

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2009, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 2009. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of November 17, 2009.

**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 Regular meeting at 5:02 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Board Deliberation Regarding Student Discipline Cases; Public Employee Employment/Appointment; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Non-Reelects; Conference with Labor Negotiators; Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation; and Personnel Complaints.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS  
ON CLOSED  
SESSION:**

There were no public comments on the Closed Session agenda.

The Board of Education convened into Closed Session at 5:03 p.m.

Members Present

Tracey B. Vackar, President  
Jesus M. Holguin, Vice President  
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Clerk  
Victoria Baca, Member  
Rick Sayre, Member (absent)

Administration

Rowena Lagrosa  
Barbara Davis

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:19 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF  
CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board of Education gave direction to the Superintendent and Director of Classified Services regarding labor negotiations with CSEA. They also discussed student discipline cases and are holding Case No. 025-09-10 for further review. They are pulling Case No. 040-09-10 because the parent has requested an extension of time. Direction was also given to the Director of Risk Management regarding workers' comp settlement cases. The Board of Education will reconvene into Closed Session after the Regular Session adjourns to continue discussion on the remaining Closed Session Agenda items.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye – Ashe Aye – Baca Aye – Holguin Aye – Sayre (absent) Aye – Vackar

Administration Present

Rowena T. Lagrosa, Superintendent of Schools  
Barbara Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Ken Schmidt, Director, Student Services  
Kim Kruger, Director, Secondary Education  
Dan Reed, Director, Accountability and Assessment

Administration Present (Cont.)

Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education  
Aaron Barnett, Director, Information Systems  
Betsy Sample, Director, English Language Learners' Program  
Sergio San Martin, Director, Facilities  
Stan Brown, Director, Maintenance and Operations  
Josie Ripoly, Director, Purchasing  
Laura Strachan, Principal, March Mountain  
Gil Ocegueda, Principal, Vista del Lago  
Kristen Hunter, Principal, Valley View  
Tammy Guzzetta, Principal, Canyon Springs  
Maribel Mattox, Principal, Moreno Valley  
Bobby Byers, Administrator, Bayside/Charter  
Melissa Bazanos, Principal, Edgemont  
Francine Story, Director, Budget  
Estuardo Santillan, Business Manager  
Sheryl Sanford, Administrative Assistant

Visitors

Karla Noonan	Lorri Limoges-Kerns	Janet MacMillan
Ann Adler	Debra Craig	George Schoelles
Patricia Diener	Nicole Smith	Benjamin Garcia
David Vasquez	Lauren Hartman	Natalie Gomez
Chloe Arias	Starr Kidd	Librada Murillo
Emilio Gonzales		

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

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative Shawn Reichert.

INSPIRATIONS: Board Vice President Holguin gave the Inspiration.

Consent Item I-2 was moved forward from Consent Items.

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Jesus M. Holguin to approve Patricia Diener as the Executive Secretary to the Board of Education.

VOTE: AYES – 4 (absent – Sayre) NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 0

Board President Tracey Vackar introduced Patricia Diener, newly selected Executive Secretary to the Board of Education, and her husband and welcomed her to the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

RECOGNITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

The recognition by Waste Management was moved to the January Board meeting.

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Four schools presented at the Education Summit that was sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education. Moreno Valley High School, Mountain View Middle School, Edgemont Elementary School, and Moreno Elementary School were presented certificates to recognize their efforts and successes.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

The following Student Board Representatives gave their high school reports:

Meyghan Aguilar, Bayside/Charter  
Stephanie Carlos, March Mountain  
Kristian Wright, Canyon Springs  
Kevin Herrera, Moreno Valley  
Genevieve Newton, Valley View  
Shawn Reicher, Vista del Lago

## STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following is staff response to comments made at the October 27, 2009 Board Meeting on Agenda and Non-agenda items:

The President of the Moreno Valley Educators Association expressed an interest in working with and providing input to the District and the Moreno Valley Campus of the Riverside Community College in exploring the possibility of establishing a dependent Charter which would focus on the Health Sciences. It was reiterated by both the Board and the College that there would be open communication in order to ensure that everyone would be involved in this developmental process. The District has been informed by Riverside Community College that the Arthur Benjamin High School Charter proposal which was requested would soon arrive.

The President of the Moreno Valley Educators Association shared that some of the activities which are being implemented as a result of our District's work with Empowering Parents' replicates efforts that are currently supported by AVID teachers and counselors. Whereas there is agreement by the District and the Association that there is a need to focus efforts upon increasing the graduation rate and the percentage of students eligible to enter the four year CSU/UC system as well as private secondary institutions, the moral imperative to address our current statistics is the District's driving force in partnering with Empowering Parents. It is this effort which truly complements the efforts of our AVID teachers and counselors. The 2007-08 reported graduation rate for the District was 64.9% and our dropout rate is higher than comparably sized districts as well as one of the highest in Riverside County. Additionally, of our graduating students, only 26.6% have met the A-G requirements and are eligible to enter a CSU or UC university. Everyone needs to work together to change these statistics.

Two Canyon Springs Parents spoke on behalf of the freshman football coach who just completed the season at Canyon Springs High School.

A community member and parent from Box Springs Elementary spoke to the issue of failed leadership and cited examples of data which has erroneously been submitted and incorporated into a report, a robbery at the school site, and procedures not being followed regarding checking out our students. He asked that everyone be held accountable for their actions. In order to address his concerns, both the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and the Elementary Director scheduled an appointment to meet with the parent. The initial meeting was cancelled by the parent; however, a meeting was held on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> with the parent, Dr. Davis, and Ms. Nordin at which issues and concerns were addressed.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items at this time.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A community member is concerned about the placement of High School #5 less than two miles away from Valley View High School. His concerns include the expansion of Ironwood to compensate Highway 60 overflow, the short-sited fix for exceeding capacity at Valley View, and that most of the growth will be on the east side of the city.

A Board member reminded the community of the Public Forum regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> High School that will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Palm Middle School. The community is invited to hear about the two proposed sites for the 5<sup>th</sup> High School and we seek comments and feedback on the proposed sites. An additional meeting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

A Board member asked if the posting regarding this meeting was displayed at Palm and Mountain View.

A posting was sent to all of our parents at Palm, placed in the Spanish and English local newspapers, and mailed to all of the residents that live in the area. There is a posting at Palm and a posting will be placed at the feeder schools. The full report is in the public library, at Canyon Springs and on our website. Additional postings will be placed on the proposed sites and a full report will be placed at Valley View.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Jesus M. Holguin and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe to approve Superintendent Consent Items F-1 through 6; Educational Services Consent Item G-1; Business Services Consent Items H-1 through 7; and Human Resources Consent Items I-3 through 18. Item I-2 – Approve Classified/Confidential Managerial Personnel Employment for the 2009-10 School Year was voted on earlier in the agenda.

VOTE:                            AYES – 4 (absent-Sayre)    NAYS – 0                            ABSTAIN – 0

ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Jesus M. Holguin and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe, to approve Superintendent Action Item J –1; Educational Services Items K-1 through 8; Business Services Item L-1, and Student Services Action Item M-1, as presented, pulling Student Services Case No. 040-09-10 to be moved to a future Board meeting and Case No. 025-09-10 for discussion in a reconvened Closed Session after the Regular meeting.

There was Board discussion and clarification on Action Item L-1.

VOTE:                            AYES – 4 (absent-Sayre)    NAYS – 0                            ABSTAIN – 0

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

Educational Services

- Approval to Display the Human Geography – Advanced Placement Textbook

Dr. Barbara Davis stated there was a proposal for a textbook adoption for Human Geography. She asked for approval to place it on public display for 14 days.

It was moved by Victoria Baca and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe, to approve Educational Services Item N-1, as presented.

VOTE:                            AYES – 4 (absent-Sayre)    NAYS – 0                            ABSTAIN – 0

## COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Victoria Baca

- We are approaching the end of the calendar year and getting into the holiday spirit. Schools will be out for three weeks and everyone should be safe
- Come back in the new year ready to start the new semester
- We have our Organizational Meeting on December 8, 2009 and she invited everyone to attend
- As a member of the community, she will be starting an ad hoc committee on dropout prevention. She is going to take the initiative and start the committee so that changes can be implemented instead of just being talked about.

### Jackie Ashe

- She asked that the Board be invited to the new committee
- She wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and asked them to have a designated driver
- She wished everyone on the Board with a November birthday, a Happy Birthday
- She thanked Jesus Holguin for his efforts at getting the music program to the California School Boards association

### Jesus Holguin

- He stated that he talks to everyone about music. He received an article about schools in New York City and their graduation rates. It discussed what the arts do to improve graduation and dropout rates. He hopes we continue to support the arts and asked for the parents' help.
- He congratulated the Valley View High School Choir for being selected to participate at the CSBA conference
- He congratulated all students that perform in sports and the arts
- He thanked the staff for their dedication in teaching the students

### Tracey Vackar

- She thanked Jackie Ashe for filling in for her at a Red Ribbon Week event
- She thanked Jesus Holguin for working with Valley View on their application to perform at the conference. She stated that we have a quality music program and will be representing our District and the county
- She stated that the Riverside County School Boards Association appointed her to represent the county on the Federal Government Relations Committee. She will be going to Washington DC to do some lobbying. She wants to place an item on the agenda to get the concurrence of the Board to allow her to do this. RCSBA will pay the expenses.
- She likes the idea of an ad hoc committee but asked that it be place on the agenda for formal approval and discussion of what the process would be
- She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked them to be safe

### Rowena Lagrosa

- She reminded the public that the District Office would be closed next week for two furlough days and three holidays. Our schools will also be closed.
- On September 24<sup>th</sup>, a Study Session was held and Dr. Davis and the Educational Services team presented testing data and action plans that address the dropout issue. The Board gave direction to work with the stakeholders and bargaining units to get input. They will be coming back to the Board as we discuss the 2010-11 budget. Part of the budget development process is to look at the necessary steps needed to put into place to address dropouts.
- She thanked all the employees because this has been an exciting and challenging year. We are doing much more with fewer resources. The spirit is there to keep moving and working together. She appreciates the cooperation of our employees to meet the needs of our students.
- She wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The Board of Education will continue in Closed Session to discuss the remaining Closed Session Agenda items.

The Board of Education reconvened into Open Session at 10:16 p.m.

REPORT OUT  
OF CLOSED  
SESSION:

There was no action taken. The Board of Education reviewed employee discipline cases with the Superintendent. The Board of Education will continue the meeting on November 18, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.