

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FEBRUARY 8, 2005

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2005, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of February 22, 2005. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of February 8, 2005.

**MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
25634 Alessandro Boulevard
Moreno Valley, California**

**THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE AUDIO/VIDEOTAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5
AND REBROADCAST ON CHANNEL 16**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Special Education Private School Placement Cases; Hearing Officer Recommendations; Public Employee Employment; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Non-Reelects; Conference with CSEA, MVEA and AMVMP Labor Negotiator; and Personnel Complaint.

Members Present

Jesus M. Holguin, President
Richard Coz, Vice President
Rick Sayre, Clerk
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Member
Tracey B. Vackar, Member

Administration

Nicolas D. Ferguson

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present - Ashe Present- Coz Present - Holguin Present - Sayre Present- Vackar

REPORT OUT OF

CLOSED SESSION: There was no reportable action on the Closed Session Agenda items.

Administration Present

Pat Chandler, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Robert Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Olivia Hershey, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education
Lia Robinson, Director, Nutrition Services
Joe Palomino, Director, Secondary Education
John Baldaray, Director, Warehouse
Evangelina Mirandé, Coordinator, Categorical Programs
Lisa Wilson, Coordinator, Multilingual Programs
Bobby Byers, Administrator, Bayside/Charter
Tammy Guzzetta, Principal, Canyon Springs
Gayle Rellstab, Principal, March Mountain/March Valley
Gloria Todd-Rousseau, Principal, Moreno Valley
Kim Kruger, Principal, Valley View
Mary Jones, Principal, Vista del Lago
Maribel Mattox, Principal, Edgemont
Todd Flowers, Principal, Midland
Estuardo Santillan, Business Manager
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
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The following individuals were presented a copy of the Week of the School Administrator Resolution:

- Mary Jones, President, Association of Moreno Valley Management Personnel (AMVMP).
- Maribel Mattox, Principal, Edgemont, 2005 MVUSD Principal of the Year.
- Evangelina Mirandé, Coordinator, Categorical Programs, 2005 MVUSD Certificated Administrator of the Year.
- Lia Robinson, Director, Nutrition Services, 2005 MVUSD Classified Administrator of the Year.

SCHOOL REPORTS

The following student Board representatives gave their school reports:

Cody Brown, Vista del Lago, reported that three new teachers have joined the staff; the new semester has brought opportunities for change such as a short schedule and off campus lunch for seniors; seniors are participating in the middle college and ROP programs on campus. Today sophomores began testing for the high school exit exam. The challenge for the sophomores is to have more students pass the exam the first time around than the class of 2005 and 2006. The first homecoming dance, "Winter Hoop Coming," was held at the Eagle Glen Country Club and was a success. Students were provided various activities during homecoming spirit week. The winter sports season is going well. The varsity boys' basketball team is competing for first place in the Sunbelt league championship against Perris High School. The boys' and girls' soccer teams are also having a successful season.

Michelle Deyden, Canyon Springs, reported that students, staff and teachers, are preparing for first semester final exams; first semester report cards will be sent out sometime this week. Senior football player Rodney Picou was selected as one of the top high school football players in the United States. He has been invited to participate in the U.S. All-American Army Bowl. He also signed his letter of intent to attend the University of Nebraska. January highlighted various activities in preparation for the mid winter formal dance, "Masquerade Ball." The dance was held at the Mitten Building in downtown Redlands. Mark Manning and Courtney Menchaca were selected mid-winter king and queen. On February 10, the annual academic assembly will held to honor students that achieved a 3.5 grade point average or higher and Jostens held a senior night where information regarding graduation was provided. Love week begins on Monday, February 14 with a special lunchtime activity planned for February 17.

Diana Byrd, Moreno Valley, reported that the Virtual Business Megahertz Mocha class attended a competition in San Diego on February 4. Out of sixty schools from Southern California, Moreno Valley placed first in salesmanship and placed high in three other categories. Twelve Virtual Business students won a trip to New York City this spring to compete. Students who have been selected student of the month have received certificates and individual plaques. The mid-winter formal dance was held on January 29 at the Eagle Glen Country Club. It was successful and provided a disc jockey, excellent food, and dancing. The mid-winter king and queen were Jigar Vakil and Renae Brown. ASB will host a winter sports pep rally on February 11. Coach Dahl will be honored for this 600th career game winnings at Moreno Valley. At the assembly, students will find out if the boys' soccer and basketball teams will be going to the CIF championship. The School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) monitoring team visited the campus and complemented Moreno Valley for its hard work to make improvements. Testing for the high school exit exam began today. The principal called 10th grade students' homes to encourage their attendance. In-N-Out Burger will host a dance to encourage students to do better on their tests.

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Clarissa Hernandez, March Mountain, reported that ASB is selling Valentine's Day gifts for under five dollars. These items can be picked up by the students or ASB will deliver them on Valentine's Day. Today students began testing for the high school exit exam. The math department has worked with students to prepare them for this testing. Students were encouraged to attend school during the testing days and were provided the opportunity to participate in drawings for prizes each day of attendance. Clarissa stated that she spoke to some of March Mountain's students regarding the difference between receiving a high school diploma or a certificate of completion. Most students would like to walk at graduation, so this made them more aware of the importance of passing the high school exit exam. Students seemed upset to think they would not be able to participate in graduation activities if they received a certificate instead of a diploma.

Lia Freeman, Bayside, reported that Bayside and Charter students participated in the high school exit exam English Language arts test today and will test in math tomorrow. During the first part of the school year, when the high school exit exam was administered, 57.5 percent of the students taking the test passed the English Language Arts portion of the test and 42.8 percent passed math. These results showed an increase in the percentage of students who passed in previous years. Various activities in honor of Black History Month included: daily announcements giving background information on various African Americans; on February 4, students took a field trip to California State University of San Bernardino to participate in the Unity Day Program; on February 11, a multicultural potluck will be held during lunch; on February 17, the first African American Quiz Bowl is scheduled; and on February 25, selected students will present an African American history program entitled "The Civil Rights Movement." It will spotlight activists of the 50's, 60's, and 70's.

Ms. Freeman stated that she asked two questions to students regarding the certificate of completion versus a diploma: 1) Do you think students who complete all graduation requirements but do not pass the high school exit exam or Algebra I, should be given a diploma? Eighty-one students said yes and 42 students said no; 2) Do you think students who do not complete all graduation requirements should be allowed to participate in graduation activities and graduation? Fifty-five students said yes and 66 students said no.

Michael Deaton, Valley View, reported that on February 1, the annual 8th grade orientation was held; On February 3 the English department held 9th grade English Night and provided information to 9th graders and parents on how to be academically successful. On February 4, the boys' varsity basketball defeated Moreno Valley to win the Mountain View League championship. This is the first league championship for the Valley View team, which was undefeated this season. He congratulated the varsity and junior varsity pep squad for placing first in competition. The high school exit exam testing has begun and is going smoothly. At the winter sports assembly there was a lot of student and staff participation. He commended ASB for a job well done.

The Board of Education brought Discussion/Action Item 275 – Alternatives to High School Diplomas forward at this time.

Pat Chandler, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, stated that at the last Board meeting there was discussion about the possibility of providing a certificate of completion for those students who met graduation requirements except passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). At that time the Board asked for additional information including what the students thought about it and how principals and staff felt. Information was provided on the CAHSEE test results for the first class that has to pass to graduate and the curriculum that teachers have designed for the CAHSEE prep classes in English and math.

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The following responses were given by the high school student Board representatives:

- Vista del Lago - Students were divided 50/50 whether students should get the diploma if they do not pass the exit exam or be allowed to participate in graduation activities.
- Canyon Springs – Student Advisory Council met and concluded that students who do not pass the CAHSEE should not be able to participate in graduation ceremonies because technically the student is not a senior.
- Moreno Valley – Many students did not agree that those students who work hard to graduate and cannot pass the exit exam cannot participate in graduation ceremonies. Students liked the idea of the certificate because it shows that the students did do the four years of high school and can participate in graduation ceremonies.
- March Mountain – Students did not have a problem with receiving a certificate but they would like to walk at graduation.
- Bayside/Charter – Eighty-one students said yes, because they felt that they should be able to get a diploma because they worked hard. Forty-two students said no because they feel they earned it and it lowers the value of the diploma.
- Valley View - Students agree that students who have not passed the exit exam or Algebra I by their senior year, should not be able to participate in graduation activities or receive a diploma.

Pat Chandler stated that principals began last spring to discuss this issue with staff members. This subject was so controversial, it was tabled and discussion began again this fall. She introduced Kim Kruger, principal, Valley View, representing the comprehensive high schools, and Bobby Byers, principal, Bayside, representing the alternative high schools.

Mr. Kruger stated that this issue was addressed in faculty, department chair, and leadership team meetings. The concern is that the bar of expectations has been raised. If the District started ignoring these expectations, accountability has been taken away from the students. Mr. Kruger indicated that the one part that is missing in the testing is student accountability. Once these things are tied into something meaningful for the students, the scores will increase.

Staff has a concern about students walking at graduation when they have not completed all the requirements. Students look at walking in the graduation ceremony as the final point, not the diploma. If students who do not meet the requirements and are allowed to walk, it lowers the meaning for the students who have met the expectations. It is highly unlikely that a student who meets all the credit requirements will fail the exit exam. The District is finding that students who fail the exit exam are also credit deficient and they are failing other classes. Valley View staff is in favor of option number three. Staff does not have a problem with the certificate of completion but they do have a concern about allowing those students to participate in graduation.

Bobby Byers shared that from the stand point of the alternative schools (March Mountain, March Valley, Bayside, and Charter), teachers feel very strongly that students should meet the criteria established by the District, especially at the alternative schools because the majority of those students have experienced very little success. Staff has to work hard to motivate these students. It is felt that if this one incentive is taken away and the students feel that they don't have to apply themselves, the District is setting the students up for failure. March Mountain did not have a problem with giving the certificate of completion and having students participate in graduation activities. Staff at March Valley, Bayside, and Charter felt that students should not be allowed to participate in graduation activities because they have not earned that right.

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Pat Chandler shared three options for the Board to consider. The options were developed by the principals and Educational Services staff. There may be other options possible. The options include:

1. To retain the current Board policy which states that in order for students to receive a diploma, they must meet the Board adopted graduation requirements (225 credits and passing both parts of the CAHSEE). Furthermore, students need to have completed graduation requirements prior to the graduation ceremony in order to participate in graduation activities.
2. To change the current policy to allow issuing the certificate of completion to students who have met the credit requirements but have not passed the CAHSEE and allowing these students to participate in graduation activities.
3. To issue the certificate of completion to students who have met the credit requirements but have not passed the CAHSEE and not allowing these students to participate in graduation activities.

Katherine Underwood, president, Moreno Valley Educators Association (MVEA), stated that Board policy on this issue was done by consult with MVEA and the District. She stated that MVEA was not aware that this issue was being discussed until the last Board meeting. She requested that MVEA be given the opportunity to continue gathering information from surrounding chapters and meeting with high school teachers, before the Board makes a decision on this issue. MVEA asked if they could bring this information back to the Board at the next Board meeting.

There was some Board discussion and questions about the history of this subject. The Board's decision on this issue will affect next year's graduating class. It would be helpful to have a decision on this matter prior to the beginning of the next school year. It was the consensus of the Board to bring this item back on a future Board agenda.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Katherine Underwood spoke during the discussion on agenda item 275 – Alternatives to High School Diplomas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

Public Hearing – Action Item 326 – Adoption of Resolution No. 2004-05-55 – Approving a School Facilities Needs Analysis

The Board President opened the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that the Public Hearing on Action Item 326 be closed with action taking place under the Action portion of the agenda.

VOTE: AYES - 5 NAYS - 0 ABSTAIN – 0

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Richard Coz that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY- 0 ABSTAIN – 0
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ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Rick Sayre that the Action Agenda Items be approved as presented.

VOTE:

AYE - 5

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN - 0

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

175 2005 Board Meeting Calendar

Dr. Ferguson, Superintendent, indicated that there was interest expressed by the Board to review the Board meeting calendar. He gave background regarding the number of meetings during specific months. Typically, there is only one meeting during the following months:

January – Due to Winter recess.

April – Due to Spring recess.

July and August – Due to summer time to allow for vacations for Board members and staff.

November – Due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

December – Due to the Winter recess.

Dr. Ferguson stated that since the last Board meeting, he has talked with staff about the need to have items come a Board meeting ahead so the Board is not up against deadlines. This would allow the Board the opportunity to discuss and deliberate further on important issues. The second concern dealt with the need for a special study session. If the Board would let him know that they feel additional discussion is needed, staff can plan for a study session. He stated that the Board calendar has been amended to reflect the April Board meeting changed to April 26 instead of April 19, as originally approved.

Dr. Ferguson stated that the intent of staff is to ensure there is a little cushion every time whenever possible. Occasionally staff will be caught short, too. He referred to the Williams Uniform Complaint process. The District was told that this would not become effective until the end of January. At the last minute, the District found out that this issue was to become effective January 1, therefore, it was a last minute item that came before the Board in December.

There was Board discussion. Several concerns were expressed such as having time to review documents and issues in order to make a good decision, being rushed on Closed Session items, having the opportunity to have sufficient time to discuss important issues that arise, and feeling uncomfortable when making last minute decisions on important matters. Board members agreed that if an additional meeting needed to be scheduled they were open to that option.

Board President Holguin stated that he will work with the Superintendent when reviewing the agenda items and make sure that if there is a need for a second night, it will be scheduled. He is also aware that situations sometimes come into play from the State or other agencies and it is out of the District’s hands, but it has to be handled. Dr. Ferguson stated that staff will take direction from this discussion. The Board does have the flexibility in the Brown Act to schedule meetings. Staff will make a good faith effort to bring items forward earlier.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

275 Alternatives to High School Diplomas

This item was brought forward earlier in the meeting.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

375 Governor’s Budget Proposal

Bob Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, stated that the Governor's budget proposal for 2005-06 has been discussed with the Joint Fiscal Management and Budget Advisory committees. He gave an overview of this information. The California economic indicators and data are positive. The job market is up substantially. Personal income is rising in the State of California and is projected to continue in the future.

The state general fund revenues are following the same pattern. Since 2002-03, the state revenues have increased and are projected to rise in 2005-06. Both the Legislative Analysts and the Department of Finance are projecting increased state revenues for the current year and next year. State revenues are increasing; however, the problem is that state expenditures are increasing even faster than the revenues because of various built-in requirements in the law. This means that the expenditures for 2005-06 will exceed the revenues by over \$8 billion. This is what the State is facing for 2005-06.

Some of the problems the State has incurred are a result of what happened in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 where the capital gains and stock option tax revenues to the State were at a historically high level. The state budget was built on this level of income continuing in future years. When the bottom dropped out in 2001-02, revenues dropped. Expenditures in the budget could not be sustained when this anticipated level of income did not occur. This is what has caused the State's financial problems.

There is a gap in the state budget of \$8.6 billion. One way that the Governor is proposing to solve this is by not funding Proposition 98 (The Deal) where education gave up \$2.3 billion this year with the understanding that this money would be made up. However, this money will not be made up due to the large budget gap. Other areas proposed to be cut include: Business, Transportation, and Housing (\$1.3 billion); Health and Human Services (\$1.2 billion); General Government (\$928 million); Education (\$543 million); other areas (\$767 million). There is some additional borrowing (\$1.7 billion) from the allocation approved in Proposition 57. New revenues are anticipated to be \$409 million. The budget provides for \$500 million or approximately a .6% reserve.

For education, the Governor is proposing a 3.93% statutory COLA. However, this is only an estimate. This amount will be applied to the revenue limit, special education funding, and all the state categorical programs. For a unified school district, this COLA results in an additional \$196 more per student for ADA. Two years ago, education was deficit funded by 3 percent. Last year it was reduced to 2 percent. This year, the Governor will reduce this to 1.132 percent. That will provide additional money for K-12 education. This year the District received equalization aid to bring the District a little closer to the statewide average. However, the District will not receive any more equalization monies next year.

The proposal includes shifting the State's contribution to STRS (teachers' retirement) of two percent to the school districts. The total District contribution for STRS will then be 10.25 percent for all certificated salaries. This will reduce the COLA by 1.4 percent, which results in a 3.6 percent net increase. Approximately two dozen categorical programs will be combined into block grants. The District received \$58 for instructional materials this year and will receive the same amount for instructional materials per student next year.

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It is projected that the District will receive the same amount of lottery money as the current year. If the District received all the money promised it would receive \$560 per student. However, of that \$560 per student, thirty-six percent is taken away because the Governor does not feel that he can fund "the deal." This year, education deserves additional revenue because

the state revenues are up but the Governor proposes not to fund it. This will reduce the amount by another 20 percent. The shifting of the state share of STRS (2 percent) will further reduce the income, resulting in the District receiving only \$201 of the \$560.

Mr. Crank reviewed District budget information. Additional income (revenue limit increased ADA, COLA, and deficit reduction) will result in \$12,840,137 and additional expenditures (movement on the salary schedule, retirements, teaching and support staff for new schools, a savings for the transition of year-round education schools to traditional calendar, utilities, and state STRS contributions) equals \$9,368,097. The District will have \$3,475,040 available in unrestricted funds. He indicated that there are many demands on this additional money. To put this into perspective, if the insurance cap is raised by \$1,000 the total cost would be \$1 million. A one percent raise for employees would equal \$2 million. Therefore, the District would not have enough to give a two percent raise. There is also a concern about the need for additional clerical staff, counselors, campus supervisors, gardeners. If the Governor's budget goes through, this amount is all the District will have to work with to meet these varying demands.

There was Board discussion and concern about the STRS contribution. Dr. Ferguson stated that the Education Coalition, which is comprised of management, labor, and PTA groups, are uniting in terms of protecting revenues for the children of California. All the District associations and District representatives are addressing what impact this will have for Moreno Valley students. Presentations will be made to various employee, parent, and community groups over the next few months.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEMS

V-A Administrative Regulation

- AR 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials

V-B Administrative Regulation

- AR 3250 – Materials Fees (New)

The following items were brought forward:

Tracey B. Vacker

- She asked if arrangements could be made for the student Board representatives to stay longer at the Board meeting and participate in dialog with the Board regarding the graduation requirements and concerns. She feels it is important for the Board to hear what they have to say and they can be good communicators to take this information back to their sites.

Jacqueline L. Ashe

- She had no comments.

Rick Sayre

- He had no comments.

Richard Coz

- He had no comments.

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Jesus M. Holquin

- He stated that Dr. Ferguson referred to the Education Coalition working toward the betterment of the budget for schools. It is important to keep in mind that education needs a lot of money. Many cuts have occurred over the years. We need to keep working to support the financial side of

education. Hopefully, all those involved in the process can review what has happened in the last few years and take a look at all the demands being placed on education with little or less funding. He hopes the Education Coalition can do something to support education statewide.

Nick Ferguson

- He had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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