Notification of Claim Approvals and Settlement Payments
- C.6 Summary of Payroll and Vendor Warrant Reports
- C.7 Notice of Completions: Bid J068111 Dover Demolition and Site work, J068112 King Demolition Site work and Temporary Playground, E068142 Pinole Valley HS Exterior Lighting
- C.8 Resolution No. 80-0809: Credential Assignment Options

President Miles expressed congratulations to Middle College and noted that some of her former students have graduated from the school.

**D.2 Grand Jury Report No. 0907**

Ms. Gamba introduced this item saying that in 2008-09 the Contra Costa County Grand Jury conducted an inquiry regarding health care benefits with different types of districts throughout Contra Costa County. She said that the findings made it clear that governmental agencies, including West Contra Costa USD, do not and will not have the financial ability to sustain the plans that are currently in place. She said that the Government Code requires a response which is due June 1, 2009. Ms. Gamba said she is preparing a response for Board approval at the May 20 Board meeting.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Medrano spoke about his service on the Contra Costa County Grand Jury six years ago when they faced the same issue all over the state and said the time has come to address the problem.

Ms. Kronenberg said the issue has grown to such an enormous size and this report underscores how this is a statewide issue that every governing board must address.

Mr. Thurmond inquired about the actuarial estimates and how the actual costs are determined.

Ms. Gamba responded and explained that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board adopted a standard for all governmental agencies which requires the District to put this liability before the public.

Mr. Thurmond inquired about the number of years of service required for eligibility for retiree benefits and how the benefits work with other programs like Medicare.

Superintendent Harter responded that the District is part of CalPERS and pays the costs of health benefits for retired employees plus their dependents up to age 65 when Medicare begins and the District pays a supplement. He continued that employees hired before January 1, 2007 require five years of service and those employed subsequently require 10 years of service for eligibility.

incidents from occurring. He said at the next meeting on May 13 the focus will be around helping students find summer jobs.

Mr. Medrano provided a summary of the Facilities Subcommittee Meeting that occurred on April 8 which included discussion about project schedule, concerns of equity throughout the District, security fencing, the emergency repair program, traffic concerns in El Cerrito and anti-graffiti coating.

**D.5 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

Superintendent Harter recognized community members who recently passed away.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Studdiford spoke in remembrance of Don Lewis.

Mike Wasilchin spoke in remembrance of Don Lewis and Bill Young.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey spoke on behalf of Don Lewis and Mike Cornell and their major contributions to the District.

Mr. Medrano spoke in remembrance of Don Lewis and his concern for social justice.

President Miles spoke about Don Lewis and Bill Young and thanked the families of all the lost loved ones.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of Don Lewis and his service to the community.

**E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

**E.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Wasilchin spoke about recognizing classified employees in future presentations.

**E.2 Request to Address the Board on Growing West County School Gardens**

Ms. Miles indicated this item is being pulled.

Ms. Romeo said this item was not acknowledged in the agenda readjustment so there should be a motion and second to pull the item.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to pull Item E.2 from the agenda. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Tam (Advisory Vote Only) and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**E.3 Request to Address the Board on the Gooden Family Scholarship Fund Scholar Project Recipients**

Ruth Kleinman of the Gooden Family Scholarship Fund described the Fund's mission to assist low income high school students in the WCCUSD who demonstrated academic success to be accepted into four year colleges. She described how the scholar program works. Five of the seven students who successfully completed the program introduced themselves, announcing the colleges they were accepted to and financial aid they received.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond congratulated all the students on their accomplishments. He thanked Ms. Kleinman and Mr. Gooden for their support of district students.

Mr. Ramsey congratulated the students and recognized one student who is also part of the Ivy League Connection program. He thanked Mr. Gooden for his work.

Mr. Medrano congratulated the students and Mr. Gooden, saying he is very proud of the students and their successes.

Ms. Kronenberg congratulated the students and praised Mr. Gooden and his approach.

President Miles congratulated the students and thanked Mr. Gooden and Ms. Kleinman for their support. She encouraged others to provide support and funding of scholarships within the District.

- C.9 Resolution No. 79-0809: Declaration to Hire 30-Day Substitutes on CBEST Waivers**  
Ms. Romeo recommended tabling the item and bringing it back at the next Board meeti

**C.23 Resolution No. 84-0809: In Support of May 19 Ballot Measures**

**Public Comment:** Charles Rachlis, Susan Billings

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond inquired whether the vote would be on the entire resolution or portions.  
Superintendent Harter responded.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the need to support this resolution because she did not see any other options.

Mr. Medrano spoke in favor of all items referring to support by Richmond Vision and other community organizations and moving approval.

**F.3 Contract for Commercial Real Estate and Consulting Services**

**Public Comment:** Jill Wolkenfeld

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey offered reasons to use caution and wait on this decision.

Ms. Miles asked about the timing of this item.

Superintendent Harter responded and spoke about having a long term plan.