

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

**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:** Alejandra Alonso, Interpreter; Doris Avalos, Executive Director; Andre Bell, Senior Director Bond Finance; Pat Calvert, Director Certificated Employees; Jeri Cohen, Coordinator Homeless Program; Martin Coyne, Director Accounting/Audits; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Lisa Erwin, Sr. Director Fiscal; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified Employees; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance and Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent for Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Debbie Haynie, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Sue Kahn, Principal, Pinole Valley High School; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Ken McDaniel, Electronics Supervisor; Linda Jackson, Executive Director; Emily Millar, Director Employee Relations; Barbara Mallon, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services; Vince Rhea, Executive Director; Jessica Romeo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bill Savidge, District Engineering Officer; Marin Trujillo, Coordinator Community Engagement.

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative Cindy Pineda, North Campus Continuation High School**

Ms. Pineda was absent.

**B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel three (3) students and suspend those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to expel three (3) students and suspend those expulsions for placement within the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, and President Miles voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the administrative appointment of Jean Hansen as Interim Principal at Peres Elementary School.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Jean Hansen as Interim Principal at Peres Elementary School. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, and President Miles voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to approve the administrative appointment of Pamala Blake as Director of Adult and Alternative Education.

**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the vote taken in Closed Session to appoint Pamala Blake as Director of Adult and Alternative Education. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, and President Miles voted yes, with Mr. Thurmond abstaining and no absences. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**



**D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS**

**D.1 Honor Student Cooper Frye and his Math League Coach Mr. Todd Groves**

Ms. Rashidchi asked Ms. Mallon to introduce Mr. Todd Groves and Cooper Frye. Cooper, a student at Portola Middle School, was recognized for winning first place in his individual competitions at the Diablo Regional Math Counts Competition. He also represented the district at state level competition. Mr. Todd Groves, Math League teacher and volunteer at Portola and other schools, was presented with a certificate of recognition for coaching Cooper and other students for their math league competition.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comment:** None

**D.2 Recognition of Ford and Washington Elementary Schools – State Title I Academic Achievement Awards (AAA) Program**

Ms. Rashidchi asked to delay this item on the agenda to allow Ford Elementary students to arrive from another engagement.

**Motion: Mr. Ramsey moved to allow this item to follow item D.7. Mr. Thurmond seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**D.3 Recognition of 2008 – 2009 Valedictorians of the Year**

Mr. Greer introduced Executive Directors Ms. Avalos and Ms. Jackson who acknowledged three students from each of the six comprehensive high schools, Middle College High School, and Vista High School.

Principal Sue Kahn, also President of the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League (ACCAL), spoke on behalf of the League, athletic directors and coaches at this o

**Motion:** Mr. Ramsey moved that staff be directed to move forward with reconstruction plans for Coronado Elementary School, to meet with the site selection team for architect selection, and to return June 24 with recommendations and initial steps for master programming. Mr. Thurmond seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

**D.5 Recognition of WCCUSD National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Teachers**

Mr. Greer spoke about National Board certification of teachers. Ms. Avalos introduced Tara Hills teacher Cinda Rapp who acknowledged other certified teachers in the audience and introduced the 2009 National Board Certified Teacher Stephanie Serrano.

**D.6 Families in Transition – Homeless Education Program**

Ms. Rashidchi introduced Jeri Cohen, Coordinator Homeless Program, who spoke about the program and how homelessness affects children and families. Ms. Cohen acknowledged staff members who put in outreach hours with the program. Ms. Barbara Johnson, representing Congressman George Miller, expressed thanks for the work done through the Families in Transition Program and by Ms. Cohen to secure grant funding as it is incredibly hard but important work. Ms. Rashidchi presented Ms. Cohen with a certificate to recognize her dedication to the community.

**Public Comment:** Luis Perez, Cheryl Maier, Roberto Reyes

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond spoke about the context of the number of identified homeless students in the district being equal to the enrollment of some schools. He asked the team to let the Board know what support is needed to continue their efforts in tough economic times and thanked them for continuing the work to keep resources flowing.

Ms. Kronenberg said that as an adult education teacher, she has students that have lost homes. She said that this program is a safety net for many families and acknowledged their work as well as support from the City of Richmond.

Mr. Medrano spoke about housing foreclosures in West County and concern for students of displaced families. The work of churches and community organizations supports the Nevin Community Center and the Families in Transition program. He commended Ms. Cohen for her work.

Ms. Miles thanked Ms. Cohen for all her work and spoke of lifelines provided to the community.

Mr. Ramsey said the presentation was informative and expressed willingness to assist young people placed in unfair situations. He said that without assistance, many talented young people won't reach their full potential. He thanked Ms. Cohen for bringing awareness to the public.

**D.7 Richmond Tales: The Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle**

Ms. Mallon and Marin Trujillo presented copies of t Marild Tf3 Tc 0.428.28fnn BT/1 50.3n fn( )3( )-33n for bringing aware93.7811

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said it is exciting to see the achievements of Ford and Washington and acknowledged current and former administrators at these schools.

Mr. Medrano said he is pleased to have visited Ford and Washington, urging others to visit the schools' programs.

Ms. Kronenberg acknowledged the achievements in overcoming odds for academic excellence.

Ms. Miles offered congratulations to both schools.

**D.8 Budget Report Updates**

Ms. Gamba provided an update of information for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 budgets with developments since the failure of the May ballot initiatives.

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey asked a procedural question regarding the Third Interim Report, 2008-09. Ms. Gamba and Ms. Romeo provided clarification.

**Public Comment:** Al Kirkman, Tammy Campbell, Roberto Reyes, Kristen Pursley, Enrique Estrada, Isenia De Lira, Ken Ryan, Luis Ornelas, Suzanne Skrivanrch

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Miles clarified that Bond funds can only be spent on facilities.

Mr. Thurmond commented on a recent discussion with federal Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and federal



**E.2 Request to Address the Board – Kenneth Nelson Representing Richmond NAACP**

Mr. Nelson, President of Richmond Branch of NAACP, thanked Superintendent Harter for hosting the recent town hall meeting regarding a Portola incident. He said his organization has questions of the protocols for agencies called to protect children. He expressed concerns regarding police security on campuses, agreements between the district and city agencies, and procedures for law enforcement in the educational environment.

**Public Comment:** Tammy Campbell, Corky Boozé

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Thurmond asked whether the NAACP had been in touch with parent organizations at Portola and reported that he has heard parents talk about wanting to make Portola a safe campus. Mr. Nelson responded affirmatively.

Ms. Kronenberg said she is a believer in Challenge Day projects for middle schools as well as Anti-Defamation League training.

Mr. Medrano said he is in support of any program that encourages communication.

Ms. Miles spoke about a healing process in communities when acts of violence occur.

**E.3 WCCUSD Public Comment**

Nery Esperanza Giulbert Cano, Diane Brown, Margaret Browne, Kristen Pursley, Charles Rachlis, Roberto Reyes,



**MOTION: Mr. Medrano moved approval of Resolution No. 94-0809 Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2009-10, Preliminarily Approving Engineer's Report and providing for Notice of a Public Hearing. Mr. Ramsey seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Thurmond and President Miles voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0 motion carried.**

- F.5 Resolution No. 95-0809: Adoption of Notice and Hearing Schedule Pursuant to Education Code §44955.5**  
Ms. Romeo presented information regarding adoption of the budget and the need for an August layoff as a result of the determination of reduced revenue for 2009-10. She indicated that Education Code §44955.5 provides for the adoption of a schedule for the notice and hearing process for affected employees, and adoption of this proposed schedule will allow staff to bring forward a resolution to reduce particular kinds of services at the June 24, 2009 Board meeting.

**Public Comment:** Pixie Hayward Schickele

**Board Comment:**

Ms. Miles asked for further clarification for this resolution. Ms. Romeo explained that this resolution would only establish timelines in the event that additional certificated layoffs were required. She said that without adopting this resolution, the Board would be prevented from moving forward with an August layoff.

Ms. Kronenberg asked for clarification regarding the timeline. Ms. Romeo detailed recommendations from the Office of Administrative Hearings to insure that decisions can be made in a timely manner.

Mr. Ramsey said this resolution will give flexibility to address potential budget short falls and cautioned against handicapping the district.

Mr. Medrano asked about the number of positions considered for layoffs. Ms. Romeo said that number is dependent on other actions taken by the State of California and the Board.

Ms. Miles asked questions about July funding expectations. Ms. Gamba responded regarding cash flow deferrals for 2008-09 and State withholding of July funds, retroactive deficit cuts from future apportionments, and further potential deferrals. The district will be required to restructure cash flow projections for the entire next year to determine what that will look like. Ms. Gamba said that preliminary information from the State predicts larger deficits for 2009-10.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the amount of anticipated savings with potential layoffs. Ms. Gamba discussed class size reduction possibilities and other negotiable items. Ms. Romeo was asked for clarification to statements regarding the establishment of dates for layoff hearings and the timeline of June 25th for layoff notices. Ms. Romeo discussed the layoff process and the Education Code recommendation as well as a timeline for staff to determine and process layoffs. Ms. Gamba provided further input regarding Education Code guidelines for the layoff period. Mr. Thurmond asked for understanding of how the district can be effective from an educational standpoint. Superintendent Harter agreed and responded that additional cuts are not in the best interest of children but in trying to keep the district fiscally sound without further State intervention.

Mr. Medrano asked about salaries and benefits of outside police officers hired by the district. Mr. Medrano spoke about cuts to the contracted police, returning campus police and wondered if that might save teachers. Ms. Gamba said she would have to provide that information at a later time. Ms. Medrano continued to discuss sharing cuts across all sections of employees.

Mr. Ramsey said he thinks that Board Member Medrano makes good points; however, the community has said they wanted SRO's on campus. He continued by saying that the State is telling communities that funding must come from local sources. He said he supports the approval of this resolution to allow the Board some flexibility.

Ms. Miles, while supporting this resolution for budgetary purposes, said she agreed with Mr. Medrano to look at all areas for additional cuts to avoid cuts to the classroom.

**MOTION: Mr. Ramsey moved approval of Resolution No. 95-0809: Adoption of Notice and Hearing Schedule Pursuant to Education Code §44955.5. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Mr. Ramsey and President Miles voting yes, Mr. Thurmond voting no, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 4-1-0-0.**

