

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

**April 13, 2011**

**A. CLOSED SESSION**

**B. OPENING PROCEDURES**

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:33 PM.

**B.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ramsey led the pledge of allegiance.

**B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures**

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

**B.3 Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

**Staff Present:** Andre Bell, Executive Director Business Services; Sherry Bell, Coordinator Educational Services; Patricia Calvert, Director Human Resources; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Otilia Espinosa, Interpreter; Cliff Dorton, Electronics Technician; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Erin Fleming, Director Classified

**B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from DeAnza High School**

Ms. Julia Bourey provided a report of activities at DeAnza High School and the recent WASC visitation.

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

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the April 13 recommendation to approve expulsion cases #001 through #013.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the termination of a certificated staff member. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes with Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.**

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session to appoint Mr. Magdy Abdalla as Director of Facilities and Construction.

**Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the appointment of Mr. Magdy Abdalla as Director of Facilities and Construction. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano and President Ramsey voted yes with Ms. Merriweather and Mr. Thurmond abstaining, and no absences. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.**





#### D.4 Budget Update

Ms. Gamba provided a presentation regarding the budget outlook and forecasts of the Governor's budget plan.

##### **Public Comment:**

Anna Maria Ramirez, Gayle Louie, Toni Favila, Janet Johnson, Carlos Rullier, Gustavo Flores, Kristen Pursley, Dulce Flores, Dulce Rodriguez, Cecilia Valdez, Diego Arias, Angelica Michel, Nancy Peer, Ken Ryan, Katherine Sanchez, Carla Villaseñor, Miguel Hernandez, Briana Hernandez, Chevez Ada, Patricia Ornelas, Lucia Acosta, Cecilia Ornelas, Irene Hernandez, Christina Tworek, Maria Amor Salmas, Ricardo Pascual, Jasmine Medina, Eufemia Aguilar

##### **Board Comment:**

None

#### D.5 Standing Reports

**Public Employees Union, Local One.** Marcus Mitchell spoke about the Bell Summer School program and efforts for collaboration in preparation of next year's program. He urged the District to think about what can be done now in preparation for next year's program to look at all options in helping students' success.

**United Teachers of Richmond.** Diane Brown provided a presentation about a survey given to their members in February regarding teacher working conditions and how to better serve students. She spoke about continued planning and building to support student potential.

**Cit Bond Oversight Committee.** Robert Studdiford spoke about the reappointments of committee members. He also announced the next meeting at Dover Elementary, April 27, 6:30 PM. He said this would continue the tradition of holding spring meetings at school sites in order to tour the sites.

**Academic Subcommittee.** Ms. Rashidchi spoke about the last meeting where the committee heard presentations from three textbook publishers. The committee went through a review process to evaluate the various programs, with conclusive agreement about one program; McGraw Hill's Triumph, for both language arts and math.

**Youth Commission.** Mr. Greer reported on the recent meeting, where the group worked on planning their first fund raising event to take place in April. He further said that six schools will participate in the talent show as part of the fund raiser. The next meeting will be April 25, at the RYSE Center at 6:30 PM.

**Linked Learning.** Ms. Kronenberg announced the April 26 meeting, inviting the business community to partner with schools and academies. She said the proposed 21 academies will make the District one of the most robust programs in the state.

**Safety Committee.** Mr. Thurmond reported that the next meeting is planned for May 12 at Kennedy High School, 6:00 PM where the ongoing theme of meetings will continue regarding prevention of safety threats such as crisis situations and

about the District. Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the students working on blog sites linked to the District webpage, as well as the Getting into College website. Mr. Ramsey also commented on ten students recently attending a Pinole City Council meeting to make a presentation.

**D.6 In Memory of Members of the School Community**

Superintendent Harter recognized contributions of members of the community who have passed away.

**Board Comment:**

None

**MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 61-1011: Authorization to Eliminate Classified Positions and Layoff Classified Employees. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond, Student Board Representative Julia Bourey (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.**

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**G.1 Community Roots Academy**

Mr. Wesley Jacques, Director of School, and Dr. Francine Shakir, Director of Family and Community Partnerships, presented their charter school petition. Members of the design team and Board of Directors were in the audience as a show of support. Mr. Jacques presented information with hopes to open the school in 2012.

**Public Comment:**

Pastor Dana Mitchell, Ken Ryan, Paul Buddenhagen, Cecilia Ornales, Mark Alexander, Linda Delgado

9:20 PM - Mr. Thurmond left the meeting.

**Board Comment:**

President Ramsey thanked the group for their presentation.  
Ms. Merriweather asked for a copy of the petition application to review.

**G.3 El Cerrito High School Theater**

Superintendent Harter spoke about the state of the art theater located on the El Cerrito campus and the provided staff report about community use. Principal Jason Reimann spoke about the importance of the use of the theater and resulting challenges while providing community and student access. Ms. Gamba spoke about the current facility use permit process and a fee based use schedule. Mr. Reimann shared information about focus groups that met to determine goals for theater use with student and site access as the priority. From this information a proposal was developed which would include a position for a fulltime employee to coordinate training, work with technical staff, manage inventory and equipment, and which could lead to a full performing arts teaching position.

**Public Comment:**

Karen Shebeck, Robert Studdiford

**Board Comment:**

Mr. Ramsey said he would like to see a commitment for a student theater arts program at El Cerrito High. He asked Dr. Harter to find funds to make use of the facility viable or he could not support construction of similar theaters at other high school sites.

Mr. Medrano said he applauded the idea of developing a full visual performing arts program. He expressed concern that the theater is used by outside agencies before student activity access. He is in support of students having first priority access.

Ms. Merriweather said she is a fan of the visual and performing arts and did not think that an access fee comparable to other similar venues would be an issue for outside groups wanting to use the facility. She supported the idea of a fulltime staff member to develop the program.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke about the current performing arts program at the school, someone to respond and monitor the technical requirements of operating the theater and providing opportunity for students to learn the technical side. She further spoke about the theater being a for profit center to help fund the position of an employee to support the theater and teach that part of the performing arts.

Superintendent Harter asked for direction from the Board for an allocation for the 2011-12 school year to cover the coordinator position to work in the development of the drama program. Thereafter, the resulting visual arts academy in 2012-2013 will use the regular allocation to fund the teaching position as well as all the technical side. He is also seeking Board direction to be able to bring back a modified fee schedule for outside users who should be paying competitive rates for use of the facility. This would then fund supplies and materials that would be necessary.

9:52 PM - Ms. Bourey left the meeting.

