

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF AUGUST 10, 1998

The minutes of the Special Meeting of August 10, 1998, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 1998. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Special Meeting of August 10, 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 6:03 p.m. to discuss Declination of Managerial Personnel Employment, Canyon Springs 1998-99 Restructuring Plan, Superintendent's Search, and Board Policy 6141.4 – English Language Education.

Administration Present

Anita L. Suazo, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ronald Bennett, Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Christine Wallace, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal Services
Jeff Okun, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services
Roger Powell, Director, Information Systems
Pat Kelleher, Principal, Canyon Springs
Mike Newcomb, Principal, Sunnymeadows
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Carl Curling	R.W. Smith	David Lara-Tellez
Jesus Holguin	Patricia Holguin	Mark Rosenbrook
Carletta Jones	Charlotte Adams	Ted Amino
Marie Teresa Diaz	Alfonso Diaz	Jenelle Beard
Margie Breitruez	Gloria Boyd	Kerry Younglove
Marva Horn	Louise Palomarez	Victoria Baca
Ed Dumaine		

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ralph W. Smith, spokesperson for Concerned Citizens, addressed the appointment of Dr. Suazo as Superintendent, and referred to the newspaper article that was published last week which raises questions to Dr. Suazo's credibility. He feels certain Board members participated in this, and indicated that Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts prohibits Board members, school teachers, and members of the District from harassing, intimidating and "backbiting."

Roger Powell, a District employee, spoke in support of Dr. Suazo as Superintendent. She has immense credibility, tremendous courage, and conviction of beliefs. He feels she is an excellent chief executive, and stepped into the District at a time of much confusion, did an excellent job, and is the best-qualified candidate. He has routinely observed her make very difficult decisions by putting the best interest of the students first.

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Ed Dumaine, a District parent, stated he has seen positive influence and support of Dr. Suazo in the field of technology. He spoke in support of Dr. Suazo for Superintendent, and feels she can do the job. The District can save money for a search and put it back into the classrooms and for technology to make Moreno Valley a leader.

David Lara-Tellez, commented on the newspaper article of last week which gave the impression of there is an out-pouring of community concern about the appointment of the Superintendent. He doesn't see it. He questioned the motivation, manipulation, and feels someone is orchestrating this. He feels business needs to be done through the Board and not through the press. He stated that Dr. Suazo has conducted herself in a professional manner, with dignity, and is above the people who are speaking out against her. She is good for the District, and has made a commitment to the District and community.

Mike Newcomb, elementary principal, expressed his personal appreciation of Dr. Suazo. During a difficult time, he feels she has demonstrated the professionalism worthy of a Superintendent, and that a smooth transition has been evidenced in her service during the last few months. During recent staff development for administrators this week, it was made clear the District is ready to focus on curriculum and instruction. He feels she has a vision of what this District can and should be, she puts the students first, and is willing to hold the administrators accountable to make sure this happens.

Ted Amino and his wife feel that Dr. Suazo should be retained as the District's permanent Superintendent. She has the academic qualifications and familiarity of the District and personnel. They believe it is time to give a qualified woman to have the opportunity to do the job. He asked the District to keep Dr. Suazo.

Patricia Holguin, Vice-President for the District Bilingual Advisory Committee, spoke in support of Dr. Suazo. The parents know that she is concerned about all the problems of the District, and that is why they are supporting her.

Mark Rosenbrook asked that the Board look at the buy-out options, at the length of the initial term, and what has been done in the past. He feels Dr. Suazo carries the ability to do this job.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Bernadette Burkes and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Consent Item 401 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

HUMAN RESOURCES

401 Declination of Managerial Personnel Employment

ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that Action Agenda Item 225 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

225 Canyon Springs 1998-99 Restructuring Plan

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IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

175 Superintendent's Search

Board Member Ledbetter has talked to administrators and asked how they feel the District is being run now. He has all positive responses. He has attended Chamber of Commerce meetings, and has heard nothing but good reports about the District. He feels it is time to give a woman a chance because she is doing a good job. He doesn't feel a study needs to be done to see who is in house to be Superintendent.

Board Member Vackar stated that she did not initiate any newspaper articles. She has a concern about a process that needs to be followed and is consistent. She asked that same considerations, fair employment practices, and policy be followed if an internal search is going to be done.

Board Member Burks feels that little games are being played, and that fair employment rights have not been forfeited. She reviewed the timelines and Board actions – decided on a search, interviewing consultants, etc. She stated that, one consultant commented that the District already has a qualified individual doing the job, and someone who would fill this position would have to exceed these qualifications. She feels Dr. Suazo has made a commitment to the students, parents, and community by moving here when she first came to the District. In order to understand this community, a person has to live here. She referred to the newspaper article and feels it was very unprofessional. She feels the Board needs to discuss issues with each other before going to the press, and that the newspaper should not be used to discredit people.

Board President Candelaria stated that at the last meeting, the Board agreed to discuss an internal search, process, and timelines. He favors Dr. Suazo, however, we need to promote from within and give everyone fair access to become a candidate for the permanent Superintendent. He suggested to proceed with the internal search, and asked direction from counsel on timelines, etc.

Board Member Ledbetter asked, "why games are being played when we have the person that is doing the job?"

Board Member Burks stated that Board members keep bringing up an issue about breaking fair employment practices and when issues like this are brought up without a good explanation then problems are caused.

Board Member Vackar asked that the District's process be followed. The process has already been established by policy to fly the position internally, be reviewed by a panel for paperscreening, and interviewing. Board Member Ashe asked for clarification on what qualifications the Board is looking for, and what parameters should be considered?

Board Member Burks asked Mr. Jack Clarke, District's legal counsel, what type of process the Board can use? Mr. Clarke stated that the Education Code does not provide a specific process that the Board has to abide by. The process the Board members are referring to relate to the management personnel, and do not apply to the Superintendent. It leaves it to the discretion of the Board, however, these guidelines can be used

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It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Bernadette Burks to appoint Dr. Anita L. Suazo as Superintendent for the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

VOTE: AYES – 3 (Burks, Candelaria, Lebetter) NAYS – 2 (Ashe, Vackar) ABSTAIN – 0

Board President Candelaria congratulated Dr. Suazo. Dr. Suazo thanked everyone for their support. She asked for assistance from the parents, community, and administrators to work in concert and set a tone of respect and support for one another.

Board Member Vackar stated there should be discussion on the Superintendent's contract. Board President Candelaria asked Mr. Clarke for direction. Mr. Clarke suggested that the Board instruct counsel to begin preparing the contract for subsequent consideration and possible approval.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe directing counsel to begin preparing a Superintendent's contract. Board President Candelaria asked when this would be completed? Mr. Clarke indicated it can be ready by the next regular Board meeting of August 25, 1998.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

275 First Reading – Board Policy 6141.4 – English Language Education

Staff was directed to bring back to August 25, 1998 Board meeting for second reading and/or adoption. Board Member Burks asked when the District would begin to implement the curriculum to the students? Dr. Suazo indicated that staff is working on this, and would be bringing a presentation back to the Board on the implementation and process. However, she wasn't sure if it would be ready for the August 25, 1998 Board meeting, or the first meeting in September. She stated that staff has received a general orientation.

Board Member Vackar feels it is important that the Board have a formal discussion on how it is going to deliver bilingual education. Board Member Burks stated that Dr. Suazo said staff will be bringing a presentation forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Rosenbrook feels there are three factors for potential homebuyers in Moreno Valley – the quality of parks and recreation, the quality of homes, and the standard of education. He stated that the District needs to get the word out to the community about the quality and standards of education available in the District.

The Board of Education convened into Closed Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss Public Employee Appointments.

Members Present

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

Administration

Anita L. Suazo

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 6:58 p.m.

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ROLL CALL: AYE-Burks AYE-Candelaria AYE-Vackar AYE-Ledbetter AYE-Ashe (Late)

REPORT OUT
OF CLOSED

SESSION: The Board of Education approved the appointment of Richard Blakely as Director I, Accounting, effective August 11, 1998, and the promotion of Margie Breikreuz as Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, effective August 11, 1998.

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY - 0 ABSTAIN - 0

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

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY - 0 ABSTAIN - 0

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