

**RESOLUTION NO. 58-09**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WEST CONTRA COSTA ADULT  
EDUCATION**

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WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education provides free or low cost Vocational Training, High School Diploma, GED and English as a Second Language classes, all of which help Richmond residents prepare to enter new jobs or qualify for better jobs, and

WHEREAS, the education and training provided by West Contra Costa Adult Education is vital to the economic health of the City of Richmond and must play an integral part in Richmond's recovery from the current economic downturn, and

WHEREAS, parents are their children's first teachers, and children succeed in school when their parents are involved in their learning, understand the school system, and are able to advocate for their children with the school, and

WHEREAS, immigrant parents often need to acquire English language skills and life skills in order to help their children with school work, understand the U.S. school system and become effective advocates for their children, and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Unified School district website indicates that 33.8% of students in the district's K-12 schools are English Learners and more than 50% come from immigrant families, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education offers English as a Second Language classes with a family literacy emphasis at ten elementary school sites and one middle school site in West County, as well as three other community sites which are close to K-12 schools and serve parents of children who attend schools in West County, and

WHEREAS, immigrant parents who attend English as a Second Language classes, particularly those classes with a family literacy emphasis, report that their English classes help them become more involved in their children's education and help them with academic work, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also offers Parent Education classes for all parents, including immigrant parents, which help parents advocate for their children's education and also learn skills that help them deal with family conflicts in a positive manner, creating stronger families, and

WHEREAS, principals at schools where parents attend English as a Second Language classes and/or Parent Education classes report that parents become more involved in the school as a result of attending these classes, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also provides classes for older adults and adults with disabilities which enhance the lives of these citizens of West County and,

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also offers a rich variety of low-fee classes responsive to the changing interests and needs of West County residents, including classes in health and fitness, the arts, environmentally aware gardening, and computer skills, and

WHEREAS, with all of its course offerings, West Contra Costa Adult Education contributes to the economic vitality, physical and emotional health, cultural richness, technological aptitude and academic success of West County's diverse communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND recognizes that West Contra Costa Adult Education is tightly woven into the life of West County and into the life of the City of Richmond, and that the economic and cultural life of the area would be greatly impoverished without it, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND declares support for adult education, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND will send a letter to the WCCUSD Board of Education and Superintendent requesting that West Contra Costa Unified School District preserve this valuable resource, and not cut its funding disproportionately to other district programs in times of financial difficulty.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of The City of Richmond, California, at a regular meeting thereof held June 16, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes,  
Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE  
City Attorney

State of California        }  
County of Contra Costa    :ss  
City of Richmond         }