

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF AUGUST 25, 1998

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 25,1998, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 1998. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of August 25, 1998.

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

THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE 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 Placements; Hearing Officer Recommendations, Public Employee Dismissal/Release; Public Employee Appointments; Conference with CSEA Labor Negotiator; Conference with MVEA Negotiator; and Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation.

The Board of Education convened into Closed Session at 5:17 p.m.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Administration</u>
Alex T. Candelaria, President	Anita L. Suazo
Bernadette Burks, Vice President (Absent)	Jack Clarke, P/T
Charles W. Ledbetter, Clerk	
Tracey B. Vackar, Member (Late – 5:12 p.m.)	
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Member	

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:45 p.m.

**REPORT OUT
OF CLOSED
SESSION:**

The Board of Education discussed Private School Placement Case No. 03-98-99; Hearing Officer Recommendations Case Nos. 184-97-98, 001-98-99, 002-98-99, 003-98-99, 004-98-99, 079-96-97, 001-97-98, 028-97-98, 046-97-98, 050-97-98, 174-97-98, 5032-97-98, 5146-97-98; Public Employee Dismissal/Release - due to an emergency to fill the position with the receipt of a resignation after the agenda was printed and posted, it was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter to modify to Public Employee Appointment - Interim Assistant Superintendent. The vote to modify was: 4 Ayes (Burks - Absent), 0 - Nays, 0 - Abstain; Public Employee Appointment - direction was given to the Superintendent to hire the Assistant Principal at Valley View High School. There was no reportable action on Public Employee Employment - Superintendent's Contract; Conference with CSEA Labor Negotiator; Conference with MVEA Labor Negotiator; and Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation.

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

VOTE: AYE – 4 (Absent - Burks) NAY - 0 ABSTAIN - 0

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

RATIFICATION: It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter to ratify the Closed Session discussion.

Administration Present

Anita L. Suazo, Superintendent of Schools
Ronald Bennett, Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Linda Wisher, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Christine Wallace, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal Services
Jeff Okun, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services
Louise Bigbie, Director, Student Services
Roger Powell, Director, Information Systems
Pat Kelleher, Principal, Canyon Springs
Dean Olson, Principal, Moreno Valley
Joe Palomino, Principal, Valley View
Bruce Hemlock, Principal, North Ridge
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Carl Curling	Ralph W. Smith	April Wilson
Bobbie Kelleher	Susan Phillips	Deanna Hendrickson
Marva Horn	Mark Rosenbrook	Paula Trout
Jacquelyne LePore	Jesus Holguin	Patricia Holguin
Ron Crothers	Karol Miller	Gary Baugh
David Lara-Tellez	Maria Elena Kobulniky	Louise Palomarez
Victoria Baca	Martha C. Medina	

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by community member Jesus Holguin.

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

Board President Candelaria introduced the new School Resource Officer, Sgt. Sawicki, whom will be attending Board meetings.

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

September	8, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
September	22, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
October	13, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

None.

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998**

SCHOOL REPORT

Board President Candelaria asked the Board to move Discussion Item 276 - Valley View Senior Project presentation at this time. The Board was in agreement. Mr. Palomino introduced staff: Bobbie Kelleher - Coordinator of the Senior Project, and April Wilson and Sue Phillips - co-chairpersons of the English Department. The Senior Project has been piloted at Valley View for the last two years. Mr. Palomino stated this program fits into the new STAR test which looks at alternative ways of assessing students. The California State Department has named Valley View as a reform school because of several projects being utilized as alternative assessment programs - interdisciplinary portfolios and the Senior Project.

Mrs. Kelleher shared attributes the Xerox Corporation looks for in employees:

Approach to Work

- Taking personal responsibility
- Being persistent
- Behaving predictably and consistently

Approach to Others

- Communicating openly
- Exhibiting patience
- Following through on commitments
- Identifying with a team

Approach to Information

- Focusing on objectives
- Recognizing detail

Approach to Decisions

- Analyzing logically
- Paying attention to the Big Picture

These are things taught in content. The SCAN Report is indicating what the students are able to do by having the student learn basic skills with competency in reading, writing and computation, communication, personal management, adaptability, and group effectiveness. It is not the content as much as the ability to perform and produce that is important. How is this made relevant to the students? The Senior Project offers skills to the students that will be applicable to any goal they want to achieve whether attending college or moving directly to the work force after high school.

The Senior Project includes oral communications which meets the new State Standards, reading for understanding, writing in a variety of modes, working with a mentor, decision making, goal setting, flexibility, and self discipline and management. The Senior Project is done in three different steps: 1) A research paper which is to include 5-8 pages and is corrected by teachers. If the paper does not meet the standards, the student does not proceed with the project. 2) The student keeps a series of logs, sets timelines, and puts in 25 hours on the product. 3) The final step is the oral presentation which is presented to a panel of five including teachers and community members. This has given an opportunity for the community to become a part of the project. The type of project is a student's choice to ensure the student is investing in an area of interest to them.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Staff goals for the Senior Project include:

Students

- Provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in four years of high school - the application of knowledge.
- Demonstrates a “stretch” or challenge for the student.
- Provides the opportunity for students to become self-empowered and build self-confidence.
- Provides the opportunity for “life-long learning.”
- Provides a “rite of passage” to that reality.

Staff

- Provides opportunities for staff to work together to tighten bonds and unite with a common goal of focus on curriculum for students.
- Increases communication among departments.
- Provides the opportunity for staff members to be viewed by the students and community as professional mentors.

Community

- Provides positive ties to the community.
- Provides opportunities for shared responsibility between school and community.
- Heightens awareness of educational process.
- Provides opportunity for community to see students as contributing members of society.

Curriculum

- Focuses and integrates curriculum awareness among and within departments.
- Standardizes assessment.
- Serves as closure to this stage of the educational process.

Public Relations Tool

- Spotlights student achievement.
- Stimulates community/school partnerships.
- Community members become mentors for students.

The Senior Project is connected to Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLR) by producing the following: Responsible citizens as students meet deadlines, work with mentors, produce a quality product, and maintain good physical health; collaborative workers who can communicate effectively in a culturally diverse society; complex thinkers who can use strategies, demonstrate creative approaches to learning, and develop commitment to lifelong learning by setting goals; and effective communicators who can listen and interpret by speaking and writing. The Senior Project speaks for itself in its complexity.

Mrs. Kelleher shared a portion of a parent letter in support of the Senior Project, and how that parent felt it was beneficial and a learning experience for her student. Mr. Palomino stated that he has seen the pride on students' faces after they have completed their Senior Project. He commended his staff for their commitment and support to the students and the program. Discussion is ongoing among staff to determine successful steps to improve the program.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Board Member Vackar asked what happens if a student does not pass the Senior Project and how many students have not passed. Mr. Palomino stated that if the student does not pass the Senior Project, they do not pass English. If they don't meet this requirement, they do not graduate. However, there are other alternatives for the student to be successful, and there is a process for parents to follow to express any concerns. He indicated that if a student fails, they fail not because of the Senior Project, but because of what they are not doing schoolwide.

Board Member Vackar asked if a student is graduating early, how do they complete the Senior Project. Mr. Palomino indicated they would work with the student and the student's plan. The student can take a concurrent enrollment English class at RCC which would accomplish the same as the project.

Board Member Ashe feels that even though the Senior Project is not a Board approved graduation requirement, it needs to be supported because it is important that the students are prepared and have the knowledge of how to research and write a paper for college.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dean Olson, Moreno Valley principal, spoke in support of the Senior Project and feels that it should be instituted as a graduation requirement for all seniors. Moreno Valley has done some work in this area but not to the extent Valley View, and he would like to expand the program at Moreno Valley. He feels the project demonstrates the accomplishment of the ESLR's per the Focus on Learning Action Plan by helping students acquire the exhibition of the mastery of knowledge supporting the four-year educational plan, demonstrating the integration of knowledge, and demonstrating our commitment to produce students to achieve at a high level and have them ready to take their places in society. He commended Valley View for their educational trail blazing.

Pat Kelleher, Canyon Springs principal, applauded Valley View's effort in the Senior Project. He feels methods need to be developed to assess students and determine their skills. The project is based on relevance by making learning real for students to become capable and create valuable individuals; rigor by having the courage and belief in the students that they can take this on and be successful; and responsibility because the students need to be connected to the community, by giving opportunities to relate to the community, and applying their knowledge. Mr. Kelleher is in support of Senior Project and indicated that Canyon Springs will be moving forward in future projects.

Dr. Suazo commended Valley View staff for successfully piloting the Senior Project. She is happy that the principals of the other two comprehensive high schools are embracing the concept and will be moving forward.

Marva Horn feels that students need to have writing skills prior to high school. It should begin in middle school. She spoke to Consent Item 229 and questioned the proposed expenditures on salaries. She asked about the rate of pay, how many individuals are expected to be employed, and how this is going to target the families. She asked for clarification on Consent Item 601 - C199-029 and if it is related to Consent Item 229.

Dr. Suazo stated that staff would get back with Mrs. Horn regarding her questions.

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Ralph Smith asked for clarified on the modification of the Closed Session agenda for August 25, 1998. Dr. Suazo indicated that the modification was Public Employment Appointment – Interim Assistant Superintendent. He asked about the superintendent’s contract.

Martha Medina, Armada third grade Bilingual Mentor, asked the Board to listen and review information she shared of students’ class work. She feels it is crucial to evaluate and re-evaluate the future of the English language learners in the kindergartner, first, and second grades. Proficiency in the English language is not the whole picture. Cognition and academics also need to be strengthened. She feels remediation will dominate if this is not done.

Board Member Ashe asked Dr. Wisher if she had any comments. Dr. Wisher indicated that the Board Policy is being presented tonight and the program components will be brought forward at the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Action Item 225 – Ratification of Resolution No. 1998-99-11 - Pupil Textbook and Instructional Incentive Program for 1997-98.

Moreno Valley Unified School District is eligible to participate in the legislation providing funds to the Instructional Materials Fund and the Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials Incentive Program. This resolution will establish, as required by Education Code 60119, that Moreno Valley Unified School District students had sufficient textbooks or instructional materials in core academic areas.

It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Public Hearing - Resolution No. 1998-99-11 - Pupil Textbook and Instructional Incentive Program for 1997-98 be closed, with action being taken on the Action agenda.

VOTE: AYE – 4 (Absent - Burks) NAY - 0 ABSTAIN – 0

Dr. Wisher stated that this resolution would be an annual item, as it is now required by law.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Consent Agenda Items 101 through 104 under Superintendent, Items 201 through 216 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 301 through 309 under Fiscal Services, Items 401 through 418 under Human Resources, and Items 601 through 606, with a separate vote on Items 603 and 605, under Support Services be approved as presented.

VOTE: AYE – 4 (Burks – Absent) NAY- 0 ABSTAIN – 0

ITEM (S) VOTED ON SEPARATELY

Moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Items 603 and 605 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE – 3 (Absent - Burks) NAY - 0 ABSTAIN – 1 (Vackar)

SUPERINTENDENT

- 101 Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of June 23, 1998
- 102 Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of June 25, 1998
- 103 Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of July 7, 1998
- 104 Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of August 10, 1998

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998**

CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 201 Ratify Out-of-State Conference - Follow the Footsteps to Freedom: Along the Underground Railroad - Ridge Crest
- 202 Conference Attendance - California School Leadership Academy - Sunnymeadows and Box Springs
- 203 Overnight Field Trip - California History Trip - Ridge Crest
- 204 Ratify Overnight Field Trip - Cramer 1998 Student Athletic Trainer Workshop - Canyon Springs
- 205 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Special Education
- 206 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - SB 1969 Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (S.D.A.I.E.) After School Training
- 207 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Sheltered/Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (S.D.A.I.E.) Site Representative
- 208 Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Bilingual Teacher Training Program (BTTP)
- 209 Extra Pay for Extra Duty – Transitional Language Program Instructional Assistant Inservice
- 210 Extra Pay for Extra Duty – Standards Based Assessment
- 211 Ratify Extra Pay for Extra Duty for Training of the Scoring System for the Math Renaissance Tests
- 212 Ratify Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Transition Language Implementation Committee
- 213 Ratify Extra Pay for Extra Duty - Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (B.T.S.A.) Training
- 214 Extension of Work Day for Substance Abuse Specialist
- 215 Extension of Work Year for Special Friends Program Specialist
- 216 Display of Textbooks

FISCAL SERVICES

- 301 Direct Purchase List
- 302 Purchase Order List No. 2
- 303 Fiscal Services Document
- 304 Denial of Claim No. 1997-98-14
- 305 Denial of Claim No. 1997-98-15
- 306 Denial of Claim No. 1997-98-16
- 307 Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-09 To Expend Excess Funds
- 308 Acceptance of Donation/Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-10 To Expend Excess Funds
- 309 Acceptance of Donation

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 401 Resignation of Managerial Personnel
- 402 Certificated Personnel Resignations
- 403 Certificated Personnel Non-Paid Leave of Absence for the 1998-99 School Year
- 404 Certificated Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 405 Certificated Personnel Employment on Variable Term Waiver
- 406 Declination of Certificated Personnel Summer School Employment
- 407 Certificated Personnel Summer School Employment for 1998
- 408 Certificated Extra Duty Personnel Employment (9-12) for the 1998-99 School Year
- 409 Certificated Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 410 Ratification of Classified/Noon Duty Personnel Resignations
- 411 Classified Personnel Non-Leaves of Absence
- 412 Classified Personnel Change in Assignment
- 413 Classified Personnel Increase in Hours

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)
HUMAN RESOURCES (CONT.)

- 414 Classified Personnel Promotions
- 415 Classified Personnel Employment
- 416 Noon Duty Aide Employment
- 417 Classified Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 418 Amendments to Consent Agenda Items

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 601 Personal Services Agreements
- 602 Contractual Agreements - 1997-98
- 604 Contractual Agreements - 1997-98 – RCOE (Separate Vote)
- 603 Contractual Agreements – 1998-99
- 605 Contractual Agreements – 1998-99 – RCOE (Separate Vote)
- 606 Midland Revised Starting Times for 1998-99

ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Action Agenda Items 225 through 234 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 325 through 328 under Fiscal Services, Item 425 under Human Resources, Items 525 through 537 under Student Services, and Items 625 through 626 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 4 (Burks - Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 225 Resolution No. 1998-99-11 – Pupil Textbook and Instructional Incentive Program for 1997-98
- 226 Special Education Private School Placement No. 03-98-99
- 227 Special Friends - Department of Mental Health Grant Award - Edgemont, Armada, Sugar Hill, Serrano, Hendrick Ranch, and Sunnymead Elementary
- 228 Tobacco Use Prevention Education (T.U.P.E.) Grades 9-12 Grants
- 229 I.D.E.A., Part B Infant Discretionary Funds

Board Member Ashe asked for a brief description on this item. Dr. Wisher stated this is just a portion of funding for the infant program. As indicated in the text, this includes two teachers, nursing services, and psychological services that are funded for this program.

- 230 Second Reading and/or Adoption – Board Policy 6200 – Adult/Continuing Education
- 231 Second Reading and/or Adoption – Board Policy 6141.4 – English Language Education
- 232 Adoption of Supplemental Health Materials - Project A.L.E.R.T.
- 233 Textbook Adoption
- 234 Ratify Textbook Adoption - Mathematics - Grades 8-12

FISCAL SERVICES

- 325 Authorization to Go to Bid for Relocatable Building Leases
- 326 Award of Bid for Retiling of Restrooms at Sugar Hill
- 327 Ratification of 1998-99 Underground Storage Tank Insurance
- 328 Approval of the J-200 Unaudited Actual Financial Report for 1997-98

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 425 30-Day Substitute SBEST Waivers for 1998-99

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

ACTION AGENDA (CONT.)

STUDENT SERVICES

- 525 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 184-97-98
- 526 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 001-98-99
- 527 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 002-98-99
- 528 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 003-98-99
- 529 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 004-98-99
- 530 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 079-96-97
- 531 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 001-97-98
- 532 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 028-97-98
- 533 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 046-97-98
- 534 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 050-97-98
- 535 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 174-97-98
- 536 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No.5032-97-98
- 537 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Ratification Case No. 5146-97-98

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 625 Ratification - Change Order No. 2, Downey Electric
- 626 Authorization of Parent/Community Booster Club

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

- 175 Technology Implementation Update

Roger Powell, Director of Information Systems, gave an update on technology in the District. He reviewed information distributed to the Board. The Technology Department has placed emphasis on and completed work in the following areas:

- CEC training lab is updated.
- District Web Server is up and running. Moreno Valley is one of only six districts in two counties to get test results up in time. Student workers were used to complete this project.
- E-mail system is running.
- E-rate and Digital High School Grants are completed.
- Intranet - district network is just starting, with the hardware and software complete and running.
- Internet access and security – policies and standards have been established.
- RCOE Connection has been upgraded. It is now faster and accessible districtwide.
- SASI – enhancements to improve the system have been completed.
- Staffing – staff has been hired.
- Student workers have been hired and trained through the ROP and JTPA programs
- Support plan – support is vital to the success of the K-12 educational environment. All technicians have been assigned to the high schools.
- Training – much time and effort has been done to train staff.
- Wide Area Network (RiverLink) – connects all schools to each other, the CEC, and Internet. Moreno Valley received the most money from RiverLink.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Work in progress:

- SASI – installation of new hardware and software at the school sites is underway.
- Student courses in technology - technology is supporting schools as new courses are developed for all grade levels.
- E-Mail/Internet training for teachers, administrators, and classified staff has been ongoing.

Future (three to six months) work:

- SASI - actively working to integrate into single comprehensive database to better control and eliminate duplications.
- After-school technology access - Get the most use out of technology. Staff is looking at ways to have this equipment accessible to students before and after school for homework.
- RiverLink - All money will be spent to complete.
- Staff training - Standardized software will be prepared and training will be delivered.
- Technology planning - to assist the schools to develop a district technology plan to promote and further the direction begun by schools.

Long-term programs (Beyond six months)

- Integrated Voice/Video/Data network – To combine the voice, video, and data into a single integrated telecommunications network. The initial goals are to provide telephone and Internet accesses to every classroom and video access to every site.
- School to Career - Students do not replace regular workers. It takes time to train students, which impacts the daily workload of the employee. There is a lot of information to be taught. This is a learning experience for the students.
- Technology Support – the size and capabilities of technology is constantly increasing. There must be adequate support for these resources at each school site.

Board Member Ashe spoke in support of the School-to-Career Program and students learning about the technology of the District.

Board President Candelaria assured Mr. Powell that the Board has made a commitment to increase and improve technology in the District financially and through training. He commended the Technology Department for the good job they have done.

Board Member Vackar commended Mr. Powell on his work with the JTPA students in training, activities, and supervision. She feels what has been done by the Technology Department in a short time has been tremendous and extended “hats off” to staff for this accomplishment.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

275 Promotion/Administrative Placement/Acceleration/Retention of Students Alternative Education Options

Louise Bigbie reviewed information that was distributed and defined the options:

- Promotion is to advance one grade.
- Acceleration is to advance more than one grade.

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

- Retention is to remain in the same grade. This is a serious decision and should be considered only after a variety of interventions have been attempted to improve student success.
 - The key process is the student study team which involves writing an intervention plan with parental participation/support.
- Administrative placement is to place a student in a grade level more appropriate to meet a student's academic ability, social maturity, and/or chronological age. Recommendations will be made by a middle school or high school panel when:
 - A student is considered for special education and does not meet the criteria for special education placement
 - A student is under the private special care of a licensed clinical psychologist or psychiatrist who recommends administrative and/or alternative placement; or academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of the student are not being met.

Various alternative education opportunities and student characteristics were reviewed. These programs include: Middle School Opportunity; Great Expectations (grade 9); Success (grades 9-10); Excel (grade 9); Independent Study Program (voluntary with parental approval required); Bayside Community Day School (ages 13-17 and credit deficient); March Mountain High School (16 years or older); Growth Academics Program (at least 15 years but under 16 years of age); General Education Diploma for students who turn 18 years of age during the fourth year of high school); Summer School - priority is for "at-risk) students, failed courses, or seniors who need 10 credits or less to graduate; Regional Occupational Program (allows for earning 10 additional credits per year); Home School Program K-8 (parental instruction and support upon request of the parent).

Mrs. Bigbie stated that alternative approaches need to be reviewed to expand further opportunities. The District had 325 administrative placements this year, with 171 students placed in alternative programs to receive additional assistance. The goal would be to place all students in an alternative program. Students that have been placed usually have been in the District less than three years, and have been retained at least once or twice before enrolling in the District. More students enrolling need assistance. The non-standard student is becoming the norm in the District. We need to look beyond traditional means where the traditional means has caused failure. We have to do more, not by changing the student, but changing the strategies to bring the student in.

Board Member Ashe asked about possibly doing some of the alternative programs at the sites. Mrs. Bigbie indicated there are alternative programs that are site based. The District needs to be able to serve all students.

Board President Candelaria asked for clarification on the retention chart. It shows a decline in elementary and an increase in middle school. He asked why this is happening. Mrs. Bigbie feels that class size reduction may play a part in this as the students that are enrolling are behind. She stated the registration center has registered 8,000 students, but the student population has stayed the same. This is an indication of the turnover in the District.

Board Member Vackar stated that the Board of Education reviewed retentions during the 1995-96 and 1996-97 school years. There was concern that promotion was not happening at the middle school level. New direction was given and a Board policy to address this was developed.

276 Valley View Senior Project – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

CONSENT ITEM - 101
 SUPERINTENDENT
 SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

FISCAL SERVICES

375 Special Education Audit

Mark Rosenbrook urged the Board to move toward an independent audit. He shared a concern about the adopted budget approved by the Riverside County Office of Education. In their analysis, it indicates the expenditures projected exceed the revenues in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. If deficit spending continues, the financial stability of the District can be jeopardized. He feels an audit now would provide the Board and staff with information to respectively take on the challenges of all areas of education within the District.

Dr. Wallace stated that she has contacted several organizations. The District's auditors indicated that the cost of an independent audit of special education would cost approximately \$15,000. The most senior auditors would be sent out, and the District would be charged by the hour, which would be very costly. School Services of California cannot give a quote until they know specifically what the Board is looking for and what the Board wants them to do. She asked for direction from the Board. She understands the Board is interested in a financial audit but not the programmatic audit. She has contacted Dr. Larry Frise, who retired and works with ACSA. She requested specific direction from the Board so she could get estimates.

There was Board discussion. Board Member Vackar stated that she felt Board Member Burks was looking for a complete and thorough overview of the program to include grant costs, implementation of grants, supply expenditures and purchasing of supplies. However, it should be verified with Mrs. Burks. Dr. Suazo stated she doesn't feel an audit should be done with special education in isolation from curriculum and instruction because they are tightly interwoven. Dr. Suazo indicated this item would be brought back at the next Board meeting to report what the consultants recommend because Board Member Burks would be in attendance for further discussion.

Board Member Vackar indicated that the Board had requested a copy of the Special Education budget breakdown by program.

376 1998-99 Adopted Budget

Dr. Wallace stated that the Riverside County Office of Education has approved the District's 1998-99 adopted budget; however, as it has been indicated, they do caution the District about the expenditures for the next several years as the District will be in deficit spending. She feels as the District receives additional COLA from the State it will bring down the deficit. The county wants to review multi-year projections and the District automatically does this per Board request several years ago. The District is going to actual attendance. This is a new procedure and the District will not be reimbursed for excused absences. There is no history to go on so this projection is based on assumptions. Board Member Vackar stated if there is a positive reinforcement as far as accountability in attendance, the District will receive revenue. Dr. Wallace just received a letter that stated the District must maintain the same level of 1996-97 attendance or higher in order to maintain the same revenue. She will need to be working with Curriculum to find out why students are not in school. The budget is based on assumptions. Hopefully, the District will meet those assumptions.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

SUPPORT SERVICE

675 School Safety Patrol

Jeff Okun stated that information and a videotape was included in the Board packet. He indicated that there is a District School Safety Patrol in place. It is initiated by the site and sent to Support Services, Risk Management, and the City of Moreno Valley for approval before it comes before the Board. The main hurdle for approval is the site providing appropriate supervision and commitment. Mr. Okun indicated that he would communicate with the sites and PTA about this program, information, and videos are available for review.

Board Member Ashe asked if Ms. Kobulniky could assist sites that may be interested in implementing a similar program. Mr. Okun stated that Ms. Koulniky has indicated that she is willing to assist depending on her availability, however, he reiterated this is really a site-based program.

Board Member Vackar stated that nine years ago she requested a Board policy implemented and made the PTA aware of her request. It was initiated at Arnold Heights and then at Seneca. This could not be a required program, but it was felt the program was important for sites to know about it. There were trainers available through Automobile Club, members of the Sheriff's Department, and in San Diego. She feels it is an excellent program and commended Ms. Kobulniky for implementing it at Seneca.

Dr. Suazo feels the reason the program is so successful at Seneca is that Ms. Kobulniky coordinates the program. If people don't show up, she shows up. Board Member Vackar feels this should be addressed at the PTA Council because it has been a long time since this has been presented, and she would be willing to take some time to assist in this process.

Dr. Wisher stated that a major element in implementing the program is to have an analysis done of the location of the school, width of the street, student safety, and speed of the traffic. Sunnymead was one site that it was determined was not a good site because it is on a main street, which is too wide.

Board Member Ashe asked about Midland students affected by the boundary change and the safest route for them to go to school. Jeff indicated that the recommended route for those students north of Manzanita is crossing at the light or heading south to Gregory and crossing at the light.

676 Alessandro Gymnasium and Administration Building Utilization

Jeff Okun indicated that a variety of District functions have been looked at to be housed in the administration building. Two areas that need additional space are 1) the Registration Center which operates out of a trailer and out of the Board Room during summer registration; and 2) testing and assessment that currently operates out of three locations.

The Registration Center is currently not a full-service center. With additional space, this would allow for an appropriate waiting room, adequate assessment center space, the capability to make it a full-service center where lunch and bus passes can also be obtained, and it would give a more pleasing introduction to the District. The approximate costs would have to be incurred eventually with the upgrading of the facility and technology. Testing and Assessment would have additional space to allow for all services at one location.

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

There are several requests for the gymnasium – 1) The City of Moreno Valley has asked that it continue to be and used as a gymnasium; 2) Moreno Valley High School has asked it be used as an adjunct to the school for performing arts or sports activities; 3) Canyon Springs has asked to be used for a community-wide wrestling program; and 4) The Board of Education asked that the “black box” theater be looked at as an option. Mr. Okun stated that the “black box” theater concept would be difficult to implement in a facility of that size because this type of theater is small and contains a movable stage. The approximate cost would be \$250,000 which does not include air conditioning or upgrading of the food services area. He suggested that a preliminary design be brought back, if the Board is interested in the concept. There are several issues that would need to be addressed if used as a districtwide facility to be available for all schools. If it is going to be a districtwide facility instead of a Moreno Valley High School facility, the design would be different. In the meantime, the facility can still be used as a gymnasium by the City and Moreno Valley.

Board Member Ashe shared a concern about the cost of a “black box.” Mr. Okun indicated that the facility could work as a theater or modified as a “black box.” It would be difficult to use as a gymnasium and theater. Board President Candelaria asked how the cost of the project could be shared between the City and the District. Mr. Okun stated it has a joint-use agreement that allows the City to use the facilities for recreational activities at no charge unless additional custodial time is needed. The City’s use of the facilities is secondary to the District’s use.

Board Member Vackar feels the District has a lot of sporting facilities available and that the arts projects need to be supported, especially the Arts Academy at Moreno Valley. Dr. Suazo stated that there will be money available for magnet programs. Dr. Wisher indicated that the District is close to having the multi-year magnet grant to continue to expand the academy program, which includes Moreno Valley High School. If funded, this would bring in an additional 8.9 million dollars. She would like to see this continue to be support. This has tremendous implications for Moreno Valley.

Board Member Vackar feels any kind of decision needs to be put on hold. In addition, there needs to be an inventory of equipment. She asked if the gymnasium can still be utilized. She wants to be able to support the magnet program and meet the in-kind requirements of the grant.

Mr. Okun asked for clarification from the Board on the utilization of the gymnasium - whether to make it available to the City or make it available as a community recreation center. Board Member Vackar stated there should still be access for the District to plan for the magnet proposal. Board Member Ledbetter indicated that the community should be able to use the gymnasium. Board Member Ashe asked about coordinating activities for all entities to utilize the facility.

Dr. Suazo suggested bringing a plan forward for the use of the gymnasium which ties to the magnet grant. She requested to move ahead with plans to move the Registration Center and Testing and Assessment Center into the administration building. Dr. Suazo requested Mr. Okun to bring forward a utilization plan for the gymnasium to the next Board meeting. Board Member Vackar requested Mr. Okun to also bring forward the number of gymnasiums available for District use.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

S-C-14

Victoria Baca, Mexican American Education Foundation, is an advocate for district students during special education procedures and suspensions and expulsions. The District has a large number of suspensions and expulsions as indicated on this agenda. She feels the Zero Tolerance Policy is against the law and requested the Board to bring back an action item to discontinue this policy at the next Board meeting.

Deanna Hendrickson, MVEA president, shared with the Board how smoothly the opening of year-round schools was organized, portables and textbooks were ready for the students. Students have not been moved around after the beginning of school. She stated teachers are excited, upbeat, and looking forward to a good year. She assured the Board that teachers are ready to start teaching the basics Monday morning as traditional school begins. She is very hopeful the system will work and allow the teachers to teach and students to learn.

Mark Rosenbrook spoke to the Board about concerns regarding his students. He indicated that over the last few Board meetings Board Member Burks has requested a written report on special education, on when special education staff meetings were held, what topics are discussed, and how does problem solving occur; and requested information regarding the number of mediations, fair hearings, potential mediations, and hearings within the District. It was stated that a certain administrator indicated there was no dismantling of the autistic program. Board Member Burks requested that Dr. Suazo follow-up with the appropriate personnel. Mr. Rosenbrook met with Dr. Suazo and discussed issues about this program. To date there has still not been resolution. He asked the Board for resolution on this issue.

Louise Palomarez expressed her concern about the large number of suspensions and expulsions in the District. She feels the number is too high. The students are failing at the high school level which means the students are not getting a good education. The program is not working. The administrators, teachers, the Board, the Superintendent, and parents need to work together for the students to be the best. She feels changes need to be made, and that staff is not doing their job.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEMS

None.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION

Jacqueline L. Ashe brought forward the following items:

- She attended the new teacher orientation on Friday at Palm Middle School. This group seemed to have extra excitement, and more enthusiasm. She feels they will bring new ideas to the District. She looks forward to working with them in the future.

Tracey B. Vackar brought forward the following items:

- She asked if the District was planning on scheduling a Candidate's Night when divisional information will be presented along with information on the District including Board policies and procedures. Dr. Suazo stated that Board candidates were sent information about the District and a copy of the Board agenda. Information regarding subsequent meetings will also be sent. Each division is in the process of putting together materials relative to their division that will be sent out to the Board candidates. Candidates are invited to meet with the appropriate division heads regarding any questions. A joint session has not been planned because the last one held was not well attended.

CONSENT ITEM - 101

SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

S-C-15

Charles W. Ledbetter brought forward the following items:

- He is looking forward to an exciting year, in particular with the Senior Project that Valley View is promoting. He feels the District needs to take a closer look at the Special Education Program. The District has teachers that can do the job and asked that we work with them to do the job.

Alex T. Candelaria brought forward the following items:

- He asked what the Board felt about the “Earp Days” that is being sponsored by the City of Moreno Valley and if the District has anything that could be contributed. Dr. Suazo asked for clarification as to how the District would participate. He indicated if the District had any teachers familiar with this era who would be willing to volunteer time in this event. Board Member Vackar stated that the District has a lot of history that could be shared. He feels the City and the District needs to begin to work together and promote dialogue.
- He referred to the information distributed from the California School Board’s Association and the calling for members of the Director-At-Large seats up for election. He expressed interest to participate as a candidate for the Hispanic Director-At-Large. Dr. Suazo asked if it requires Board nomination, as she was not familiar with the information. The information will be copied and distributed to all Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Jacqueline L. Ashe and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that, there being no other items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

VOTE: AYE - 4 (Burks – Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 1998