

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Board Study Session Minutes**

Lovonya DeJean Middle School
Multipurpose Room
3400 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805

March 22, 2017 6:00 PM

Attendance Taken at 6:10 PM:

Present:

Valerie Cuevas
Tom Panas
Mister Phillips

Absent:

Liz Block
Madeline Kronenberg

A. Call to Order

Minutes:

Board Clerk Val Cuevas called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Staff Present: Denise Cifelli, Sr. Administrative Secretary Confidential; Steve Collins, Assistant Superintendent Special Education; Matthew Duffy, Superintendent; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Joshua Herrera, Maintenance Supervisor; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent Facilities, M & O/Bond Program; Leticia Oregon, Translator; Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer; Nia Rashidchi, Interim Associate Superintendent PreK-Adult Educational Operations; Marcus Walton, Communications Director

Clerk Cuevas asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Panas moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Phillips seconded. Mr. Panas, Mr. Phillips, and Clerk Cuevas voted yes, with no abstentions, and with Ms. Block and Ms. Kronenberg absent. Motion carried 3-0-0-2.

B. Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items

Minutes:

Cathy Garza, Richard Boyd

C. Discussion on Developing the 2017-2018 WCCUSD Budget

Minutes:

Superintendent Duffy provided content on the purpose of the meeting. Ms. Gamba presented information on the development of the budget and components which guide the

decision making process. She explained revenue sources from State and Federal funding, the importance of enrollment and its relationship to staffing and revenues. Site staffing information was provided and the impact of expenditures and PERS/STRS increases was discussed.

Ms. Cuevas asked members if they had questions on information provided up to this point.

Mr. Panas questioned the impact of the Governor's budget and the possibility of a decrease in funding. Ms. Gamba provided more detail on how mandatory positions are looked at, the role union contracts play relative to what is required by Education Code versus what is needed to run a district and provided examples.

Ms. Cuevas questioned the implications if the 21st Century grant was to go away. Ms. Rashidchi responded with options she would consider and strategically plan to implement. Ms. Gamba added her concern that federal leadership did not seem supportive of public schools.

Ms. Gamba continued the presentation providing information on DLCAP developments and Citizen Transparency Tool going into detail about the increased allocations to school sites, recruitment and retention of staff, and working to convert Grad Tutors to teachers.

Student representative Samuel Solis arrived at 6:43 and was introduced by Superintendent Duffy.

Superintendent Duffy continued the presentation by discussing the current state target and culture of the District. He noted better communication was the common theme among the community, and that students resonated with quality learning, teaching and leadership practices. He went on to explain his thoughts to add positions in support of school sites and administrative reorganization utilizing fewer administrative positions for next year. He shared his thoughts on a "phase out strategy" establishing a restricted category to house one-time funds along with his vision to prioritize and organize around six key areas allowing the District to focus on learning, deepening its commitment to students and families.

Ms. Gamba linked funds to goals and programs, again noting the "phase out strategy".

At this point Ms. Cuevas opened the floor to questions relating to what had been presented thus far.

Mr. Panas thanked the Superintendent for his vision. There was discussion among the members on clarification of appendices.

Mr. Phillips commented on the loss of the term "Foster Youth" being noted as students served through LCAP and requested their inclusion back into program verbiage.

Ms. Gamba concluded her presentation sharing multi-year estimates and her thoughts on deficit reduction and priorities to deal with one-time fund balance dollars. There was

discussion of the Governor's May budget revision and the possible impact to tonight's presentation. Ms. Gamba concluded by providing a high-level overview of the Citizen's Transparency Tool and information that will be available to the public.

Ms. Cuevas commended Ms. Gamba and her staff for their leadership in bringing the tool to life giving the public an opportunity to view ongoing expenses. She then opened the floor to questions from the other members.

Mr. Panas stated he appreciated the discussion of the phase out strategy and commented that he hoped grant funding would continue. He also stated he felt the Citizen Transparency Tool would be a powerful tool for the public.

Student Representative Samuel Solis said he appreciated being able to see where the money goes and felt it would be great information for students to view.

Mr. Panas asked if there would be an increase to SSC allocations. Ms. Gamba responded there would.

Public Comment:

Mary Flanagan, Rich Boyd, Petronila Fernandes

Board Comment:

Ms. Cuevas asked if there were contingency plans for unplanned expenses and the implications to the budget. Ms. Gamba explained options based on the type of emergency. Ms. Cuevas questioned why facilities were not discussed. Ms. Gamba explained how the facilities master plan was integrated into the budget as well as other funds not discussed in detail in the presentation.

Ms. Cuevas requested the inclusion of information on cafeteria, adult education and other funds be included in presentations going forward.

D. Adjournment

Minutes:

Ms. Cuevas adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.