

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FEBRUARY 22, 2005

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2005, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of March 8, 2005. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of February 22, 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 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; and Conference with CSEA, MVEA and AMVMP Labor Negotiator.

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 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present - Ashe Present- Coz Present - Holguin Present - Sayre Present- Vackar
Student Board Rep. – Dianna Byrd

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
Joe Palomino, Director, Secondary Education
Willie Hasson, Director, Certificated Employee Services
Bobbie Byers, Principal, Bayside
Mary Jones, Principal, Vista del Lago
Estuardo Santillan, Business Manager
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Clarissa Hernandez
Marciela Hinds
Katherine Underwood
Erica Rodriguez
Freddrick Knox
Martell Harris
Robert Jenkins

Lia Freeman
Michael Deaton
Ann Adler
Howard Lyon
Ida Martinez
Connie Ross

Kristen Conner
Dianna Byrd
Lequice Juckes
Monica Scullion
Suzy Anderson
Joannie Jenkins

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
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NOTE: ALL BOARD ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO: INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, ACTION

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Coz.

INSPIRATIONS: Board Member Sayre appreciates having the opportunity to gather this evening for important business. Our business is important -- that the human race can provide a free and valuable education to our youth. It is hoped the youth will turn to adulthood with positive and constructive abilities to contribute to society.

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

March	8, 2005	5 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
March	22, 2005	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
April	26, 2005	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Charter School students, under the direction of teachers, Monica Scullion, Howard Lyon, and Fredrick Knox, presented an autobiography on an African American person from a historical perspective.

Judith Fink, math teacher, Vista del Lago, was recognized for her selection by the Riverside-San Bernardino Mathematics Teachers' Association as the 2004 Outstanding High School Mathematics Teacher.

The Board of Education recognized the following retirees not in attendance this evening:

- Martha DeVille, Account Clerk II, Business Services, effective March 1, 2005.
- Betsy Harvey, Instructional Assistant, Mountain View, effective December 1, 2004.
- George Chun Tei King, SDS Instructional Assistant, Bear Valley, effective December 1, 2004.
- Sylvia Skowronek, Nutrition Assistant, Badger Springs, effective January 11, 2005.
- Irene Small, Secretary II, Risk Management, effective December 31, 2005.
- Sharon Woodward, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective February 1, 2005.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Erica Rodriguez, March Valley, reported that students took the high school exit exam on February 8 and 9; on February 10, ASB and Peer Leadership sponsored an assembly focusing on proper student behavior and the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs); ASB sold roses, chocolates, suckers, and balloons for Valentine's Day, which was a success; on March 10, March Valley ASB will participate in a fund raiser to help kids fight cancer; and ASB is planning a BBQ fundraiser for March 17.

Clarissa Hernandez, March Mountain, reported that seniors who have good attendance are being allowed to take four classes to help them graduate; students have finished taking the high school exit exam; on March 3, some students will be going on a field trip to Midland Elementary to read to the students; and the basketball team has only lost one game and are currently in first place.

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Lia Freeman, Bayside, reported that the class of 2007 attempted the high school exit exam in February. A total of 44 students took the reading test and 36 students took the math test. On February 15 and 22, Johnny Ibarra, a motivational and anti-gang speaker, visited both Bayside and Charter. He provided an orientation and information on anti-gang programs. It is anticipated that this information will improve student relations and racial harmony at both sites. Various activities in honor of Black History Month include: 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."

Kristen Conner, Vista del Lago, reported that seniors are excited about their upcoming graduation. Information on the purchase of caps and gowns and graduation announcements was provided to the seniors in their Government/Economics classes. Last week seniors signed contracts "which is nothing more than the usual expectation of our seniors at Vista del Lago." The GEAR UP grant will be sponsoring the ACT testing in March at no cost to juniors. On March 12, an academic assembly will be held to recognize outstanding scholars for first semester. The National Honor Society is sponsoring Vista del Lago's first blood drive on February 23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A speech contest will be held on March 19. ASB is in the process of planning spring activities which include a spring fair, farewell assembly to seniors, and spring sports recognition. Close to the prom, a presentation on "Every 15 Minutes" will be made at an assembly. This presentation focuses on not drinking and driving. The boys' and girls' soccer teams, and the boys' basketball teams have moved into CIF. This is the second year that the boys' basketball team are league champs. The football banquet was held on February 15. Various awards were given out including recognition of outstanding athletic scholars – Sean Street, David Smith, Judd Ayers, Brain McDowell, Greg Evans, Bennie Harold, Brian Jackson, and Albert Raya.

Michael Deaton, Valley View, reported that the high school exit exam has been completed. Eighty-eight percent of the students passed the Language Arts and 86 percent passed in mathematics. This makes Valley View the number one school in the District with the highest testing scores for the high school exit exam. It is hoped that there will be a 95 percent passing for the class of 2006. The boys' varsity basketball team won the Mountain View League championship. The game against Centennial High School was exciting and was won in overtime. The girls' varsity soccer team went to CIF and won third place in the league. Athletics is doing well this year. On February 14, an AP Honors information night was held for parents and students. On February 17, the instrumental musical department held "An Evening of Jazz," which was successful. ASB has been celebrating diversity in recognition of Black History Month with various activities during the lunch periods.

Diana Byrd, Moreno Valley, reported that during first period each day, during the month of February in recognition of Black History Month, announcements are made about outstanding black personalities that have made a difference. On March 30, ASB is sponsoring a basketball game with radio station 99.1 KGGI. Moreno Valley staff will play against KGGI staff. On March 9, students will visit Creekside Elementary School to read to the students in honor of Dr. Suess Day. Virtual Business is sponsoring fundraisers in preparation for the trip to New York. Tenth grade attendance for the high school exit exam was outstanding. There will be a dance held on March 29 hosted by In N Out Burgers. Ms. Kate Flowers, Moreno Valley English teacher, is on a leave of absence for the rest of the semester. She is in the hospital and is in critical condition. Ms. Byrd asked that everyone keep her in their prayers.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

budget. Public schools sacrificed \$2 billion in ongoing cuts because the Governor made several promises. The promises included: to limit the education cut to no more than \$2 billion, education would receive a fair share of any additional State revenues, and education would be spared additional State reductions in future years.

This year the education community faces a major battle over the budget. Hundreds of school districts are barely surviving because they relied on these promises. Now that the economy has improved, education should get its share of new revenues. However, the Governor is not keeping his promises by proposing another \$2.3 billion cut in education. This proposed budget goes against the will of California voters, fails our students, and breaks the education budget agreement approved last year by the Governor and the Legislature.

Bob Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, stated that Proposition 98 was approved by the California voters sixteen years ago. This amended the State Constitution to guarantee education a base level of funding. Recently, there is talk that all or some of the State's budget problems are caused by Proposition 98 because so much money has to be given to education. California voters approved and continue to strongly support Proposition 98. It protects schools and students from harmful budget cuts and establishes a minimum level of funding for education.

The budget proposal does nothing that will deal with the problems of under funding and it undermines what is left of Proposition 98 with a new constitutional amendment. This amendment would weaken school funding protections and allow for multiple rounds of devastating mid-year, across-the-board cuts with no hope of repayment. Another proposal is to transfer employee retirement costs to local school districts putting vital student programs at risk. This would result in an additional two percent that Moreno Valley would need to pay for a total of 10.25 percent for STRS.

Mary Jones, principal, Vista del Lago High School, and president, AMVMP, stated that the budget proposal is designed to divert public attention from the real problems facing schools. In the last four years \$9.8 billion has been cut from education. These cuts affected school districts statewide by increases in class size, layoffs of teachers and support staff, shortages of librarians, counselors, nurses, custodians, and groundskeepers, many schools lacking basic supplies and instructional materials, cutting art, music, after-school programs, extra curricular activities which are no longer affordable, and under funding of schools.

Katherine Underwood, president, MVEA, addressed the issues of California school spending. Thirty years ago, California's K-12 school system was a national leader in per pupil spending. California is currently ranked 44th in the nation in per pupil spending. The State presently spends \$600 less than the national average. Beginning in 1969 and through the 1980's, California was above average in spending on the students. In the mid 1980's the spending leveled out. From 1988 on, the spending level has decreased. The proposed budget will only add to the decline on the amount spent on students. Ms. Underwood stated that MVEA has taken action to oppose any of the proposals out of Sacramento that will be detrimental to the students in California, particularly here in Moreno Valley.

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In conclusion, education is being short changed and not receiving the funding to which it is legally entitled. The future rests in our children and we need to invest in them. Thirty-six percent is not a promise kept. Education has already given \$9.8 billion in four years to help the State balance the budget. Proposition 98, the voter approved initiative, needs to be honored.

- She shared a concern about the comments made by the March Mountain student Board representative regarding taking three classes. She does not understand how a student that is credit deficient can become credit ready with only earning 15 credits during a semester. She requested a dialog with Dr. Chandler and Joe Palomino to address this issue.

Jacqueline L. Ashe

- She had no comments.

Rick Sayre

- He appreciated the African American History perspective from the students. He grew up during a time of the struggle of civil rights and how Martin Luther King impacted society in this cause. He is proud of our country and being a member of society in seeing these changes which continue to make this country a great place.

Richard Coz

- He appreciated the staff's presentation on the budget. He wants the public to know that California is faced with a huge budget problem. It is not something that has just occurred. He does not feel that this issue is because of the lack of income. He feels it is a matter of controlling State expenditures and outgoing monies. He shared a concern about the State Legislature and Governor putting spending for welfare and prisons as a priority. He feels that spending for the education of the children of the State of California, our future, should be at the top of the list. He asked the Legislature and all the leaders in Sacramento to fund education.

Jesus M. Holquin

- He also appreciated the budget presentation. He appreciates that this presentation is being provided to the various community groups and constituents. It is important to get the word out and he commended the group for working together to accomplish this. He attended the DELAC meeting where this presentation was provided and was well received. It is important that we need more funding to provide a quality education, extra curricular activities, and programs to all the students. The approval of the resolution in support of fully funding education is a positive step for the District to take.

Mr. Holquin asked that the public be aware of what they read or hear in the media on this issue. He stated that the Education Coalition has worked together with the community in support of educational funding. The proposal of the Governor is not in accordance with what the Education Coalition has working toward. The Governor has formed a separate group called the Coalition for Education Reform. The titles may be misleading. He asked everyone to be aware of what they read and pay attention to the title of the groups reporting on budget issues. We need to continue to convince the legislators the importance of funding for the education of the children of California.

- He thanked the students for the Black History Month activities.
- He appreciates the efforts that the schools and groups are making to sponsor various activities for Read Across America. It is important that our students can successfully read.

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Nick Ferguson

- He congratulated Judy Fink for being selected as the 2004 Outstanding High School Mathematics Teacher by the Riverside-San Bernardino Mathematics Teachers' Association.
- He is proud of the Moreno Valley Community Learning Center. The students did a wonderful job tonight. It was a heartwarming experience.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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