

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

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DECEMBER 8, 2009**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2009 are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of January 19, 2010. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of December 8, 2009.

**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 5:17 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Board Deliberation Regarding Student Discipline Cases; 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 5:17 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration

Rowena Lagrosa  
Barbara Davis

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:22 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye - Ashe Aye – Baca Aye - Holguin Aye – Sayre Aye - Vackar

**REPORT OUT OF**

**CLOSED SESSION:** The Board of Education gave direction to the Superintendent to make an amendment regarding Item No. 530 Student Discipline Stipulation Expulsion – Case No. 056-09-10 to a two semester expulsion, which will take vote under Action Item M1. No other reportable actions were taken by the Board of Education in Closed Session.

Administration Present

Rowena T. Lagrosa, Superintendent of Schools  
Barbara Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education  
Estuardo Santillan, Business Manager  
Francine Story, Director, Budget  
Dan Reed, Director, Accountability and Assessment  
Peggy Reed, Director, SELPA  
Kim Kruger, Director, Secondary Education  
Betsy Sample, Director, English Language Learners Program  
Aaron Barnett, Director, Information Systems  
Stan Brown, Director, Maintenance and Operations  
Willie Hasson, Director, Certificated Employee Services  
Lasandra Fairchild, Director, Classified Employee Services  
Laura Strachan, Principal, March Mountain  
Patty Rucker, Coordinator, Student Services  
Kristin Hunter, Principal, Valley View  
Gil Ocegüera, Principal, Vista Del Lago  
Mark Sewell, Assistant Principal, Canyon Springs  
Robert Byers, Principal, Bayside Community Day School  
Patricia Diener, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Patty Rucker	Janet MacMillan	Lorri Limoges-Kerns
Nazly Moscovici	Ann Adler	Marissa Marña
Vadla Kabarjadi	Laura Mancha	Gil Aguera
Patricia Holguin	Brenda Kincaide	Clarissa Kyler
Machelle Bayne	Perry Johnson	Cindy Stidham
Merrill Heim	Liz Librada	Debra Craig
Josephine Moses-Perez	Daniele Sheridan	

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

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Vackar.

INSPIRATIONS:

Board President Vackar gave the Inspiration. Since our last meeting a couple things have happened within our district that I would like everyone to give a moment of silence: former student US Army Private Marcus Tynes died on November 22, 2009 while in the line of duty; on December 3, 2009 former Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Robert Crank passed away. This has been extremely difficult on staff and our Board of Education and family here at the Moreno Valley Unified School District sends condolences to his wife and to his family; we would like them to know how much his services to our community were valued over the years that he served us in our Business Services capacity, the things that he was able to put together for the children of this community will be reflected for many years to come, through many of the accounts that were created to ensure reserves, that good business practices be put in place and that committees be formed to include and be inclusive of community partners in our community family here at Moreno Valley Unified School District. Bob was an integral part of our

community and of our family here he will be missed and again our greatest respect goes out to him, to his family and to his children.

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

January	19, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
February	9, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
February	23, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
March	9, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
April	13, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
April	27, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
May	11, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
May	25, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
June	15, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
June	29, 2010	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Board President Vackar opened the nomination for the Board President.

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Jesus M. Holguin be elected President of the Board of Education.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                           NAYS - 0                           ABSTAIN – 0

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Board President Holguin opened the nominations for Board Vice President.

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that Jacqueline L. Ashe be elected Vice President of the Board of Education.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                           NAYS - 0                           ABSTAIN – 0

ELECTION OF CLERK

Board President Holguin called for nominations for Board Clerk.

Rick Sayre nominated Victoria Baca for Board Clerk, Victoria Baca declined.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Rick Sayre be elected Clerk of the Board of Education.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                           NAYS - 0                           ABSTAIN – 0

DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Board President Holguin opened the nominations for the delegate and alternate delegate of the County Committee on School District Organizations for 2010. The 2009 Board representatives Delegate was Jesus M. Holguin and Alternate Delegate Tracey B. Vackar.

Nominations were opened for the delegate of the County Committee on School District Organization. Rick Sayre nominated Victoria Baca as the delegate. Ms. Baca declined the nomination.

The nomination was made to keep 2009 Delegate and Alternate Delegate the same for 2010.

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Victoria Baca that Jesus M. Holguin be elected delegate and Tracey B. Vackar be elected alternate delegate to the 2010 annual meeting of the County Committee on School District Organization.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                               NAYS - 0                               ABSTAIN – 0

Tracey B. Vackar noted that Jesus M. Holguin's two-year term for California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly nomination was expiring and that the Board needed to make a decision prior to the January 7, 2010 deadline and that our next board meeting was not until January 19, 2010.

Rick Sayre nominated that a Special Board Meeting be scheduled to vote on this item. (December 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.)

2010 PROPOSED BOARD MEETING DATES

Rick Sayre had a concern regarding three Board meetings scheduled in the month of June and conflicting with graduations; he suggested that two of the Board meeting dates in June be moved to either July or August.

Tracey B. Vackar reminded everyone that the dates proposed for 2010 board meetings are merely placeholders and that not all meetings will actually take place.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Victoria Baca to approve the proposed 2010 Board meeting dates.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                               NAYS - 0                               ABSTAIN – 0

POLICIES, REGULATIONS, PRACTICES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that Resolutions 1 through 24 be approved as presented.

VOTE:           AYES - 5                               NAYS - 0                               ABSTAIN – 0

RECOGNITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Superintendent Rowena Lagrosa presented Brenda Kincaide with flowers in recognition for her nomination as a semi-finalist for California State Teacher of the Year.

Board of Education brought forward Action Item K-2 – Resolution No. 2009-10-29 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 18, 2010) and Action Item K -3 – Resolution No. 2009-10-30 Safe Schools/Violence Prevention Week (January 19 – 23, 2010).

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Victoria Baca to approve Item K-2 and Item K-3 as presented.

VOTE:                 AYES - 5                                 NAYS - 0                                 ABSTAIN – 0

Merrill Heim, Counselor at Badger Springs, was presented a copy of the Resolution observing January 18, 2010 as Martin Luther King Day.

Patty Rucker, Coordinator of Student Services, was presented a copy of the Resolution observing January 19 – 23, 2010 as Safe School/Violence Prevention Week.

SCHOOL REPORTS

The following Student Board Representatives gave their school reports:

- Meyghan Aguilar, Bayside and Moreno Valley Community Learning Center
- Kristian Wright, Canyon Springs High School
- Bethany Martinez, Moreno Valley High School
- Geneveive Newman, Valley View High School
- Marissa Marin, Vista del Lago High School
- Sandra Gonzalez, March Mountain and March Valley High Schools

Discussion/Action Item – O – Resolution No. 2009-10-29

Board President Holguin brought forward Discussion/Action Item O – Resolution No. 2009-10-29 – approving the Annual Five Year Reportable Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2008-09, in compliance with Government Code Section 66006 and 66001 from Business Services.

The Board President asked if there were public comments: There were none.

(Josephine Moses-Perez from Willdan Financial Services and Daniele Sheridan from Bowie Arneson were available for any comments).

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe to approve Resolution No. 2009-10-29 approving the annual Five Year Reportable Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2008-09, in compliance with Government Code Section 66006 and 66001 from Business Services.

VOTE:                 AYES - 5                                 NAYS - 0                                 ABSTAIN – 0

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items from the November 17, 2009, Board meeting.

The following are the responses to the Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items at the November 17, 2009, Board Meeting:

A community member is concerned about the placement of High School No. 5 and its proximity to Valley View High School. The District is in the process of finding an appropriate site for the fifth Comprehensive High School in order to serve the students that attend Valley View High School and reside north of the 60 Freeway. There are over 4,300 high school students who live north of the 60 Freeway. As part of the CEQA public participation process the District held one meeting and a second meeting is planned for this Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in order to provide the public with the project description. During this meeting the public is given the opportunity to submit their comments. Under the CEQA requirements for public review, the public may submit written comments up to December 21<sup>st</sup>.

A question was also asked regarding the outreach to the community informing them of the meetings. Over 17,000 mailers in English and Spanish with the notice of availability were sent out regarding this project and an announcement of the upcoming December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. This information was also posted in the newspaper, the District website and the District's television channel. A Parent Link message to the homes of high school students residing north of the Freeway has also been prepared.

Ms. Victoria Baca asked if translation will be provided for the Spanish speaking parents, Ms. Rowena T. Lagrosa confirmed that arrangements have been made with the Riverside County Office of Education to provide translation.

Board Member Tracey B. Vackar stated that she resides in that area in which was just addressed and was concerned if we gave out timely notification to parents of public meeting; she asked Superintendent Lagrosa to review and see if she feels an extension is required, to adhere to all the rules and regulations. My neighbors also just received the notice this weekend.

Board member Rick Sayre also agreed he just received his notification this Saturday, and was more concerned if we are complying with the law and perhaps schedule another meeting in addition to the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to satisfy the needs of the community.

Ms. Tracey B. Vackar noted that her concern is that if she just received this notification than the 45 day notification shortened to only 15 day notice, maybe we need to extend the timeline to ensure that the community has been well served and can respond in a timely manner.

Ms. Victoria Baca asked if the notification letters were sent out to the entire School District residents. Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded that notifications were sent out to only those in the affected geographical area.

Ms. Victoria Baca asked what the geographical area is specifically. Is it only those that reside north of the 60 Freeway? Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded that she would get that clarification.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A Hidden Springs Elementary School parent spoke about the abuse and harassment she has received from some district employees while serving as an ELAC president of Hidden Springs. She has brought the complaint forward to the District and feels that her complaint has fallen on deaf ears. She has requested to meet with Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa for help and her intervention to solve this problem; she was told that she would investigate. She recently received a letter from Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa stating that her allegations are unfounded. She is asking the Board of Education to address this complaint since the harassment and abuse was originated by an employee of the District.

Janet MacMillan, President of the Moreno Valley Educators Association spoke on the goals of MVEA to maintain a collaborative relationship with the District on budget and curricular issues. In these difficult financial times both are tightly intertwined. The Executive Summary presented to the Board in September on Data Goals and Action Plans has been an ongoing topic of discussion at District meetings, including CAMS and sessions with the Superintendent and Ed. Services. Many of the items listed in the Plans may have generated the support of our members if they had been involved. The Board's decision to move forward with both May and August RIF's has had a profound effect on our members, leading them to request frequent updates on curricular and budget issues facing the District. MVEA leadership is committed to sharing information with their members in a timely manner and encouraging their input. Our 120 representatives have studied the Ed. Services Executive Summary and they are in the process of involving members at the sites in continued discussions on the plan. One question is asked repeatedly: *How will the expenditures listed in the Ed Services presentation, affect the current budget projections which are balanced through the 2010-2011 Academic Year?* As yet there has been no answer. The District has a history of working successfully through budget difficulties by involving stakeholder groups in all phases of planning. I urge the Board to ensure continued participation in the stakeholders in the full process.

The President of the Moreno Valley Parent's Association reiterated on the formal complaint given by the previous parent on the abuse and harassment received from district employees while serving on the ELAC Committee. She stated that she has been present when these harassments have been made. These "so called leaders" do not allow the participation of the parents who attend the DELAC meetings; they do not allow them to voice their concerns publicly. We understand that DELAC meetings are opened to the public, although parents are not allowed to vote they can ask questions and raise concerns since its part of the growth and participation of our parents. The District has provided many workshops for the Moreno Valley parents to attend to enable them to become more involved in these meetings, but it's unfortunate that your own employees running these meetings are not allowing the parents to exercise their rights. This is a lack of respect to us as parents, since the knowledge that we have received have been through workshops provided and paid for by the District encouraging us and showing us how to become better leaders. However, when we try to put in practice what we have learned, it has caused a great impact and we are labeled as "conflictive parents" because we are just trying to provide the truth, but the District continues to receive misinformation. I think the lack of respect is great, since Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa has received several formal complaints from us letting her know how her own district employees are managing the DELAC Committee, since they feel that they have the "power to direct and lead" these meetings and do not keep in mind that we as parents have rights, it's not fair, we need to look out for our children of the community. Many of these employees do not live in our community and their children do not attend our programs and we as parents deserve respect as well as you employees and I believe that you as Board members should really investigate if these people have the right to hold these positions. We have been in Program Improvement for

the last seven (7) years, although our Latin students continue to improve each year, it's really not because of the leadership's support, but because of the knowledge and growth we are receiving from other venues. I believe none of this is fair - our children should be first. We believe in a living God and my respects if you are not a believer, but if we believe in a higher being than we will have respect for each other and not look for our own priorities, but put our children first. I want to believe that all district employees work because they believe in our children and not because they just want to have the title of Superintendent, President of the Board of Education, Director of Special Services, or Director of English Learners. I think our children deserve respect as well as the parents since we are the example to our children.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Victoria Baca to approve Superintendent Consent Items F-1 through F-3; Educational Services Consent Items G-1 through G-2; Business Services Consent Items H-1 through H-7; and Human Resources Consent Items I-1 through I-12 as presented.

VOTE:                   AYES – 5   NAYS – 0   ABSTAIN – 0

ACTION AGENDA

Board member Jacqueline L. Ashe requested to discuss Educational Services Action Item K-1 Approval to Adopt the Human Geography – Advanced Placement Textbook. She wanted to know if the stakeholders have been brought together for discussion of the books that are proposed to be adopted.

Dr. Barbara Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, responded: Yes, we have met with the Curriculum Advisory Council and they have approved the adoption. This was proposed specifically for Canyon Springs High School and it's to teach a class that will be AP. Curriculum Advisory Council did approve the recommendation.

Board member Jacqueline L. Ashe noted that from now on when I say stakeholders I mean community members, parents, teachers, principals, and everyone that is involved.

Dr. Davis responded that there are teachers and administrators that are on the Curriculum Advisory Council, the parents have an opportunity to preview the materials, they are always on display for the required period of time for community parent members to review and ask any appropriate questions or express any concerns.

President Holguin noted that Educational Services Action Items K –2 and K – 3 have already been approved earlier.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe, to approve Superintendent Action Item J –1; Educational Services Action Item K –1, Business Services Action Items L-1 and L–2; and Student Services Action Item M –1 with an amendment to reflect the two semester expulsion.

VOTE:                   AYES - 5   NAYS - 0   ABSTAIN – 0



DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

SUPERINTENDENT

- 2010 Board Cluster Concept

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Victoria Baca to approve Agenda Item N – 1, 2010 Board Cluster Concept, as presented.

VOTE:            AYES - 5                            NAYS - 0                            ABSTAIN – 0

- RCC Health Care Academy

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa provided the following information concerning RCC Health Care Academy that at a prior board meeting there was a presentation by Dr. Monty Perez from Riverside Community College Moreno Valley Campus as they have asked the District to partner with them in the exploration of a proposal to look at the feasibility of a dependent charter, focused on the health sciences with the middle college emphasis and to give the Board a broader understanding of a small school concept with the emphasis and focus on pathways and internships. The Board did receive two proposals, one from a High School in Sacramento and then another model of a school in New York the Bard Academy. Dr. Perez was not able to join us this evening; however, Dr. Wolde –Ab Isaac, Dean of Health Sciences at RCC is here to answer any questions the Board may have.

Dr. Wolde – Ab Isaac stated that they had submitted all the information to substantiate basically what had been described at our last meeting and are looking very eagerly to have the opportunity to work with you to explore newer pathways and opportunities to expand partnership and opportunities for our student. The Board of Trustees of the Riverside Community College is very much in support of this joint ventures that we are proposing to you.

Board member Rick Sayre stated that he was absent the last meeting and that he would just look at the information in front of him; please know that I don't mean to be disingenuous, I'm very concerned about having smaller schools in our district, I think as a theme, a high school with 4,000 students just doesn't allow for individual identity and we do have another high school coming on board. I was hoping that we would get a greater sense of the application and not just a report on performance at an annual session, but more on the issues of how do you fund a school with 500 students and have 19 teachers to a ratio of 400 and how do you make that work financially. If your background is not of a CBO or finance person I can appreciate that. But when I look at those numbers and divide the ratio and come up with a budget that works and why don't we do that with all of our schools if it's possible to do it in such a manner with two.

Dr. Isaac responded that he was not equipped to answer how they are financed, but I think get better apportionment per student once they are approved than the community college than the k-12. They are in some sense self sufficient. We look at it as an experimental exercise because of the smaller number, the larger faculty, we are able to explore different ways of presentations and the pedagogy is different, it's a discussion seminar type, the success rate is much higher and some of the lessons learned from

such can be implemented in the larger schools as well. I think it creates a great deal of opportunity for further exploration with teaching facilities here.

Board member Sayre, stated he would like to put some things on the table for me before I can even commit to the exploration, because what I had anticipated on getting back was a little bit more detail as far as how they fund the program, the relationship between the two existing Boards of Education. I believe what I can capture from the Sacramento model was that it looked like it was an actual high school within the Sacramento City Schools and I didn't notice if they partnered with anyone. I would like to ask our Superintendent if it's feasible for us to do a school with our budget the way it is today. We have a ratio of 500 kids per campus.

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa stated that small schools are stand alone; we don't have right now identified funding for a standalone school of 500 that would be built from the ground up. I think that would be part of the exploration. There could be looking at some point in time of redesigning our current schools and to be redesigned into smaller schools that would be self sufficient in terms of funding not necessary staffed isolated with a principal but with an assistant principal at a school. The funding issues are valid they are questions that we have had as well regarding funding.

Board member Sayre responded that he would have hoped that those questions would be backed up with a documentation that would support a conceptual plan that said here are some of the ways that we can seek out funding outside of the ADA stream that the state gives us. I don't know that we have a role model of 500 kids that can be accomplished with our budget. Is it feasible Estuardo? (Estuardo Santillan, Business Manager, Business Services).

Dr. Isaac responded instead by saying, I would assume that this would be part of the assignment of the committee that would be established to explore all the various aspects, difficulties or concerns and feasibilities of getting the school started but the Board would be able to get this information as we go along. Certainly, all the charter schools that we have looked at different sites are small. Obviously, there is a lot of interest in establishing this type of school, for instance we have been approached by the Irvine Foundation who also funded the study of the school in Sacramento, might be one that we can approach to fund this. I think that the Board's approval for us to go ahead with the exploration study will enable us to continuously respond to any concerns you may have. This committee will be able to get an even fuller and deeper study in answering all aspects of what school actually needs, how it will be funded, how sustainable it will be, what contribution it can make and or what constraint it might have on the Board.

Board member Sayre asked if RCC has defined a revenue stream to support half of this program.

Dr. Isaac responded, RCC is looking at this being a new venture here, and RCC has an experience of having a charter school in Riverside; when Chancellor Salvatore Rotella was here he helped fund a charter school in Riverside and he felt that the funding stream is difficult because the apportionment for the students that they get is semi-sufficient and charter schools tend to attract more grants than normal schools.

Board member Sayre asked why you didn't use the charter school in Riverside as a model to share with us.

Dr. Isaac stated that it is not profession based, that's why, this is a health profession based, and that's the reason why we selected the Sacramento charter school as a model.

Board member Sayre responded, I expected more data that discussed how the application was originally put together for the school, how it was funded and the structure of the school, how it was supervised and by which Board, the relationships and more details explaining all that. Did our Superintendent have an opportunity to talk with one of those health academies to determine whether or not we are replicating what they are trying to do?

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded, I have not spoken to them individually on this topic, no.

Board member Sayre stated, I don't think we are further along, than we were at the last meeting in terms of data that supports moving forward.

Board member Victoria Baca comments were, what the Board is seeking today is approval to explore the development of a proposal, and what exactly does that mean?

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded, of exploring further and getting the answers to all the questions that Mr. Sayre asked. At our last board meeting we presented it as a first time ever presentation of information only, it was not agendized for the Board at that time, however, we did agendize it today so that the Board would grant us approval to enter in partnership and explore this further, so that we could go to the Irvine Foundation and put this on paper and look at all these issues.

Board member Baca asked, what are the timelines that we have, when do you expect to provide this information or proposal back to the Board.

Dr. Isaac stated that, once the board approves to initiate this study, a joint committee would be established with MVUSD Board and RCC Board to create a work plan, a timeline and this would be submitted to the Board so that we can submit a timeline of what would be accomplished at what time. Our view is that we would create a paper of what we think can be done and then identify all the issues that would be involved and we will seek for funding, since we will be able to visit other schools and have an in depth discussion with several other schools and then see what that school that is being proposed would look like within the Moreno Valley School District. That paper would be presented to the Board, once the committee is formed then we can estimate the timeline and send it to you for approval. I would expect that within six months to one year we would have the proposal to you, but the course of the proposal would always be monitored and guided by the Board because they would continuously monitor in terms as what is being done, what data is gathered and what the next steps would be.

Board member Baca asked, would these be monthly reports to the Board?

Dr. Isaac responded, possibly, those guidelines can come from how you want the committee to report, that is the discretion of the Board.

Board member Baca asked, this jointly committee that would be established, who would monitor it or supervise it, what would be the accountability?

Dr. Isaac answered that it was his understanding Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa and Dr. Perez would jointly supervise this committee and through them, both boards would be informed.

Board member Jacqueline L. Ashe stated she had a couple of concerns: one is, were our stakeholders involved in the initial discussion or planning about this Health Academy Program?

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded that she had been approached by Dr. Perez and Dr. Isaac earlier in the summer or late last spring, we started talking about it as a possibility, that was very informal and as we saw that we were getting closer to the point that we really wanted to bring this point to the Board, I met with MVEA and with our stakeholders, prior to Dr. Perez's presentation to the Board, in order to present the concept to them, this is something we wanted to explore and I shared with them at that point in time and I think that it was reiterated to the Board at the last presentation that they would be involved in any discussions related to this, if granted approval, that we would start in terms of exploring the development of a proposal.

Board member Ashe asked, the other concern I had is: why are we breaking away from and creating another program, when the programs that we do have, aren't functioning well? We don't really have a handle on the programs that our children need to graduate, that our children need to stay in school, our AVID program is doing well, which we don't have an update, and then we have programs which aren't doing so well, and because I don't even know what the cost is going to be just to investigate. I'm reluctant being a Program Improvement District to run off on a whim and develop a brand new program when I don't have a clue. You have given me nothing to go on, I have no reporting on the other programs, my dropout rate is still very high, the minorities, specially the Blacks and Hispanics don't come to school. I haven't heard anything from the Asian community, they are totally left out. My teachers haven't expressed an interest at all, you may have had a discussion with MVEA, but I don't know if they liked this report or not and Educational Services hasn't really done anything for me. The only people who have done anything for me are two people, Ken Schmidt and Dan Reed, that's it! So I am very reluctant to go forward with this program at this time; we don't have the money for it, there's been no discussion, I don't know how and what it would do to this community.

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded by saying, if I could just add, probably about 6-7 months ago Dr. Isaac and Dr. Perez asked if I would join them to a trip to New York, if I would join them in visiting the school in Sacramento, I said, absolutely not, that I would take no action without first coming to my Board to ensure that they could at least give the green light to begin the exploration of what it would look like. We have no intention in moving forward without the consent and approval of the Board, to move forward to bring back and address the valid questions that you are asking this evening.

Board member Jacqueline L. Ashe stated, but it's going to cost money to even explore.

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa, responded, we are not asking for money, we are seeking funding from the Irvine Foundation as Dr. Isaac had mentioned.

Dr. Isaac added, if I may say we are not asking the Board to go forward with any program, we are not initiating any program, we are not approving establishment of any new entity yet, what we presented at the last meeting, the summary of how this learning community works, the one that we showed in Sacramento, has 37% African Americans and 35% Hispanic students, so it's not a very depressed area, and yet they have converted the environment into a well successful environment for students. Their transfer rate, their successful rate are reasonably high. We are not reinventing the wheel; we are basically saying that we need to learn from the other experiences on how to bring success into our own environment as well. And we are simply saying is that we want to explore, and the exploration is not going to require any resources from either the School District nor RCC, once the committees are established we will seek for support, there are grants available for these kinds of studies, but we don't want to go and apply for any grants until we have the approval so that this study becomes your study on the basis of what is studied and presented, the decision can be made whether we can move forward or don't move forward at all.

Board member Ashe stated, I understand the grants, the grant you can only write a grant it will be accepted at certain times of the year. The other issue is what the success is or not of our current health Academies and how will this program affect it?

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa responded, we have very successful health academies at three of our comprehensive high schools, Canyon Springs, Valley View and Vista de Lago, I think what distinguishes this one is, the opportunity because of its location to have a direct link with the practicing practitioners that would be associated with them, the healthcare facilities, the hospital setting because it would provide a laboratory setting and a training ground for students, it's opening up and deepening the work that is done within our current academies which are currently extremely popular, which I believe are pretty much filled to capacity. I apologize that I don't have the hard quantifiable data related to the success of these academies, but we do know that all of our academies not just the health academies, do produce students who are focused not just in that particular field but graduate, many of them move on to fulfill A-G requirements, that is one way to address your question about the dropout rate, that the focus and emphasis that we would like to see is one in which students are meeting A-G requirements that there is a well delineated pathway for them once they graduate into RCC and or into a four year university.

Board member Ashe commented, I understand that we have health academies, but how is this going to affect this particular charter academy, how will it affect it? I know that our singular health academies at certain high schools are doing very well. But how will this charter academy have an effect on the other academies within the District?

Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa, responded, I only see it as helping and enrich the work that they are doing because this would open up to all students throughout the District, as our current health academies are serving students who live within that attendance area. I don't see that it would have an adverse impact; I suppose that would be something we would incorporate into the proposal.

Board member Ashe commented, we can also broaden our range if you will, at our high school health academies also. In another words we can allow students from different areas to attend whichever health academy they want to, for example, Canyon, Valley View, Vista de Lago or wherever they want to go.

Dr. Isaac added this is not intended to have any negative effect on the other health academies, I think that the health academies have capacity limitations, currently we have 100 to 120 students per health academy, and however, the charter school would have an enrollment of 150 to 160 students per year. We are still looking at the small number compared to the total student capacity, and when we come to the Community College Allied Programs we are short of students, the need is expanding, we would like to have more students and there aren't that many students that have been prepared well. Our hope is that there will be corporative reinforcement rather than negative competition, the same that is available for those schools is still too small for the student population and we are simply expanding that space.

Board member Ashe added, I understand that and I appreciate that, but we don't even have people here that can call our students and get them back to school. Call me a pessimist. That's all I have to say.

Board member Tracey B. Vackar commented, when this proposal came to me initially as Board President, shared with me by Dr. Perez, where the RCC campus was added their health services and health carrier courses were going to be expanding over the next 10 years, they were looking to find a school district to partner with, one of their school district within their boundaries is MVUSD so they came to us first we are also the largest and wanted to know if we were interested in seeking funds to allow to create a small environment for our students, have a sequenced pathway plan that would allow our students to explore health careers, while getting their basic education requirements and being articulated with the Community College and that it would be feasible that they would leave high school with both a high school diploma and possibly an AA.

Board member Sayre commented, we are doing this now.

Board member Vackar stated, we are doing it now, but it doesn't have a focus. So what Dr. Isaac is suggesting is that we get a committee together along with RCC, what I want to be sure is that the Board was aware that he was asking the District explore by getting a committee along with RCC to look at the concept, the concept is not there yet, it's not planned, there isn't a budget, there isn't a location that is in mind yet, those are things that the committee would be exploring, the one thing that they would like to do is that they have been apprised that there are some grants funds available I believe through the Irvine Foundation and possibly through the Bill Gates Foundation and there were couple others, might be some seed money to be able to get this study off the ground; to see what our current academies are doing, can there be some expansion to them. Some of the other services, I believe, the college was looking at getting into; there is a whole Allied strand that would be involved. So basically, all you are looking for is the idea to be able to form committees, to see if it's even feasible and then report back to both boards. There is no financial obligation at this point to either party. I think that's where it's at, it's still in the early early discussions. What I didn't want to happen is to have committees out there doing work and the Board not being aware that the concept idea was out there, which is exactly why I brought it forward and I believe that it's still the right thing to do to have a discussion, all the concerns that have been addressed are very valued concerns and ones that the committee really needs to look at and address especially if the board has brought this, how is this going to work, how will this be financed, how will this integrate with our current academies, what will the pathways look like, what would the sequences look like, those are fabulous questions that there are no answers to. You

need to have a committee together to answer all those questions. But this can only happen once the Board approves to even have a committee.

Board President Jesus M. Holguin stated, my understanding is, if we approve this, this allows for Moreno Valley Unified School and RCC to come together and develop a proposal for a dependent healthcare charter academy. But we don't know, there are still a lot of questions, there are a lot of unknowns at this point in time, of course the biggest concern is the finance portion, will we spend any money, and how much will it cost the district. But if it's not going to cost any money, I really don't see any harm in exploring that opportunity but at the same time without forgetting our health academies, which was stressed here several times. Our health academies are successful, so how is this going to affect our academies and benefit our students. Having said that, if the Board approves to go ahead with the exploration, I want to make sure that we include all of our stakeholders in the process, because everyone has an important input on that, I would like to see the different groups being involved and working in the proposal and then coming on a monthly basis or as often as possible to inform us how the program is developing. At the same time I don't want to create a sense, yes we are going to do it and then down the road we back out. There are a lot of things that need to get ironed out first. Again, I feel that if there is no cost to the district, just looking at the possibilities without any commitment, but we have something solid, this is how it's going to work, than I would support the development of the proposal, up to that point only.

Board member Sayre commented, there is always a cost with everything that you do, I won't be foolish enough to say that when you pull the Assistant Superintendent and a couple of Directors from their work that they do daily, if we have such a finely polished organization, that we can afford and go off and strike up a new concept and I guess we are doing a pretty darn good job. Just to throw some numbers out there and I'm not a numbers guy, but I am a budget person, the New York school has a student teacher ratio of 13 and the one in Sacramento has a student teacher ratio of 21. Are you prepared to fund such a program at Moreno Valley Unified in conjunction to Riverside City College; are you willing to commit to 50% of that expenditure to us from your treasurer?

Dr. Isaac commented, you did ask that question earlier and I said that from my perspective, I could only answer from the Academic side. But, I think that the Superintendent correctly pointed out that when we do form a committee we do have different kinds of expertise to look at different aspects, there are those that are looking from the management side, or the funding side, or the academic side, so that all possible questions can be answered, so these schools are funded, when we met with them the first time, we did not get the sense that they were financial burdens and the apportionment that they get for their students is higher than the normal schools and therefore they are self sufficient, if I had known that these were your main questions, I would have probably spent time in preparing this information for you. But obviously, others are doing this and are getting fairly good results. All we are saying is that we need to explore. I'm looking from a health perspective, and a fact is that in the State of California the demand for healthcare workers is expanding expediently. The need to diversify health workers is huge. This state is rapidly expanding in population, it's rapidly aging and therefore those demands are higher and there is a great opportunity for our students. We are not getting enough students, so we need to find a way to get our students to come into these successful areas. We need to explore different ways to get these opportunities so we would like the Board to give us a green light together with your

staff. If the staff at your health academies has concerns, then they should be part of the committee so that they can see for themselves the opportunities for expansion, for learning rather than a threat.

Board member Sayre stated, I hope that I'm not leaving you with the impression that it's a threat, it's hardly a threat, we are pretty autonomous as a group, and as a Board we are pretty strong in terms of making tough decisions when they need to be made. My experience has been that when you set an expectation out there, it suddenly becomes the Board's will and direction to get this thing accomplished, when in fact it should be more of a fact finding and a discussion that is wholesome with all the stakeholders, the finance people, the associations that work in our District, and also the parents that are out there to determine whether or not they are willing to separate some of our funds to enhance a small high school. So if my son happens to want to be a firefighter, why aren't you preparing him to be a firefighter and why are you preparing someone else to be an LVN, RN or a Physician's Aide, how do you become selective in terms of what occupation you will serve, based upon the perception of an aging group of people in the United States or California. If you came to us and told me it was revenue neutral, no more than the average ADA that we get, we would simple move that over to your program, but I just can't get from one to thirteen and one to twenty unless I'm missing something. My experience has not been that good with grants, they seem to become a tremendous amount of burdens, and they seem to run like water and then it's gone, the next thing you know I'm holding the bag with 10 counselors when the program ran out and all of a sudden I'm this satanic guy that just because we don't have the money we can't continue the program and then everyone wants to throw darts at us. And that has just happened in this District. So if someone wants to bring a proposal that says this is revenue enhancing to us, so be it. One to thirteen, let's go do a school.

Board member Vackar stated, maybe one to thirteen is not the number.

Board member Sayre commented that's what is being sold.

Board member Vackar responded I don't think that's what's being sold; we don't know the actual outcome of any of this is.

Board member Sayre, stated, this is what is being presented to us. This is the benchmark that I'm working from, did you read it?

Board member Vackar responded, I did read it. It's concept as far as things that we could be looking at when you develop it; it's my understanding, there is a difference between 13 to 1 or 21 to 1 for teacher student ratio, that's a huge change, maybe that doesn't work in today's economy and I wonder if they would be making changes too based on the changes that are happening, but I don't think we know any of those answers yet. Unless you have a committee that goes off and explores it, you are not going to know. What's going to be a shame is that the job market is towards the health industry right now and the challenges in finding qualified workers, students that ready to go into those educational areas to be able to learn more, that's what is sitting out there, and I wish we could do an expansion of our fire services, but you know what there are no jobs out there for fire services unfortunately.

Board member Sayre asked how do you figure that, what are you basing that on?



Board member Vackar responded, the number of jobs that have been out there in the marketplace.

Board member Sayre stated a 3% of 50 retirement formula versus a 2% at 65?

Board member Vackar commented go take a look at how many jobs they have flown and how many people have filled those jobs in Riverside County in the past year, they are not filling them.

Board member Sayre, responded I would say you do the same at any hospital.

Board member Vackar responded, I totally disagree with you Rick Sayre. And I tell you what I have numbers that will show you something totally different, but that's a whole other conversation. But I feel very strongly that's not the case. Personally, I have seen numbers.

Board member Sayre stated, share them with me then.

Board member Vackar commented, I will, you got it.

Board member Ashe stated they needed firefighters in Illinois.

Dr. Isaac stated that he just wants a green light from the Board to move forward with exploring.

Board member Ashe asked why hasn't anyone from our brilliant Educational Services done a study on why our third, fourth and fifth graders are not able to read. I'm just going to be frank, they have to read and understand what they are reading to pass those tests to get into the medical profession. You're not talking about the bottom of the barrel here, you're talking about the cream of the crop and I should know. The average student is reading at a third of fourth grade level and its showing up on our test scores. The tests to get into medical, you have to know math, science, biology, anatomy and physiology, our children aren't at that level, so why don't you all get together, you brilliant minds and form a committee and explain to me why our children are not reading well so that they can pass the tests and we can run off and develop this health academy.

It was moved by Victoria Baca and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar to approve that the District and the Moreno Valley Campus of Riverside Community College explore the development of a joint proposal for a dependent charter Health Care Academy, as presented.

VOTE: AYES - 3 (Baca/Holguin/Vackar)

NAYS – 2 (Ashe/Sayre)

ABSTAIN – 0

Board member Sayre clarified the Nays, based on there is not enough information provided to make a decision to go forward and with taking staff time to explore this project. Board member Ashe concurred with Mr. Sayre.

- Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Dropouts

Superintendent Lagrosa stated that on September 24, 2009 the District held a Study Session with a presentation and an Action Plan presented by the Educational Services on how to address the dropout rates. Some of the steps presented are cost neutral; many we have implemented this year, monitoring our student data's, students who leave our school, we have had extensive training with our registrars, our guidance technicians, school secretaries and that has been conducted working directly with Information Technology Department. However, some of the steps will need funding and with that the district met with our stakeholders at the CMM meeting yesterday with Ed. Services presenting this presentation and Action Plan and as a result beginning in January 2010 there will be committees meeting with representatives of our stakeholders in order to give input into the plan that was developed and to be able to come back to the Board with the direction that is necessary and prioritize those steps. Some of the committees that we have such as the Special Education Standing Committee have already been looking at these areas that addressed the dropout rate, because we know that in that dropout rate is our subgroup with special needs. Some things we have already taken some steps toward addressing. Because we have had come committees that are inclusive of our stakeholders, our formal committees such as CMM, JFMC, and BAC I would ask that we be able to consider those committees as representatives of the stakeholders of the District; because we have presented a plan and we want to be able to come back with the input that has been provided by the various stakeholders.

Board member Victoria Baca commented that she appreciated this information because the dropout rates continue to increase; and that the community will be creating this Ad Hoc Committee this will not be a district Ad Hoc Committee, it will be from different stakeholders within our community. We hope that when the standing committee meets that they invite the community, the Ad Hoc Committee that is being created, we want to take away the negative connotation of dropouts and turn our focus in increase the graduation rate. I think it's important that the community be treated as a stakeholder. We have empowered our parents, but when they come to the District with a complaint they are turned away or are treated disrespectfully at the school sites. We need to change that for the betterment of our kids. Research states that when parents are stakeholders and are involved and are not disenfranchised our students do better. We are a program improvement district and we need to look at that. Some of the suggestions are that in addition to the requirements for graduation is not only for our students to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is that our students meet the A-G requirements that students in the eighth grade enter the school with a four year plan that develops with the family and the family sign off on that so that they know what is expected of their student. If you interview a couple of these kids, the majority of them do not have a four year plan and at least half of them do not know what a four year plan is, and one tenth of them will not know what the A-G requirements are. A suggestion for example is to bring recognition to the A-G Plan which may be cost neutral, I don't know, to print them on the back of the PE shirts that some of the students purchase, those are some suggestions. There is a lot that has to be done. We have had many meetings on dropouts, community members have attended workshops, we know that this is a not only a district problem, but its county wide; but our jurisdiction is to our students and we need to do something; special education students we need let them know that there is a certain criteria to their graduation, there is so much to be done, we can't just say that we are going to improve, we need to have a plan, goals, direction, that is what is lacking. The most important stakeholder is the actual dropout they need to be included. We

never include dropouts until today I have not seen a program to include the dropouts. Val Verde in 1995 developed a program called Project Welcome Back, where they had community liaisons go out and look for those kids and they brought back to school those students to the district; no questions asked; they got them in a program and gave them the counseling necessary in a confidential manner. We need to take away that stigma of being a dropout; these are kids that are being disenfranchised. Kids don't know who their teachers are, who is their counselors or their principal. However, the kids that are doing well know their teachers, their counselor and their principal, these kids that are connected to someone and are doing well. We have to continue to work together.

Board Mr. Rick Sayre commented that this committee belongs to our community and that it required no fiscal implication from the District. I am unclear as to why we are having this conversation; I was not present at the last board meeting.

Board member Ms. Jacqueline L. Ashe commented that Ms. Baca had some very important points. I would like to add that certain people need to have compassion and some understanding of those students that are dropouts and that are not reading; they need to get rid of their ignorance and of their stigma and their fear. If you don't have those kinds of people working in these programs our students will not accept them and will feel disenfranchised and will always have a high dropout rate; if you have people working at these different committees with a bad attitude then they need to be fired. I hope this committee is successful and that you don't have people of ignorance, fear and lack compassion in this committee.

Board member Tracey B. Vackar stated she had no comment.

Board President Jesus M. Holguin stated that everyone that works in the educational system need to come together to lower the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate. We all chose to work in this field, I work in the County office and I think of how my work impacts our children; also my performance in the Board of Education affects our 36,000 students, I take it very seriously. I hope that we all take our responsibilities seriously regardless of the position we hold. The opportunity we have to shape and assist our students and develop their future.

Superintendent Lagrosa responded that the reason this item was put on the agenda was to remind the Board and the community of the fine work that the Educational Services Team has done in order to present to the Board back in September. A well thought out plan that is integrated and is inclusive of what we need to do now and over the long term to help increase the graduation rate. They are not ignorant, they are well educated and they are well versed in the needs of this district and of the students. They are not fearful; they are here to serve the needs of the students and they do not lack compassion. This the most compassionate, hard working educational staff and I am very proud to work with them.

Board President Holguin requested a five minute break at 9:44 p.m.

Board President Holguin reconvened the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

BUSINESS SERVICES

- Resolution No. 2009-10-28 Approving the Annual Five Year Reportable Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2008 – 09, in Compliance with Section 660066 and 66001.  
This item was approved in the beginning of the meeting.

- First Interim Report

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Victoria Baca to approve the First Interim Report, as presented.

VOTE:            AYES - 5                                    NAYS - 0                                    ABSTAIN – 0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ITEMS

- Receipt of Charter School Petition

The Board of Education acknowledges the receipt of a charter petition from Connections Technology Academy. A public hearing on January 19, 2010 will provide an opportunity for public comments demonstrating support for the petition.

Board President Holguin requested that we schedule a Special Board Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the CSBA Delegate.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following items were brought forward:

Rick Sayre

- No comments.

Jacqueline L. Ashe

- She was very concerned of our student dropout rate.

Victoria Baca

- No Comments.

Tracey B. Vackar

- No comments.

Jesus M. Holguin

- Congratulated Valley View High School in their performance at the CSBA Conference in San Diego.
- Congratulate Ms. Tracey B. Vackar for being selected as Citizen of the Year.
- Thanked Ms. Vackar for the year she served as Board President.
- Thanked the Board for electing him Board President this year.
- Wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Rowena T. Lagrosa

- Welcomed the new Executive Secretary to the Board of Education, Patricia Diener.
- Thanked and wished all employees a very Happy Holiday Season.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.