

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

May 6, 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 6:34 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; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Lisa Erwin, Senior Director Fiscal Services; Othilia Espinoza, Translator; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Luis Freese, Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Harlan Kerr, Coordinator Educational Services; Barbara Mallon, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Supervisor; Elmer Meredith, Electronics Technician; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Janet Scott, Peres Principal.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel seven (7) students and suspend those seven (7) expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Miles voted yes, with Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Thurmond abstaining due to absence from Closed Session. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to adopt the agenda with a correction to the title of G. 1 and the tabling of C.10. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Payton (advisory vote only) and Ms. Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: April 22, 2009

MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to approve the Minutes of April 22, 2009. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond, Student Representative Payton (advisory vote only) and Ms. Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

- C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements
- C.2 Acceptance of Donations
- C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities
- C.4 Acceptance of Contracts for Placement of Student Teachers
- C.5 Notification of Claims Rejected
- C.6 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts
This item was pulled for discussion and moved to follow Section E.
- C.7 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

D.6 Standing Reports

Committee Reports:

Mr. Richard Leung, Public Employees Union Local One, spoke about classified employees' week and employee benefits.

Mr. Ramsey reported on the Ivy League Connection and a recent function with Brown University alumni and a potential mentoring program, as well as a DeAnza student recently accepted to Yale University.

Mr. Thurmond reported on an upcoming Safety Committee meeting May 13, 6:00 PM at Hercules Middle High School where safety of schools and community and summer opportunities will be topics for discussion.

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.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment:

Mike Mahoney, Tammy Campbell, Leatha Ellie Ferreira, Mike Wasilchin, Robert Studdiford, Christina Slamon

CONSENT ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM SECTION C:

C.6 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

Public Comment:

Sharon Farrell asked the Board to reconsider the Portola relocation at El Cerrito High School and consider the temporary lower pad on the existing campus.

Board Comment:

Mr. Ramsey spoke in support of bifurcation of this item for separate votes, as well as the cost of relocating Portola students, further cost information received after the initial decision, and shared campuses. Mr. Bill Fay responded about a truncated process that was followed by objections from the City of El Cerrito. Mr. Ramsey asked further questions about the contract process. Mr. Fay responded that the District did not go through an RFP process. Mr. Ramsey clarified the mechanics of the agreement and asked for further explanation of the expense, timeline, and educational impact. Superintendent Harter responded that the direction from the Board was to move expeditiously to relocate students with the earliest time to take up residency in the temporary facility during winter break. Mr. Ramsey addressed questions about impact of any lawsuit with the City. Mr. Fay spoke about timelines not committing to expectations for a Fall relocation, as well as potential legal challenges.

Ms. Miles asked what the District is currently doing to work with the City of El Cerrito. Mr. Fay responded that discussions continue to take place all along the process.

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the change in the scope of work due to changes in circumstances and that he agrees that aggressive strategies are necessary to work with the City and families in the community to create investment in the decisions. He asked that staff restate the circumstances that changed the scope of the project to requiring a full EIR and an update of the timeline of proposed project.

Mr. Savidge spoke about initial meetings with staff from the City of El Cerrito where they expressed a range of concerns regarding traffic, student safety, neighborhood impacts, and support of a full EIR and expanded traffic study. He spoke about a formal request from the City summarizing the requests which was used for the basis of expanding the scope of services with contractor PMC in order to work cooperatively with the City. The decision was approved by the Facilities Subcommittee to bring this item back to the Board as a full Environmental Impact Report.

Ms. Miles asked questions about the environmental impact study and whether it considers the value of educational programs. Mr. Savidge responded.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the initial approval to move students to expedite the project and the possibility to revisit the decision.

Ms. Miles commented about the value of the education and services available for students as well as additional costs.

Board Comment:

Ms. Kronenberg, who teaches at the adult education school in Hayward, spoke about the “go to people” on her campus: site supervisor, custodian and office manager, who make it possible to deliver educational services.
Mr. Medrano said he always makes it a point to stop and sp

