

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF JULY 31, 2002

The minutes of the Special Meeting of July 31, 2002, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of August 20, 2002. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Special Meeting of July 31, 2002.

**MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
25634 Alessandro Boulevard
Moreno Valley, California 92553**

THIS PROCEEDING IS AUDIOTAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: AYE - Ashe AYE - Bailey AYE – Sayre AYE – Vackar

Administrators Present

Nicolas Ferguson, Superintendent
Louise Bigbie, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services
Pat Chandler, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Robert Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal Services
Cindy Stewart, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Zenia Lowe	Becky Shreiner	April Van Wye
Perla Fabelo	Carol Johnson	Cameron Van Wye
Paul Szuszkiewicz	Tony Fabelo	

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

SUPERINTENDENT

- Local School Bond

Dr. Ferguson gave a brief history of the bond. At the November 27, 2001, Board meeting, it was the consensus of the Board to bring the local bond issue back to the Board for a vote. At the December 18, 2001, Board meeting, the Board approved to use George K. Baum & Company Consultants to conduct a survey on a 4-1 vote. No action has been taken to place the local bond on the ballot.

Dr. Ferguson shared the pros and cons of placing the local bond on the November 2002 general election ballot. He had concerns about the short timeline to the general election (three months); in order to assure a successful bond campaign there needs to be the commitment and involvement of classified, certificated, and administrative staff (which has recently been reduced due to budget cuts); and the various fiscal measures that are already on the ballot: Measure A – County Sales Tax (.05 percent) for transportation needs, Measure F – Repeal of the City Utility Tax, and Proposition 46 - \$13 Billion State Facilities Bond; and there has been no formal discussion with the three employee groups regarding the survey results. The number of Board member votes required to place the local bond on the ballot for a four-member Board would be three. If the local bond is not placed on the November 2002 ballot, the next general election is scheduled for March 2004.

**CONSENT ITEM – 002
SUPERINTENDENT
AUGUST 20, 2002**

Charles Youts and Alan Gafford, bond consultants for George K. Baum & Company, presented the results of the June 2002 conducted by their firm. Mr. Youts stated that George K. Baum & Company has been working with the District for one year. Four hundred registered voters were surveyed. The firm's role is to provide information to the District based on the survey that the District has the capability to pass a bond. The plus or minus 5 percent means that if the survey is conducted 100 times, 95 percent of the time, the results would be the same.

The survey was initially conducted with no voter knowledge of the bond. The survey was then conducted after education of the bond issue was shared. Voters surveyed were concerned about improving the following items: HVAC, electrical systems upgrades, upgrading of older schools to bring to a comparable school facilities in the state (an equity issue), energy efficiency improvements, and electrical wiring to accommodate current technologies.

The survey also includes the tax tolerance – how much would the voters be willing to levy on their property to make these improvements in the District. Sixty-two percent of the voters indicated that the total amount they would be willing to provide would be \$30 to 34 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value). In 2001-02, the average home had an assessed value of \$98,000. Based on this assessment, this would raise approximately \$50 million in bonds for the District. It was originally projected that the District would need \$80 million in bonds. If the District does pass the bond to raise \$50 million, there is a possibility that the District would be eligible for an additional \$25 million from the state, thus yielding a total of \$75 million.

Mr. Youts recommended that the District would need to issue the bonds in two equal series, March 2003 (\$25 million), and the summer of 2006 (\$25 million).

In order for the District to carry out a successful campaign, the District will need to put a citizens committee together to fundraise in order to pay for the bond campaign.

- Resolution No. 2002-03-07 – Resolution of the Moreno Valley Unified School District Board of Education Ordering an Election and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order

Mr. Brian Forbath, bond counsel for Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth, explained that in order for the local bond to be placed on the November 2002 general election ballot, this resolution must be Board approved and submitted to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters office no later than August 7, 2002.

If the resolution is passed, it would: order a general election on November 5, 2002; restate the requirements of Proposition 39, which establishes certain performance, audits, standards of financial accountability, and citizen oversight; prohibit bond funds to be spent on staff salaries or other operating expenses; cause the appointment of a citizen oversight committee within 60 days of the approval of the resolution by the Board; and request the County Registrar and Board of Supervisors to consolidate the election with all other elections held in 2002.

Board discussion ensued. Board Member Bailey felt strongly that at the December 18, 2001, meeting, the Board approved the bond consultant and placing the bond on the November 2002 ballot. Bond funds are very important to the District and very much needed. This additional revenue is necessary in order to keep pace with District growth.

CONSENT ITEM – 002
SUPERINTENDENT
AUGUST 20, 2002

S-C-6

It was moved by John Bailey that the December 18, 2001, Board minutes be amended to reflect that the Board did vote to place the bond on the ballot. There was no second. The motion died.

It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that Resolution No. 2002-03-07 – Resolution of the Moreno Valley Unified School District Board of Education Ordering an Election and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order be approved as presented.

VOTE: AYE – 2 (Bailey, Vackar) NAY – 2 (Ashe, Sayre) ABSTAIN – 0

It was suggested that District legal counsel review the videotape of the December 18, 2001, to determine what action the Board took then.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Perla Fabelo, Carol Johnson, April Van Wye, Paul Szuskiewicz, Tony Fabelo, Canyon Springs parents, and Cameron Van Wye, Canyon Springs graduate, addressed the Board with concerns about the Canyon Springs girls and boys water polo teams being discontinued for the coming school year, lack of communication and staff support, and the personal time and fundraising activities students and parents have done for this program. They shared various ideas to keep the program.

There was Board discussion about what could be done to address these concerns. Due to the recent budget crisis, necessary cuts were made. There are legal issues to consider. He will discuss the group's concerns with the appropriate high school athletic directors and principals and bring back information to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Tracey B. Vackar that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m. to reconvene Friday, August 2 at 10:30 a.m. in the Board Room.

VOTE: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 ABSTAIN – 0

CONSENT ITEM – 002
SUPERINTENDENT
AUGUST 20, 2002