

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

CENSURE OF BOARD MEMBER LESLIE RECKLER

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education is committed to the effective leadership and operation of the West Contra Costa Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education has established and adopted Governance Standards for the Board, as set forth in Board Bylaw 9005, including the requirement that Board members shall operate openly, with trust and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education has established and adopted Board Bylaw 9270, which states that the Governing Board desires to maintain the highest ethical standards; that no Board member shall participate in the making of a decision for the District that may affect his/her financial, family, or other personal interest; and that a Board member shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, or inimical to the Board member's duties to the District; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 3, 2022 Board member Leslie Reckler engaged in the following conduct: After the Youth Development Program Coordinator (Coordinator) submitted an application to the Board for District high schools to be able to use SnapRaise to raise funds for their athletic programs, and the Coordinator's application was placed on the "Consent Items" portion of the Board's meeting agenda, Board member Reckler pulled the application from the "Consent Items" list, and the item was ultimately not moved forward for a vote. At the time Board member Reckler pulled the item off the consent calendar, she held the role of Treasurer with the Student Activities Fund (SAF). Pulling the item off the consent calendar where it ultimately was not moved forward for a vote constituted bias in favor of the SAF, because it prevented athletic programs from accessing an alternative means of fundraising, which could have reduced the SAF's influence. Board member Reckler's conduct in this regard violated the principles and expectations set forth in Board Bylaw 9005 to operate openly, with trust and integrity, and in Board Bylaw 9270 against Board members participating in District decisions that may affect their personal interests; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 11, 2023, Board member Reckler engaged in the following conduct: When the Coordinator's application for the use of SnapRaise again appeared on the "Consent Items" portion of the Board's agenda, she again pulled it from the list. At this time, she held the role of "Member-at-Large" with the SAF. This conduct violated the principles and expectations set forth in Board Bylaw 9005 to operate openly, with trust and integrity, and in Board Bylaw 9270 against Board members participating in District decisions that may affect their personal interests; and

WHEREAS, between November 2020 and October 2022, Board member Reckler engaged in the following conduct: She was aware of several violations by Coach Scott Bishop (Bishop),

who is no longer an employee of the District, of the rules prohibiting him from handling Sponsored Group Committee (SGC) funds, and an instance in which he improperly organized a fundraiser volleyball tournament for Korematsu Middle School. Despite her awareness of Bishop's actions, Board member Reckler did not notify Superintendent Kenneth Hurst, El Cerritos High School Principal Patricia Crespo, or the District's Human Resources department. This conduct violated the principles and expectations set forth in Board Bylaw 9005 to operate openly, with trust and integrity, and in Board Bylaw 9270 holding Board members to the highest ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 26, 2022 and October 31, 2022, Board member Reckler engaged in the following conduct: After El Cerritos High School administration requested a financial audit from the SAF on the past three years of transactions, including records of all expenditures, cash-out payments to coaches, and income, made by the Girls' Volleyball SGC, Board member Reckler provided only two summary audit reports, which were not typical financial audits, and which described, in narrative and conclusory fashion, some of Bishop's violations. These summary audit reports were not responsive to the administration's request because they did not analyze the financial transactions of SAF. Board member Reckler acknowledged that she did not give the administration the information in the format requested. Board member Reckler prepared the summary audit reports on behalf of the SAF while holding the position of SAF "Member-at-Large," at a time when the SAF had an interest in limiting the financial information it provided to the District. Board member Reckler's conduct violated the principles and expectations set forth in Board Bylaw 9005 to operate openly, with trust and integrity, and in Board Bylaw 9270 against Board members holding positions inconsistent with, incompatible with, or inimical to their duties to the District; and

WHEREAS, on or about June 20, 2023, Board member Reckler engaged in the following conduct: After resigning from the position of Treasurer on the SAF Board, Board member Reckler accessed documents on the SAF's Google Drive. Board member Reckler did this despite emphasizing in her resignation letter that she no longer had access to SAF files, and failing to acknowledge in her letter that she had accessed or intended to access the Google Drive. Board member Reckler accessed the Google Drive despite having no legitimate business reason to do so and despite the SAF's intent to remove her access to the Google Drive pursuant to her resignation. Board member Reckler's conduct violated the principles and expectations set forth in Board Bylaw 9005 to operate openly, with trust and integrity, and in Board Bylaw 9270 holding Board members to the highest ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education has determined to refer the matter of Board member Leslie Reckler's conduct referenced above to the Fair Political Practices Commission and the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the deficiencies in the conduct cited above represent a failure of the public trust, setting the reputation of the West Contra Costa Unified School District in a negative light.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education does hereby censure Board member Leslie Reckler for the deficiencies in conduct cited above, in violation of the Bylaws, principles, and/or expectations of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education hereby removes Board member Leslie Reckler from all committees and appointments for the 2023-2024 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education does hereby demand that Board member Reckler henceforth endorse, adopt, and abide by the Board’s adopted policies establishing its Governance Standards, Conflict of Interest policy, and all other Bylaws and Policies of the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by majority vote of the Board of Education of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, County of Contra Costa, California, on _____, 2024, at a duly noticed meeting thereof.

(Record Individual Votes by Name)

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

President
Board of Education

The foregoing is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Claremont Unified School District at a meeting held on _____, 2024.

Dr. Kenneth Hurst
Superintendent