

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 1998, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 1998. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of September 8, 1998.

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

THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING AUDIO/VIDEO TAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Private School Placement Cases; Hearing Officer Recommendations; Public Employee Appointments; and Public Employee Employment.

Members Present

Alex T. Candelaria, President
Bernadette Burks, Vice President
Charles W. Ledbetter, Clerk
Tracey B. Vackar, Member
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Member

Administration

Anita L. Suazo
Jack Clarke, P/T

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:40 p.m.

REPORT OUT
OF CLOSED
SESSION:

The Board of Education discussed Private School Placement Case Nos. 04-98-99 through 06-98-99; Hearing Officer Recommendations Case Nos. 139-96-97, 146-96-97, 157-96-97, 196-96-97, 033-97-98, 088-97-98, 182-97-98, 5145-97-98; Public Employee Appointment was approved, with a count of 4-Ayes and 1-Nay (Ashe), to appoint Dr. Suzanne Pickup as Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources effective September 9, 1998, and Gayle Rellstab, Assistant Principal at Valley View, effective date is to be determined. There was no reportable action on Public Employee Employment.

ROLL CALL: AYE-Burks AYE-Candelaria AYE-Vackar AYE-Ledbetter AYE-Ashe

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY - 0 ABSTAIN - 0

RATIFICATION: It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar to ratify the Closed Session discussion.

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 22, 1998**

Administration Present

Anita L. Suazo, Superintendent of Schools
Ronald Bennett, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Schools/Educational Programs
Linda Wisher, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Christine Wallace, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal Services
Jeff Okun, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services
Willie Williams, Director, Facilities Planning
Paul Baird, Interim Director, Curriculum Planning
Roger Powell, Director, Information Systems
Maribel Anaya-Mattox, Coordinator, Categorical Programs
Len Anderson, Principal, Charter School
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Carl Curling	Jackie LePore	Ralph W. Smith
Jenelle M. Beard	David Lara-Tellez	Karen Rumfola
Rebecca Shreiner	Judy Harris	Darlene Dolan
Deanna Hendrickson	Mark Rosenbrook	Ron Crothers
Pamela Palmer	Karen Pierce	Jamie McCarthy
Stephanie Perea	Brett Turnage	Paul Wilson
Donna Saldin	Robert Washington	Bruce Barton
Jesus M. Holguin	Susan Holtan	Jon Holtan
Gary Baugh	Irma Nichols	Brandi Nichols
Marva Horn	Victoria Baca	Louise Palomarez

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

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by School Resource Officer, Sgt. Sawicki.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Board Member Charles W. Ledbetter.

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

September	22, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
October	13, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
October	27, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Brandi Nichols, a senior from Valley View High School, was recognized for her selection as one of eighty-eight students in the nation invited to attend the Northwestern University National High School Institute Summer Program.

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SCHOOL REPORTS

Brett Turnage introduced himself as this year's Moreno Valley High School Board/Student Representative. He is a junior and the Commissioner of Pep for ASB. He reported the following activities: September 8 – waterpolo at North, volleyball, and tennis; September 11 – football at Palm Springs. The Junior ROTC will participate in a field trip to KTLA for a television taping. He distributed "Viking Visa" cards to the Board Members and the Superintendent.

Stephanie Perea, Valley View High School Board/Student Representative, reported the following activities: The first day of school was a nice welcome with red, black, and white balloons and streamers decorating the campus. September 10 - Back-to-School Night at 6:30 p.m.; September 11 – Class-level assembly to review school rules, football game at Trabuco Hills, and volleyball game at La Sierra; September 12 - Dance Club car wash at Sunnymead Burgers from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; September 22 - music workshop; September 25-26 - Madrigal retreat on campus; and September 26 - Dance Club/Team Master Dance workshop. The Dance Club will participate in a keychain fundraiser and the Choir will participate in a coupon book fundraiser.

Paul Wilson, Canyon Springs High School Board/Student Representative, congratulated Brandi Nichols, and reported the following activities: August 27 – first day of school; August 28 – Back-to-School Assembly; September 7 – no school; September 8 – Jostens Ring Service and petitions for the Class of 2002; September 11 – Class of 2002 petitions due; September 15-16 – voting for Class of 2002; September 18 – Jostens Ring make-up day and ASB Retreat to Activities, Inc. All sports are in training every day to be the best. Fall sports begin September 8, 1998. He distributed anti-stress reliever candy jars and a 1998-99 school activities event calendar to all Board members.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

David Lara-Tellez spoke about the proposed meeting with the city council, and referred to the recent newspaper article regarding the proposal of the city to operate the school district. He shared a concern about one budget item the City is currently responsible for that affects schools, which is crossing guards. After one year the City does not desire to continue the funding for this one particular program. He feels there are many positive things happening in the District with the accomplishments of the students. He is against this Charter proposal, and feels Mr. Mullen needs to concentrate on the areas that he is involved in before beginning with the District.

Mark Rosenbrook asked the Board to review how the city council views the District. A meeting has been requested with the council on January 19, 1999. He feels this is unacceptable and too long to wait. He stated the District is the largest employer in the city. He feels without the revenue that the employees bring in and the tax dollars the students offer, the City would not survive. The City needs to be reminded of that.

Ralph W. Smith, Concerned Citizen, feels that over the last several Board meetings the Board has failed to make a decision about the present Superintendent's contract. He requested this be concluded by the next Board meeting. He stated he has an appointment with the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. about this Board and what has been done in the last ten years. He feels this is ample time, and he will be back with conclusions.

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CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Consent Items 201 through 214 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 301 through 305 under Fiscal Services, Items 401 through 417 under Human Resources, and Items 601 through 603 under Support Services be approved as presented with Consent Item 101 held for a separate vote.

VOTE: AYE - 5

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

ITEM (S) VOTED ON SEPARATELY

Moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Consent Item 101 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 4

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN – 1 (Burks)

SUPERINTENDENT

101 Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 25, 1998 (Separate Vote)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 201 Out-of-State Field Trip - National Career Academies Coalition Annual Conference – Canyon Springs
- 202 Out-of-State Field Trip - Jazz Band - Landmark
- 203 Overnight Field Trip - Jazz Band - Landmark
- 204 Overnight Field Trip - Big Bear Retreat - Canyon Springs
- 205 Overnight Field Trip - Annual C.A.D.A. Conference - Canyon Springs
- 206 Overnight Field Trip - California Activities Director’s Association Conference - Canyon Springs
- 207 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Adult Education
- 208 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - G.A.T.E. Band
- 209 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Mathematics Site Leaders K-12
- 210 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Mathematics Renaissance K-12 Site Facilitators
- 211 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Mathematics Renaissance Cadre Members
- 212 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Parent Workshop for Year-Round Schools
- 213 Amend Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Training of the Scoring System for Math Renaissance Tests Approved August 25, 1998
- 214 Ratify Membership - The Music Center of Los Angeles

FISCAL SERVICES

- 301 Direct Purchase List
- 302 Purchase Order List No. 2
- 303 Acceptance of Donation/Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-12 - To Expend Excess Funds
- 304 Acceptance of Donation
- 305 Acceptance of Donation

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 401 Managerial Personnel Resignation
- 402 Certificated Personnel Resignations
- 403 Certificated Personnel Non-Paid Leave of Absence for the 1998-99 School Year
- 404 Short-Term Certificated Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 405 Certificated Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 406 Certificated Personnel Employment on Variable Term Waivers
- 407 Certificated Extra Duty Personnel Employment (9-12) for the 1998-99 School Year

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
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CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)
HUMAN RESOURCES (CONT.)

- 408 Certificated Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 409 Classified/Noon Duty Personnel Resignations
- 410 Classified Personnel Voluntary Demotion
- 411 Extension of Classified Personnel Non-Paid Leave of Absence
- 412 Classified Personnel Increase in Hours
- 413 Classified Personnel Promotion
- 414 Classified Personnel Employment
- 415 Noon Duty Aide Employment
- 416 Classified Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 417 Amendments to Consent Agenda Items

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 601 Personal Services Agreements

Board Member Vackar commented about the consultant agreement C199-042 – Dr. Willard Daggert. She has heard him speak and commended him for his visionary expertise. She asked what model the District is planning to implement to utilize his services and how it would benefit the District.

Dr. Wisner stated that the District would be sharing Dr. Daggert's costs with another district. The District would like to make him available to staff and the community-at-large. Because the Governor did not successfully complete the eight buy-out days and elimination of non-student staff development days through a waiver, the District has an option of a staff development day. All classified and certificated staff could be targeted. In addition, an early evening presentation for parents and community members could be offered. There is no limitation to the size of the audience.

Board Member Vackar feels this is money worth spending. She asked about available resources for staff and if these materials are available for Board members to review. Dr. Wisner indicated that Dr. Daggert's book has been distributed to all certificated management staff. There are tapes available but they have not yet been ordered. She indicated that the District is very fortunate to have this presenter come to the District.

- 602 Contractual Agreements - 1998-99
- 603 Revised Starting Times – Ridge Crest

ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Charles L. Ledbetter and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that Action Agenda Items 125 through 126 under Superintendent, Items 225 through 229 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 325 through 326 under Fiscal Services, Items 525 through 532 under Student Services, and Items 625 under Support Services be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CONSENT ITEM - 101

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SUPERINTENDENT

125 1998 CSBA Director-At-Large Nominations

Board Member Vackar shared a concern about having the Director-At-Large by specific ethnic designations and does not feel all students are being represented. She is in support of Board President Candelaria and feels he will represent the District in a professional manner.

Board Member Burks stated that as part of the CSBA Delegate Assembly and Black School Board Members' Caucus, during the discussion of low test scores of California and the nation, it was indicated that the lowest scores in this District are African American and Hispanics. The Board continuously talks about the need of raising test scores and special circumstances. This is why the Director-At-Large designation is in place. She feels Board President Candelaria will represent all students, and she is in support of nominating him as the Director-At-Large for the Hispanic office.

It was moved by Bernadette Burks and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Board President Alex Candelaria be nominated for CSBA Director-At-Large for the Hispanic caucus.

VOTE: AYE - 4

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN – 1 (Candelaria)

126 1998 Elections of Members to the Riverside County Committee on School District Organization

It was moved by Bernadette Burks and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar to nominate Dr. Robert Givens for the Fifth Supervisorial District for the 1998 Elections of Members to the Riverside County Committee on School District Organization.

Dr. Suazo verified that Jacqueline L. Ashe would be in attendance to make this nomination from the floor.

VOTE: AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN – 0

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 225 Special Education Private School Placement Nos. 04-98-99 through 06-98-99
- 226 Emergency Immigrant Education Program Subgrant Award
- 227 SB 1510 School - Based Education Technology Grant - Moreno Elementary
- 228 Special Friends - Department of Mental Health Grant 1998-99 - Bear Valley
- 229 Special Education Interpreters 1998-99 - Consultant Agreement

FISCAL SERVICES

- 325 Notice of Completion - Storm Drain Repair at Canyon Springs and Valley View
- 326 Notice of Completion - Gas Line Repair at Mountain View

STUDENT SERVICES

- 525 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 139-96-97
- 526 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 146-96-97
- 527 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 157-96-97
- 528 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 196-96-97
- 529 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 033-97-98
- 530 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 088-97-98
- 531 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 182-97-98
- 532 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 5145-97-98

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ACTION AGENDA (CONT.)

SUPPORT SERVICES

625 Ratification of Wire Transfer

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

175 Joint Meeting with the City of Moreno Valley

Board Member Burks asked for clarification about the format and topics to be discussed. Dr. Suazo stated she was directed by the Board to speak with the city manager to schedule a date for a joint meeting. Discussion on topics to be addressed could include:

- Crossing Guards.
- Truancy Policy – has not been finalized and the District has received a request from the city for additional information.
- Joint-Use of Fields/Facilities – Mr. Okun indicated there is a committee that is currently working on this, so this shouldn't be an issue.
- Joint-Use of Alessandro Gymnasium – Board Member Burks had suggested that Alessandro be used as a performing arts theater. She asked about the status of this. Mr. Okun indicated he was asked by the Board that the gymnasium be utilized jointly with the District and the City while getting cost estimates for the theater. There is a Joint City/District Committee that meets monthly to discuss joint-use issues. There is also a monthly meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department, which includes RCC and Val Verde, to discuss joint-use issues.
- Business Marketing Committee – Board Member Ashe stated the city asked to form a committee to assist in marketing ideas for the City and District. This committee would assist in determining how the City can work collaboratively with the businesses and schools. Board Member Burks feels the City should be dialoging with the District. Mr. Okun stated the City has contacted him for a District representative to participate in the committee. The District is awaiting further information.

There was Board discussion that the city meeting should be scheduled earlier. Dr. Suazo indicated that if this meeting was scheduled, would the same topics be relevant. She stated there is another sensitive issue of a Charter District that needs to be taken into consideration. Board Member Vackar stated this issue needs to be discussed so the District knows where the City stands. There needs to be dialog to see if the City, or another entity is interested in pursuing this concept.

Board Member Burks stated that any Board of Education member in the State of California or the United States who supports schools and public education must then support public schools. She feels the newspapers are not reporting correct information regarding school districts. The District already has the ability to have a Charter School within Charter Schools. She feels if the City is desiring to discuss working with the District collaboratively, she hopes it would be productive and for the benefit of the students.

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S-C-7

Board President Candelaria asked the Board if they still desired to meet with the city council, and if the meeting should be scheduled at an earlier date. It was the consensus of the Board to

schedule a meeting with the City at an earlier date. It was decided to try to schedule a meeting with the City on a Wednesday or Thursday, the last several weeks of October or the first week of November. Board Member Ashe is not available on October 28 due to a Riverside County meeting, and Board Member Vackar is not available on November 5 due to conference attendance.

Dr. Suazo was directed to request a meeting some time in the last two weeks in October or first few weeks in November. She clarified the topics to be addressed. Dr. Suazo was directed to follow-up with a letter to the City for a meeting to discuss the following issues: crossing guards, truancy ordinance, and charter district.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

275 English Language Development

Dr. Wisher stated that in July, Tina Dyer from Best Best and Kreiger, presented information on what Proposition 227 was going to require from school districts. A Board policy was brought forward in August. A program plan was presented to the Board. A committee of staff assisted in the development of the plan, which was reviewed by the executive members of the Transitional Language Program Advisory Council. This council is the former District Bilingual Advisory Council. Parents and community members have had the opportunity to review the development of this program plan. It was important to get this information to the Board because Track D parents will have the opportunity to request a waiver at the end of this month. Dr. Wisher acknowledged staff assisting in this program plan: Dr. Paul Baird, Maribel Anaya-Mattox, and Dr. Henry Dalton.

Dr. Baird stated that Proposition 227 was voter approved and was to be implemented within sixty days. Until issues are finalized, the California Department of Education has approved interim regulations that are valid until November. This entire year will be a transitional year, therefore, additional changes and clarifications will be ongoing.

Maribel Anaya-Mattox reviewed information that was distributed to the Board and made available to the audience.

- Student registration will still be based on the home-language survey, and student assessment will be based on the student's primary language.

Various options available include:

- General Education Program - students placed in this program will have all curriculum taught in English. Assistance is provided to teachers by the Transitional Language Program resource teacher (ELD teachers on the sites).
- Transition Language Program (TLP) – a general education program with Transitional Language Program resource teacher support.
- Structured Transitional English Program (STEP) is a strong structured English Language Education Program for English Language learners (ELD program). Most curriculum is presented in English. Primary language is used for clarification, definitions, or giving directions. This can be done by the teacher if they are bilingual, through bilingual resource materials, or instructional assistants.

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S-C-8

Proposition 227 did not change teacher credentialing requirements. Instruction is provided by CLAD or BCLAD teachers.

- Alternative Language Program – is the transitional bilingual program which has been used in the past in the District. It requires a parent waiver request. The core curriculum will be taught by using bilingual methodologies with a strong structured English Language Education Program for the English Language Learners. Instruction is provided by BCLAD (bilingual) teachers.

Ms. Anaya-Mattox reviewed information provided in the Parent Guide to Programs for English Language Learners, and parent rights which include:

- The right to a description of the programs and teaching materials to be used;
- The right to ask for a waiver into the program which is annually renewed, and;
- The right to refuse the program if the school recommends.

Ms. Anaya-Mattox reviewed information provided in the Parent Guide to Programs for English Language Learners. Some key elements include: the Transitional Language Program; a description of materials, strategies, and credentialing of teachers; and the parent waiver rights. This information has been reviewed by the DBAC officers and is currently being translated.

The waiver process, under the criteria of Proposition 227, is as follows:

- The principal and teacher review the assessment of the student and make a program recommendation.
- The parent may request a waiver for the student to be placed in the Alternative Language Program but must do so in person.
- Criteria for a waiver into the Alternative Language Program include:
 - Children under 10 knowing English. The student must be at the grade level equivalency on the standardized test or at the fifth grade level, whichever is lower.
 - Children older than 10, not knowing English. The staff must have a belief there is another alternative program for the student to acquire English faster.
 - Children with special needs. The staff has a belief the student has some special needs in the following areas: emotional, psychological, physical, or educational. Based on one of these criteria, the parent may request a waiver. The waiver is for the Alternative Language Program which is the bilingual program for Moreno Valley.

Ms. Anaya-Mattox stated that enrollments, home language survey, assessment, LEP and FEP, and the instructional program of the students has changed with Proposal 227. Fluent English-proficient students will be placed in the general education program. A limited English proficient student can be placed in a general education program or structured transitional English program. Students must be in an English or English emersion class for thirty days before any action on the waivers can happen. After thirty days, the parent must visit the site and request a waiver which meets the criteria listed above. The school has twenty days to act upon the waiver. If a site has twenty students at a grade level, the site must offer the alternative program which is the bilingual program for Moreno Valley.

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S-C-9

Dr. Baird stated that the following steps will need to be ongoing:

- Parent communication to be done through the parent guide and District Bilingual Advisory Committee members.
- Continue to communicate with the K-12 transitional language program teachers.
- This is a transitional year, and revisions will be ongoing.
- Continue staff development of instructional materials, transitional materials at the elementary and middle school levels, and instructional strategies in the SDAIE program.

Dr. Wisner stated that communication needs to be done with District parents. As new students register into the District, this information will be given when the student is identified for these services. In the past a parent had to request a waiver to have their student removed from the bilingual program. Now a parent must request a waiver to be enrolled in the bilingual program.

The goal of Proposition 227 is the student should be in the STEP class for approximately one year. However, it may not happen for a student who is extremely limited English proficient because when they are in a general education class, it cannot be assumed there will be enough primary language for them to be successful.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ralph W. Smith, Concerned Citizen, spoke about a request that has been made several years ago regarding an audit on the special education program and the capital facilities budgets. He requested the Board have these placed on the agenda as requested.

Becky Shreiner, CESA Chapter Reporter, extended an invitation to the Board and the audience to attend a scheduled School Board Candidate Open Forum for all Board candidates on September 14, 1998, 6-9 p.m. in the Board Room. It is open to the public and will give the opportunity for questions of the candidates.

Mark Rosenbrook reiterated his statements made at the August 25, 1998 Board meeting, regarding Board Member Burks request for information on the number of existing and potential mediation and fair hearing cases, concern about dismantling of special education programs, and audit of the special education program. Dr. Suazo was to follow-up with the appropriate personnel, and met with parents. There is still no resolution. He feels the cost of a line-by-line audit would not be unreasonable considering some of the District expenditures. He feels the Board and community have a right to know. The Board is held accountable.

Board Member Ashe stated a line-by-line audit was proposed last year and it was voted down. Board Member Burks asked the status of an audit.

Dr. Suazo stated that Dr. Wallace had been researching the matter of a special education audit. At the last Board meeting the Board did not decide what kind of audit, had asked Dr. Wallace to make a recommendation, and suggested that Dr. Wallace could get specifics from Board Member Burks to be brought back to the Board.

Dr. Wallace stated that she has checked with State officials. They need to know specifically what it is the District wants to have audited. A financial audit can be done, however, not a program audit. Dr. Wallace thought that both a financial and program audit had been requested.

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S-C-10

Board Member Burks feels the Board needs to know if the programs are functioning. She shared a concern about Board approval of the autism program. Because of change in administration and the program being cancelled, she asked where the money is being utilized and what has been done with

staff. The audit needs to be done to make sure the money is being spent properly. She shared her concern that a district of this size cannot afford having six hour instructional assistants in the special education classrooms as can districts with smaller budgets. The District is losing instructional assistants on a regular basis. These students need consistency. The District is in mediation because of inconsistencies. She wants to know where the money is going.

Dr. Wallace indicated School Services can provide a comparison as to how the units the State gives are being utilized by the District compared to other districts comparable in size to Moreno Valley. They cannot come into the District to see if these units are being utilized appropriately. It is up to the District to determine how the units are allocated. She has contacted four different resources regarding this request. None are able to perform a program audit. She will contact School Services to conduct a financial audit and a comparison as to allocation of units compared to districts the same size as Moreno Valley.

Board Member Burks feels the audit will show the cost of legal fees and the number of fair hearings the District has had. She feels if these cases had been resolved at the school site, the District would not be expending money that could have financed the additional hours for special education instructional assistants. Board Member Burks shared a concern about the District being out of compliance for the last thirteen years. She is aware that the State does not allocate enough money for the special education program, and feels the District is not facilitating the educational program.

Board Member Ashe stated that if the comparison audit indicates how the units are allocated, the Board could determine whether to continue to expend funds in this manner.

Board Member Ledbetter shared a concern about the difficulty in finding qualified special education teachers and enrolling more special education students.

Dr. Suazo also suggested an analysis on the encroachment on the general fund. Dr. Wallace can work with School Services to obtain a cost estimate. Dr. Suazo stated to Board Member Burks that Mr. Clarke reviewed pending litigations in Closed Session with the Board at the August 25, 1998 meeting. Board Member Burks indicated that he has not contacted her to date.

Dr. Wallace stated that she would ask representatives from School Services to attend the next Board meeting to answer any further questions or clarifications the Board may require.

Mr. Rosenbrook asked the reason for not having a line-by-line audit. He shared a concern about the District having appropriate programs for the student needs and cited how the Regional Center numbers have more than doubled.

Board Member Ashe asked if the Board would agree to entertain a line-by-line audit. Board Member Vackar stated this was agreed upon when the budget was adopted.

Dr. Wallace indicated the regular auditors would be here on Monday, September 14, 1998, for two weeks. The firm sends out one of their senior managers which will be charged by the hour.

Board Member Burks proposed to cancel the televising of the Board meetings and use those funds to pay for the line-by-line audit.

CONSENT ITEM – 101

SUPERINTENDENT
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S-C-11

Louise Palomarez attended the last city council meeting and spoke to the truancy issue that was discussed. She feels the proposed \$500 fine and six months in jail for a student who is truant is wrong. She feels it will hurt the students. She stated that the District needs to get to the root of the problem

and find out why students are not in school. She doesn't feel the schools are doing their job or have the students' best interests in mind.

Board Member Candelaria clarified that the proposed truancy issue is being proposed by the City Council not the Board of Education. He stated he is not in support of fining parents and putting students in jail for truancy, unless they are on probation that states they need to be in school. He would prefer to see graffiti removal instead of a fine and jail.

Victoria Baca feels the issue of the city running the school district is a matter of money. She requested that the Board take a stand on this. The Board is needed to address other issues such as special education and truancy. She expressed a concern about truancy sweeps and what has happened in the past. She stated it needs to be looked into why the students are not in school. She said there needs to be another way to address the truancy issue.

Board President Candelaria stated the truancy issue is multi-faceted. The main reason a city initiates a truancy ordinance has to do with crime, and gangs, and has nothing to do with having students in school to receive an education.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Jacqueline L. Ashe brought forward the following items:

- She welcomed everyone back from a long summer.
- She stated that trancies were discussed last year. Some issues were raised.
- She referred to a public comment made at the meeting tonight. She stated the Board does their job. There are some issues that need to be taken into consideration. The Board has to answer to everyone in the community. She asked the community to understand that the Board takes issues seriously that are discussed at length.

Tracey B. Vackar had no items to bring forward at this time.

Charles W. Ledbetter brought forward the following items:

- He stated the District has a Charter School that is functional. He feels the District can run the education of the students because there many students attending prestigious colleges after they graduate from Moreno Valley Unified School District schools.
- He feels that we care and expect the students to respect each other. They will do it if the adults show they care. We must treat them with respect and know they can be successful.

CONSENT ITEM – 101

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S-C-12

Bernadette Burks brought forward the following items:

- She stated she was absent for the August 25, 1998 Board meeting because she took her daughter to the University of Tulane in New Orleans. She has a family member who attends

Northwestern University. It was indicated to Mrs. Burks that the District needs to do more to improve skills and better prepare students in English, writing and math. Mrs. Burks does not feel the District is doing an adequate job in these areas. She stated graduating students should be invited back to address issues and concerns they may have that did not prepare them for college. Once students begin to attend college, they are now competing globally.

- She asked why the Board policy on inclement weather was not adhered to last week during hot weather. She shared a concern that students were not allowed to be inside during this period of the day. Dr. Suazo stated that she would follow-up on this.
- She asked about the status of the sidewalks around Valley View High School and shared a concern about the increased traffic with the new hospital now open. Mr. Okun indicated that he would get an update from the City and bring a report back to the next meeting.
- She asked about the SAT 9 test and if there has been any plan for a meeting to discuss the District's low test scores and how to improve the test scores. She suggested a special meeting be set up so staff can review the test scores and discuss how to improve the District's scores.

Dr. Wisher stated the District is still in the process of disaggregating the data. She would follow-up on this issue.

Alex T. Candelaria brought forward the following items:

- He spoke about the Charter School district proposal of the City becoming responsible for the operation of the Moreno Valley Unified School District. He feels there needs to be a lot of dialogue between the Board of Education and the City Council. He feels the District's interest is to educate the students, whereas the City has many other issues such as promoting businesses and the housing market. These are all good interests, however, dialogue needs to be done on how it will affect the quality of schools and how the issues can be resolved.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

VOTE: AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CONSENT ITEM – 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 22, 1998