

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting**

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Board Members Present: Randall Enos, Todd Groves, Madeline Kronenberg, Elaine

Staff Present: Denise Cifelli, Confidential Secretary; Steve Collins, SELPA Director; Cliff Dorton, Charter Schools; Cliff Dorton Electronics Technician; Luis Freese, District Engineer; Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult; Superintendent; Keith Holtslander, Director Facilities & Construction; Lisa LeBlanc, O/Bond Program; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Services; Reyna Touriel, Translator; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Ker Superintendent Human Resources

B.4 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

None

B.5 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey asked the Board to consider reordering the agenda by moving item F. 2.

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the agenda as modified. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, 5-0-0, with no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr, Steven Chamberlain

MOTION: President Ramsey asked for a vote to reaffirm approval of the agenda with the comment. Mr. Groves moved to affirm his original motion approval of the agenda as modified. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.1 Resolution
Mr. Andres
District to
through the

Public Comment:

Janet Johnson, Sylvia Hopkins, Peter Chau, Tim Layton

Board Comment:

President Ramsey said that Mr. Soto and the speakers had outlined the situation and felt it important to ask the Bay Area Quality Management District to reconsider its decision.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Resolution No. 43-1415: Requesting BAAQMD Reconsider Permit. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voting yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.2 Revision to Board Bylaw 9260 Legal Protection

Superintendent Harter explained the modification to a Board Bylaw that would add a single paragraph to provide legal counsel to board members and staff if called upon during an administrative proceeding, action or other inquiry of the District by a Local, State or Federal Agency or Court of Law to the extent allowed by Government Code. Counsel selection shall be at the discretion of the Board.

Public Comment:

Steven Chamberlain, Anton Jungherr, Maria Montes, Tana Montero, Tom Panas, Don Gosney, Ben Steinberg, Lorraine Humes, Alex Aliferis, Judy Bendix, Robert Studdiford

Board Comment:

President Ramsey thanked the speakers and asked Superintendent Harter to restate the matter. Superintendent spoke of the practice of the Board to bring policy revisions forward on a single reading and to bring new policies with a first reading and a final vote at a subsequent meeting.

President Ramsey spoke about review of this item and recommendations from legal counsel with Mr. Groves at agenda setting. He spoke about the need for previous, current, as well as future Board Members having the assurance that performance of the scope of duties is protected with remedies that can be taken against those members when not acting within that scope.

Mr. Groves asked whether the practices were in conflict with bylaws. Superintendent Harter said that the Board could always revisit a previous action at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Groves continued with comments about legal protection and liability.

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Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved approval of the five contracts regarding Curriculum, Business Services and Special Education. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0.

President Ramsey asked for a separate vote regarding the group of contracts for Business Services having to do with the Securities and Exchange Commission matter. President Ramsey recused himself and left the meeting at this time. Mr. Groves assumed the gavel and continued the meeting.

Public Comment:

Yolanda Lopez, Anton Jungherr, Steven Chamberlain, Don Gosney, Ben Steinberg, Lorraine Humes, Robert Studdiford, Christina Slamon, Alex Aliferis, Eric Allam, Mike Ali Kenny

Board Comment:

Ms. Merriweather asked Mr. Groves about the decision to return this item to the agenda for action. Mr. Groves responded with information about revisiting costs to cover the scope of the investigation. Ms. Gamba provided details about the initial fund authorizations by the Board and actual billing, as well as costs of continuing legal services. Discussion continued.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the four contracts regarding the Securities and Exchange Commission investigation. Mr. Enos seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Enos, Ms. Kronenberg, and Clerk Groves voting yes, Ms. Merriweather voting no, with no abstentions and President Ramsey absent as a result of recusing himself. Motion carried 3-1-0-1.

President Ramsey returned to the meeting and resumed the gavel. He recognized Board members elect Valerie Cuevas and Elizabeth Block in the audience as well as other dignitaries.

D.1 Resolution No. 41-1415: Resolution of Commendation to Elaine Merriweather for Dedicated Service to Students, Staff and the Community, December 3, 2014

Superintendent Harter read the resolution commending Ms. Merriweather for her service to the District and Board since 2010.

Public Comment:

Peter Chau

Board Comment:

Mr. Enos spoke of his appreciation of Ms. Merriweather and her service to benefit students.

Mr. Groves said the Board owed a debt of gratitude for championing important issues on behalf of the most vulnerable and at risk students in the District. He commended her work and said he was honored to have served with her.

Ms. Kronenberg spoke of the pleasure and honor to serve with her. She recalled attending the Full Services Schools conference in Cincinnati together and its implementation as one of the biggest successes in Ms. Merriweather's career. She said changing the service system in schools will be a bonus to children in schools.

President Ramsey recalled her efforts to support the parcel tax and bond measures. He spoke of her trust and the different and new things that she brought to the Board and the District.

Ms. Merriweather spoke of her continued efforts to advocate for children at the state and national levels.

Superintendent Harter presented a plaque to commend Ms. Merriweather's service.

B. OPENING PROCEDURES - CONTINUED

B.6 Minutes: November 6, 2014; November 12, 2014

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of the Minutes of November 6, 2014 and November 12, 2014. Mr. Enos seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Public Comment:

Michael Ali Kenny, Liz Block

F.8 Presentation of the Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District to the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR)

Mr. Whittemore explained the sunshining process as bargaining begins with each bargaining unit. At this time, he requested the Board accept the initial bargaining proposal of the District to United Teachers of Richmond.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Groves moved to receive the Initial Bargaining Proposal from West Contra Costa Unified School District to the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR). Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Mr. Enos, Mr. Groves, Ms. Kronenberg, Ms. Merriweather, and President Ramsey voted yes, with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

F.9 Initial Bargaining Proposal from United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) to the West Contra Costa Unified School District

Superintendent Har

