

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF OCTOBER 22, 2002**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2002, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of November 26, 2002. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of October 22, 2002.

**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 25**

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 Appointments/Employment, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with CSEA, MVEA, and AMVMP Labor Negotiator, Personnel Complaints, and Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.

Members Present

Rick Sayre, President  
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Vice President  
Tracey B. Vackar, Clerk  
John Bailey, Member (Late)

Administration

Nick Ferguson  
Dan Stevenson

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:11 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present - Ashe Present - Bailey Present – Sayre Present – Vackar

REPORT OUT  
OF CLOSED  
SESSION:

The Board of Education supported staff recommendations on Special Education Private School Placement Cases and Hearing Officer Recommendations. The Board of Education decided to reduce the action to a lesser degree under Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release. There was no reportable action Conference with CSEA, MVEA, and AMVMP Labor Negotiator. There was no action taken on Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation. Under Public Employee Appointments/Employment, Dr. Ferguson announced that Nancy Ross has been appointed the new middle school principal for Palm by the Board of Education.

Administration Present

Robert Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Joe Palomino, Director, Secondary Education  
Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education

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Administration Present (Cont.)

Dan Reed, Director, Accountability, Assessment, and Training

Mary Jones, Principal, Vista del Lago  
 Paul Rodriguez, Principal, Moreno Valley  
 Jim Dutton, Principal, Landmark  
 Bobbie Byers, Administrator, Bayside/Moreno Valley Community Learning Center  
 Wade Hamilton, Principal, Ridge Crest  
 Debbie Fay, Principal, Moreno  
 Georgia Hampton, Principal, Midland  
 Penny Macon, Principal, Sugar Hill  
 Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Jesus Holguin	Becky Shreiner	Zenia Lowe
Katherine Underwood	Ann Adler	Nancy Ross
Kim Hendricks	Raul Wilson	Louise Palomarez
Christine John	Emil Dragovich	Esturado Santillan
Richard Mayo	Kelly Charlton	Victoria Baca
Tanya Sierra	Albert James	Susan Woken
Krystal Adams	Barbara Adams	Michael Lopez
Joseph Benitez	Andrea Chouinard	Shelly Byrn
Carla Kwom	Jon Davia	Kristin Cox
Brandon Williams	Tatiaha Williams	Cindy Medina
Elena Romero	Lucy Puupo	Megan Rickard
Christina Winter	Arlene Hudson	Sharon Mabon
Carmen Castillo	Britt Conkey	Karen Odle
James Byun	Clark Sepa	Sene Sepa
Joy Sepa	Teresa Benitos	Ann Prows
Sue Prows	Gregory Bundy	Prince L. Hall
Ardalan Azad	Pelema F. Leiluu	Tou F. Leiluu
Krystal Arroyo	Andrea Stump	Tracy Stump
Kristin Stump	Nikkie Landeros	Genesis Morales
Tom Okeefe	Eric Johnson	DeJene Graham
Crystal Adams		

**NOTE: ALL BOARD ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO: INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, ACTION**

PLEDGE OF

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

INVOCATION: Board President Sayre reflected on the random acts of violence on the East coast and asked that condolences be with the victims and their families.

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

October	22, 2002	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
<del>November</del>	<del>12, 2002</del>	<del>7 p.m.</del>	<del>Regular Board Meeting</del>	<del>Board Room</del> <b>Cancelled</b>
November	13, 2002	5 p.m.	Special Board Meeting – Student Discipline	Board Room
November	26, 2002	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

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RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Moreno Valley Community Learning Center staff made a presentation on the school's educational program.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

The following student Board representatives gave their school reports: Andrea Stump, Moreno Valley, reported about upcoming activities: Several students will be honored at The Press-Enterprise scholarship banquet at UCR on October 29. Next week various activities for Halloween spirit week are planned. The ACE Academy is planning a fundraiser dance. A memorial ceremony for teachers John Goos and Jim Danielson will be held on November 6. A middle school convention is scheduled at Shakey's on November 21. The football team is currently undefeated, is ranked fourth in CIF, and will play North on October 25. The volleyball team is doing well. A Peer Leadership Conference is scheduled at UCR on November 7. Moreno Valley is planning on naming the baseball field for former student, Troy Percival, who is a relief pitcher for the Angels baseball team.

James Byrn, Canyon Springs, reported that the theme for Homecoming activities this week is "super heroes." The Moreno Valley Police and Fire Department chiefs will be grand marshals for the Homecoming parade. Various activities have been planned for Red Ribbon week. The flex-day schedule has been changed and seems to be working well. Many efforts are being made to assist students in successfully passing the high school exit exam. The Halloween blood drive is scheduled for October 31 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Crystal Adams, Vista del Lago, reported that the Interact Club is the school's first official club, which will focus on community service and scholarships. The Interact Club will also participate in building the Rotary International float for the New Year's Day parade. The first dance is scheduled for October 25 with a costume competition. Next week is spirit week. On October 12, Friday Night Live participated in a field trip to Knott's Scary Farm. The next Friday Night Live field trip is scheduled for Magic Mountain on November 2. The cross-country team is doing well. She acknowledged Noah Fergosa and Deyanira Pilola for an outstanding job for their accomplishments in their cross-country meets. Ms. Adams thanked Ms. Jones for encouraging students to have a positive attitude. The students are grateful to have Ms. Jones as their principal.

Crystal Arroyo, March Mountain, reported that on October 16, ASB and Peer leaders attended a leadership conference at Redlands University. She shared a concern that the group had to leave the event early due to the District transportation arrangements. Students are no longer able to attend the home volleyball games due to the lack of campus supervisor positions as a result of the budget cuts. A Board member asked for clarification regarding the games. Staff was directed to research this issue.

DeJene Graham, Bayside, reported that the October 9 Back-to-School night was a success. Students and parents have been improving average attendance, which is now 88 percent. She reported about the increase in test scores and student enrollment.

DeJene Graham, Moreno Valley Community Learning Center (MVCLC), reported that on October 24, MVCLC held Back-to-School night. There was minimal parent attendance. To improve attendance of students, Mr. Byers and several staff members have established an intervention program at Bayside called "Excellent Attendance Promotes Success." This program is a bimonthly activity, which will focus on chronically truant students and discuss improving their poor attendance. Red Ribbon Week will be observed with various activities planned.

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Ardalan Azhad, Valley View, reported that Principal Kruger is the king of pig kissing as a Homecoming fundraiser. Homecoming was last week and the football team beat Rubidoux (44-0). The Health Academy won the best Homecoming float. Progress reports have gone out, and students have until November 8 to raise their grades. Next month seniors will begin to complete college applications. Several colleges (UC San Diego, Riverside and Davis) have given presentations to the seniors. There

are AP Government students in attendance tonight to meet their requirement of participating in political action. Various activities are planned for Red Ribbon Week. He wished luck to those who are up for reelection and hopes to see them at the next Board meeting.

#### STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A citizen requested information about the special education placements and costs. This information has been provided

A parent shared a concern about the overcrowding of classrooms at Sunnymead Middle School and the flex-day schedule. There was initial overcrowding in the English learner classes due to unexpected high enrollments. The overcrowded classes have been resolved. Sunnymead Middle does not have a flex-day schedule. The District has used a flex-day schedule for many years. The purpose of the flex day is to provide staff development opportunities.

When a student received a minor injury at a non-public school, a question was raised whether the District monitors these schools. The answer is “yes.” The District also conducted an investigation, which revealed the student had a “bad” day. The student has apologized.

A concern was shared about an air conditioning problem at Vista Heights. Once the District was made aware of the situation, it was immediately resolved. Temperatures have been at normal levels since that time.

A citizen stated that special education teachers do not have sufficient supplies. Special allocations have been made to all school site budget specifically for the Special Education Program.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Albert James, Midland parent; and Karen Odle, Midland kindergarten teacher, shared their concerns about Midland being placed on a year-round schedule. They gave reasons why they felt Midland should be left on a traditional schedule and asked the Board to reconsider this decision.

Christine John, community member, commended the District for offering students the opportunity to participate in the Middle College Program through Riverside Community College (RCC). She had several of these students in an RCC class she was attending. It was a pleasure.

Tom O’Keefe, Midland PTA member, shared a concern about funding for playground equipment as addressed in Consent Item 309. He asked what the Board’s expectations were because the PTA had already raised \$17,000. Mr. Crank indicated that the District did not expect any additional funds. The remaining costs would be covered by modernization funds.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Carmen Castillo, District parent, shared a concern about a transportation issue and her special needs student. She indicated that she had made numerous calls and has yet to receive a call back. Staff was directed to research this issue.

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Eric Johnson, Moreno Valley High School teacher, spoke on behalf of the football coaching staff. He asked that the Board and the District support the mission statement by embracing diversity. Students, staff, and football coaches are embarrassed about the recent issue surrounding the football team. He stated that there is renewed commitment from administrators, students, and staff to improve the perception of the school.



## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### 275 Year Round Education

Robert Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, presented information new construction eligibility, student enrollment, enrollment capacity, and costs. Year round education is an additional expense. However, because there currently are no additional state or District funds to build new schools, it is necessary to place more schools on a year round schedule. The three schools being recommended for year round in 2002-03 are Ridge Crest, Midland, and Landmark. To date, these schools are above their capacity.

Dan Reed, Director, Accountability, Assessment, and Training, reviewed student achievement information and perceived advantages and disadvantages of year round education.

It is the perception that year round education improves student achievement, attendance, motivation, and availability of support opportunities (intersession); reduces discipline and teacher stress; provides opportunities for teachers to work year round; and is a better use of facilities.

Perceived disadvantages include increased administrator burn-out; scheduling problems for families; difficulty in arranging day care; and different schedules for siblings.

Research is inconclusive regarding the effects of year round on student achievement. When traditional scores rise or fall, year round scores do the same. From this data, Moreno Valley cannot prove that year round has any advantage or disadvantage in student achievement based on state standardized test scores. Underachieving students receive support during intersession breaks, which logically should have a positive impact on learning during the school year.

There was Board discussion and questions. The Board needs to be assured that year round education needs to happen. Mr. Crank indicated that the Attendance Boundary Committee will be reactivated and begin to review the student population growth, high-density growth, and boundaries.

The decision the Board makes tonight is a formality to notify these school communities that a year round education schedule may be implemented for the 2003-04 school year. According to state law, the District must notify the public by November 1 which schools are being considered for a year round education schedule for the next school year. A recommendation will be brought back to the Board before year round is implemented at additional schools.

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After discussion regarding new home developments and increased student growth, it was recommended that the remaining elementary and middle schools currently on a traditional calendar be added to the proposed schools sites of Ridge Crest, Midland, and Landmark. This would provide the District and Attendance Boundary Committee more flexibility.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

### 375 Resolution No. 2002-03-27 – Year Round Schools

It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that this resolution be approved as amended by adding the remaining traditional elementary (Box Springs, Hidden Springs, Midland, Moreno, Ridge Crest, Seneca) and traditional middle schools (Landmark, Sunnymead) to the potential year round list and return to the Board with a final report.

VOTE: AYE – 4

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

376 Fiscal Year 2002-03 Budget Revisions/Reductions

Mr. Crank presented information on the 2002-03 budget revisions and reductions. Now that the state has an adopted budget, the District is able to make revisions to its originally adopted budget based on new revenue and expenditure projections. After the revisions, the budget is balanced and the minimum state reserve requirement remains intact. The District's reserve is currently 2.17 percent.

Mr. Crank indicated that the budget reductions are being monitored almost on a weekly basis. Most of the thirty-seven proposed budget reductions have been implemented. The District did not realize the projected savings with the early retirement plan due to fewer than anticipated participants. Energy conservation is improving. An analysis will be done and reported back to the Board periodically. It is imperative that the District maximizes ADA by 1 percent. This will be monitored carefully. The District is off to a very good start. In the last three months ADA is at 1 percent. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the budget revisions so they can be submitted to the county and the District's budget will be up-to-date.

There was Board discussion and concern about the narrow margin of the reserve, and the ambitious proposal of increasing ADA by 1 percent. Information on the various proposed site plans and concepts for improving attendance was requested. Dr. Ferguson stated that there are committees working on this and trainings have been conducted. Staff is working with information systems to compile some of this data. However, this information needs to be assimilated by hand.

There was a concern about the poor shape of the state budget. Dr. Ferguson stated that the state budget will need to be a top priority regardless of who gets elected. The District did not go out on a limb banking on receiving additional funds. Other school districts are going to have to make cuts that Moreno Valley has already made. He feels confident that the District will receive the projected funds.

The District is now monitoring the current budget, and the budget process for next year has begun. This will give the District the opportunity to survey sites to get feedback on how the District can recover some costs and ways to be more cost effective. Staff was commended on the long-range projections and the proactive measures being done.

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It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by John Bailey that the budget revisions be approved as presented.

VOTE: AYE – 4

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEMS

None

The following items were brought forward:

John Bailey

- He commended the high school government students for attending the Board meeting. What they witnessed during the public comment portion tonight was a perfect example of freedom of speech. Some individuals make personal attacks, false accusations, and use intimidation. They do not want to be part of the solution, or try to be constructive.

Tracey Vackar

- The parent concern expressed on transportation of a special education student needs to be investigated, the process corrected, and an apology given if this were not done correctly. She requested a status report on this incident before the next Board meeting.
- She commended the high school government students attending the meeting tonight. She would be happy to answer questions the students may have after the meeting.

Jackie Ashe

- She thanked the parents and students for attending the Board meeting tonight.
- She thanked Katherine Underwood for her comments.
- She thanked Mr. Dragovich for his comments and his volunteer work. She commended people who volunteer their time after hours.

Rick Sayre

- Last week he spent time with Debbie Fay, Moreno principal, and staff. They had a consultant work with staff on strategies to improve test scores and attendance. The more an individual gets involved on the campus, it is apparent how teachers and staff are professional.
- He attended the Sam's/Walmart/Phi Delta Kappa Teacher of the Year award ceremony for Debbie Eyer, Landmark band teacher, on October 18. Through a medical challenge Ms. Eyer has faced recently, she has been able to prepare students for having to deal with challenges in their future. He feels that staff do a great job. This is a good school district.

Nick Ferguson

- He commended Debbie Eyer for her accomplishment. Everyone has had a teacher that has made a difference in his/her life. The District has a lot of Debbie Eyers in classified and certificated staff.
- He shared a concern about the special education transportation incident and follow up reported tonight. These calls needs to be better monitored and handled in a more timely manner.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by John Bailey that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

VOTE: AYE – 4

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

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