

MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL – WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall – City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Council Members	Board Members
Janet Abelson	Randall Enos
Rebecca Benassini	Todd A. Groves
Jan Bridges	Madeline Kronenberg
Mark Friedman	Elaine R. Merriweather
Greg Lyman	Charles T. Ramsey

ROLL CALL

Present:

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Description of New El Cerrito High School/City of El Cerrito Internship Program**

Presenters: Sukari Beshears, Human Resources Manager, City of El Cerrito and Michael Aaronian, College Career Coordinator.

Director Ramsey suggested expanding the program to the City Attorney's Office.

Councilmember Benassini stated that Councilmembers would welcome any questions from students regarding what it is like to be a councilmember.

Director Enos stressed the importance of the role of the internship program in local government.

Mayor Lyman asked if there is a policy in place for returning students and whether the number of student interns could be expanded in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson stressed the importance of both agencies working together for the benefit of the students and providing a link for career development, exploration and an opportunity to succeed.

President Kronenberg expressed appreciation 1 27s64lcMr.(n)-7(ia)53n

unique needs of each student. Mr. Douglas also reported that the completion of writing assignments and the quality of written work has improved as a result of the program. Mr. Douglas introduced three high school students who each spoke about their own positive experience of the program and its tutors.

Councilmember Bridges asked how one can sign up to be a coach.

Director Groves stated potential coaches can sign up at writercoachconnection.org and encouraged all to become involved.

President Kronenberg applauded Mr. Groves' involvement in the program and stated that the program is a turnkey program in which the coach and student are supported thoroughly.

C. Update on Bond Program in El Cerrito

Fairmont Elementary School

Presenters: Magdy Abdullah, WCCUSD Engineering Officer, introduced Marcus Hibser of HY Architects, who provided an overview and update regarding the Fairmount Elementary School campus.

Director Ramsey confirmed with the District's architect that construction drawings could be out by the summer of 2015.

Mayor Lyman encouraged the School District to coordinate with the City's Tree Ordinance, particularly with respect to the Redwood Grove.

El Cerrito High Stadium Project

Kevin McQuarrie, Principal, WLC Architects, provided an update and overview of the stadium project at El Cerrito High School.

Director Ramsey asked which firm was performing the hazardous material analysis and review, particularly at the El Cerrito field. Director Ramsey also suggested that the light installation and its brightness be sensitive to impacts

Future Portola Middle School located at Castro Elementary Campus

Mr. Hibser provided an overview of the future campus.

Director Ramsey asked

Tom Panas, El Cerrito, thanked the City and Board for the presentations this evening. Mr. Panas stated that a very large mosaic across from the office at Fairmont School is a treasured resource that is more than fifty years old and asked how it will be integrated into the new campus.

Dr. Harter stated that the District and the City had been meeting and said that both entities had come to a mutual agreement on how they will work together. Dr. Harter stated he was delighted to report about progress being made to make facilities available not only to groups but also individuals.

5. COMMENTS AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION FROM BOARD DIRECTORS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Friedman said he was encouraged by the history of collaboration between the School District and the City and that he was excited to see the plans for the new and renovated facilities. Councilmember Friedman also emphasized the need to make facilities available for use by the public whenever feasible.

Director Enos emphasized the need to continue to work together toward what students need.

Councilmember Bridges noted that it was helpful to receive an update on all the projects and thanked the speakers for their comments regarding the joint use agreement and described public comments about the history and difficulties of field users that the City's Park and Recreation Commission has received.

Councilmember Benassini echoed the need for a joint use agreement that will allow non-student athletes to value the playfields as much as student athletes and thanked the School District for reporting on all of the programs going on at the schools.

Director Groves thanked President Kronenberg and Mayor Pro Tem Abelson for bringing the Intern Stars program to life and said he is looking forward to seeing the program grow.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson thanked everyone for the session and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work together and thanked Director Ramsey for participating in requesting the joint meeting. The joint meeting providesnt expre

President Kronenberg mentioned the District's strategic plan process and reported that there will be meeting in Pinole tomorrow and Kennedy on May 11. More information is posted at wccusd.net.

The public can provide input by attending meetings, by sending an email directly to any of the school board directors or Dr. Harter or by clicking on a strategic plan link located on the District's website. President Kronenberg noted that El Cerrito is a city that wants to see the success of its schools and promised that the strategic plan will be adhered to.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 3(A) Description of New El Cerrito High School/City of El Cerrito Internship Program

1. Powerpoint presentation – *Submitted by Sukari Beshears, Human Resources Manager*

Item No. 3(B) Update on Writer Coach Connection

2. Writer Coach Connection in El Cerrito – *Submitted by Robert Menzimer, Executive Director.*

Item No. 3(C) Update on Bond Program in El Cerrito

3. Community Update on Portola Middle School at Castro Project – *Submitted by Magdy Abdallah, West Contra Costa Unified School District.*
4. Powerpoint presentation – *Submitted by Bruce Harter, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District.*
5. Comments on Fairmont School Mosaic – *Submitted by Tom Panas, El Cerrito.*