

**West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Board of Education / Pinole City Council Joint Meeting Minutes  
PINOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
GYMNASIUM  
1575 MANN DR.  
PINOLE, CA 94564**

**May 13, 2019 6:30 PM**

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Panas called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. WELCOME AND MEETING PROCEDURES**

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

**C. ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:** Valerie Cuevas, Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis, Consuelo Lara Tom Panas, Mister Phillips

**City Council Members Present:**

Pete Murray; Norma Martinez-Rubin, Vincent Salimi, Anthony L. Tave  
Roy Swearingen arrived at 7:17 PM.

**City Staff Present:** Michelle Fitzner, City Manager; Neil Gang, Police Chief; Heather Iopu, City Clerk

**District Staff Present:** Linda Delgado, Coordinator Charter School Oversight; Matthew Duffy, Superintendent; Luis Freese, District Engineering Officer; Gracie Guerrero, Associate Superintendent Chief Academic Officer; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Joshua Herrera, Maintenance Supervisor; Kibby Kleiman, Principal Pinole Valley High School; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent Facilities, M & O/Bond Program; Roxanna Molina, Translator; Denise Van Hook, Principal Pinole Middle School; Marcus Walton, Communications Director; Greg Whaling, Principal Ellerhorst Elementary

**D. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

President Panas recommended moving item F.3 to follow F.1. The group accepted the amended agenda.

**E. STUDENT PERFORMANCE: Pinole Valley High School Concert Choir**

Principal Kleiman introduced the award-winning Pinole Valley High School Concert Choir, which performed selections under the direction of music teacher Joseph Lim.

## **F. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kent Moriarty, Pinole resident, spoke about the street striping plan for Pinole Valley Road in front of the high school.

Tamera Campbell, Pinole resident, expressed concern regarding bullying and student safety.

## **G. STUDY SESSION**

Superintendent Duffy provided background and framing for the evening's joint meeting with the Pinole City Council.

### **1. Charter School Update**

Dr. Delgado provided a report regarding charter schools, fiscal overview of charters, and a Pinole schools snapshot. She shared information about the charters currently located within the Pinole area and noted the anticipated growth for each.

Public Comment:

Ivette Rico, Tamera Campbell, Frank Martinez, John Irminger, Joseph Glatzer, Carlos Taboada, Rafael Menis

Dr. Delgado provided clarification to the subgroups of charts included in the presentation.

Councilmember Tave had questions about the number of students lost to charters, and how that number equated to ADA income. Superintendent Duffy offered clarification of approximately \$10,000 per student and the district's current cost cutting mode with the three-year budget projections noting the projected student loss. Mr. Tave inquired about the fiscal loss impact to the school district. He had additional questions about use of metrics for comparisons. Superintendent Duffy provided clarification and noted the Board's support of a state moratorium on charter schools as well as other pending state legislation.

Councilmember Salimi shared statistics about low student performance, reduced enrollment, and increased funding, comparing with charter schools. He inquired about the demand and interest for charter schools. Superintendent Duffy responded with information about parents' concerns for safety and academic rigor, as well as smaller learning environments. Superintendent Duffy spoke about steps being taken to improve the district, including efforts to retain quality teachers, the positive school climate resolution, and aggressive academic improvement.

Councilmember Martinez-Rubin asked about performance and how positive changes were measured. Superintendent Duffy shared information about improved focus on teacher retention, suspension reductions, SBAC scores and number of schools showing positive momentum. He spoke about the district roadmap with goals for the next five years. Ms. Martinez-Rubin asked about closure of a charter, financial control, appointment to a charter board. Superintendent Duffy responded with clarification

regarding performance and disciplinary measures taken. He also spoke about legal advice regarding potential conflict of interest for board members to sit on a charter board of directors.

Mayor Pro Tem Swearingen remarked on the increase of charter and private school options and asked about a way that the district could enact local legislation of a fee to reimburse the financial loss. Superintendent Duffy responded.

Mayor Murray spoke about the perplexing situation and the migration of students to charter schools. He inquired about any budget oversight for charter schools or any protection for the public school agency. Superintendent Duffy offered clarification and spoke about the great things happening in Pinole schools of interest to parents. He also clarified the fiscal responsibility for the charter authorizer.

Board Member Cuevas spoke about the complexity of charter law skewed in favor of charter schools. She asked Dr. Delgado to clarify the number of charters in the district. Dr. Delgado explained the charter law approved by voters and legislative requirements putting public schools at the disadvantage. Ms. Cuevas continued to speak about opportunity, resources to make district schools high quality and safe, declining enrollment and unfair requirements imposed.

Ms. Lara spoke about legislative recommendations supported by the Board. She concluded by speaking about unfair comparisons of charters with public schools.

Board Member Hernández-Jarvis encouraged meeting with local and state representatives regarding charter bills and the task force organized by State Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond. She talked about the two-tier system, striving for collaboration, and assessing why Latino families are leaving the district.

Mr. Phillips clarified that this board passed a resolution in support of a statewide charter school moratorium. He commented briefly about remarks heard around bullying and the affects on children. Mr. Phillips said that he saw the tier system as an equity issue and expressed concern about learning why families feel they are not being served in district schools.

President Panas thanked everyone for attending and participating. He spoke about student SBAC scores, issues of enrollment and loss of ADA funding. He shared that the board members were focused to make the district system of choice for students, and acknowledged the challenge with co-location of a charter school.

Item F.3 was taken at this point of the agenda.

## **2. School Resource Officers in the WCCUSD**

Superintendent Duffy provided history and context about the SRO program in the district with officers at each comprehensive high school, middle school, and the

continuation high school. The district pays the full cost of officers, and considered other models and cost sharing options. Currently the district pays \$164,000 per officer to the City of Pinole for that service. In order to create unanimity across the district and reduce expenditures, the Board has determined to cap the 2019-2020 contribution to each SRO at \$150,000 per officer. He shared information about the contracts committee meeting with city managers to open the discussion of the potential to move to a cost-sharing model for the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Duffy spoke about projected budget losses going forward and the Board budget decisions ahead. He commended Chief Gang and City Manager Fitzer as great partners to the district.

**Public Comment:**

Ivette Ricco, Tamera Campbell

Councilmember Tave introduced Pinole Police Chief Gang who presented information regarding the SRO program in the Pinole community.

Councilmembers shared concerns around safety, the value and importance of the SRO program, and the city's own budget restrictions.

City Manager Fitzer shared some of the conversation from the contracts committee meeting with other city managers. She said the cities understand the fiscal struggles as they each face struggles to return city services along with loss of sales tax generators and increased pension costs. She spoke of the importance to determine how to provide some sort of partnership while challenged financially.

Board members shared their concerns to protect and educate students and the need to consider assistance from cities with budgetary issues. Board members acknowledged the importance of keeping children safe as well as supporting children with the goodwill created by the personal relationship with officers.

President Panas advocated for a long and serious conversation to determine a resolution.

**3. Pinole Valley High School Update**

District Engineering Officer Luis Freese provided a detailed overview of the construction of the new high school campus. He shared information about the demolition of the old site and installation of fields and landscaping. Opening of new campus is scheduled for August 2019 with completion of fields projects by fall 2021.

Councilmembers relayed various inquiries about cost impacts, value engineering, safety and evacuation plans, solar paneled carports, and planting areas with trees on campus and along Pinole Valley Road.

Board members thanked the Council for its interest and support, expressing excitement about the opening of the school.

Public Comment:  
Rafael Menis

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

President Panas adjourned the meeting at 10:36 PM, thanking the Council for participating.

**Approved by Pinole City Council: June 4, 2019**

<p><b><i>SHJ</i></b> 5/22/19</p>
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