

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF OCTOBER 13, 1998**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 1998, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 1998. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of October 13, 1998.

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

**THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE AUDIO/VIDEOTAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the meeting at 5:08 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Private School Placements; Student Discipline Cases; Public Employee Appointments; Conference with CSEA Negotiations; and Conference with MVEA Negotiations.

Members Present

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

Administration

Anita L. Suazo  
Jack Clarke P/T

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:11 p.m.

REPORT OUT  
OF CLOSED  
SESSION:

The Board of Education discussed and approved Private School Placement Case Nos. 10-98-99 through 11-98-99; Hearing Officer Recommendations Case Nos. 062-96-97, 117-96-97, 148-96-97, 010-97-98, 036-97-98, 053-97-98, 067-97-98, 173-97-98, 5005-97-98, 5076-97-98, 5192-97-98. There was no reportable action on Public Employee Employment; Conference with CSEA Labor Negotiator; and Conference with MVEA Labor Negotiator.

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

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

RATIFICATION: It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Bernadette Burks to ratify the Closed Session discussion.

**CONSENT ITEM - 102**

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Administration Present

Anita L. Suazo, Superintendent of Schools  
 Ronald Bennett, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Schools/Educational Programs  
 Linda Wisher, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction  
 Suzanne Pickup, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
 Christine Wallace, Assistant Superintendent, Fiscal Services  
 Jeff Okun, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services  
 Willie Williams, Director, Facilities Planning  
 Roger Powell, Director, Information Systems  
 Jim Dutton, Principal, Landmark  
 Carol Castle, Assistant Principal, Landmark  
 Debbie Fay, Assistant Principal, Vista Heights  
 Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Lizabeth Heacock	James Gaier	Linda Barraza
Claudia Grogan	Ashley Mercurio	Judy Mercurio
Christina Schmutz	Emily Schmutz	Karen Rumfola
Rebecca Shreiner	Celia Assef	Giselle Assef
Susan Holtan	Yvette B. Rawls	R. W. Smith
Deanna Hendrickson	Darlene Dolan	Cynthia Dolan
Deanna Leaverton	Paul Wilson	Stephanie Perea
Tyrie Stout	Brett Turnage	Tom Rasbach
Christopher Schiermeyer	Scott Compton	Jon Holtan
Susan Holtan	Robert Washington	Laura Rynott
Teri Hilker	Jesus Holguin	Patricia Holguin
Jerry Kobelski	Carl Curling	Bruce Barton
Eva Jeng	Gary Baugh	Bob Stouffe
Renee Bajor	Scott Compton	Luis Rosa
Carroll Vaniman	Gayle Ganse	Mike Sorter
Christine John	Jenelle Beard	Ruth Ellen Schmutz
Don Fay		

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

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Powell, Director, Information Systems.

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

DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

October	27, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
November	10, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
November	17, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

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RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Yvette Rawls, a senior at Valley View High School, and Monique Williams, a senior at Canyon Springs High School, were recognized for their selection as "future women of achievement" in the "Bright Futures" program sponsored by the YWCA and the Riverside County Office of Education.

#### SCHOOL REPORT

Brett Turnage, Moreno Valley High School Board/Student Representative, reported that one of biggest games of the season is scheduled for this Friday against Canyon Springs High School. It begins at 7 p.m. This game is Moreno Valley's Homecoming. There is a great half-time show planned. Friday's extended lunch will include KROC Radio station, food booths, and many activities. The Homecoming dance last weekend was well attended. He extended an invitation for everyone to attend the festivities. If you want a good time, come to Moreno Valley High School.

Stephanie Perea, Valley View High School Board/Student Representative, reported the following: Valley View High School has been selected to receive Digital High School grant funds. Upcoming activities include: October 13 – baseball parent meeting; October 16 – football game at Temecula, October 17 – football booster car show and Homecoming dance; October 20 – Pep Club meeting in library. Once-a-month meetings for the graduation planning committee have begun.

Tyrie Stout, March Mountain High School Board/Student Representative, distributed the March Mountain High School newsletter to the Board, Superintendent, and administrators. He extended an invitation to everyone to attend the Back-to-School BBQ scheduled for October 14 at 6 p.m. Classroom visitations will begin at 7 p.m. The ASB went on a field trip to the University of Redlands and obtained information on college scholarships and colleges. The girls' volleyball team is undefeated with two games played. Red Ribbon Week activities are being planned which will include a magician during school, and outside of school hours as a fundraiser for the ASB.

Paul Wilson, Canyon Springs High School Board/Student Representative, congratulated Yvette and Monique for their accomplishment. He reported the following activities: October 3 – Homecoming dance; October 5-10 – homecoming week with activities which included Hawaiian shirt day on Monday, little kid day on Tuesday, pajama day on Wednesday, twin day on Thursday, and school color day on Friday; October 7 – homecoming assembly. The Homecoming theme was Treasure Island and the homecoming court was announced at the assembly. October 12 – non-violence week; October 20 – Red Ribbon assembly; October 21 Up-to-date dinner; October 22 – flex day; October 22-24 –fall play; October 26 – beginning of Red Ribbon Week; and October 27 – Red Ribbon activity planned with Midland Elementary. Paul stated that Canyon Springs accepts Moreno Valley's challenge for the football game on Friday, October 16, 1998. Students are training hard for all sports.

With the Board in agreement, Board President Candelaria brought Discussion Item 275 – Landmark Restructuring Plan and Discussion Item 375 – Special Education Program Audit, forward at this time.

Mr. Dutton reviewed the Landmark Restructuring Plan which basically provides for accountability for students, teachers, classified staff, and parents. One of his favorite quotes is, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." He feels that Landmark has that village and everyone needs to be used in that village to raise the children. The proposed flexible day schedule would not reduce the amount of class time but the minutes will be subtracted from homeroom. These minutes are added to the end of the day for Foundation classes. Students who are at-risk of failing or have failed are required to participate in a Foundation class to makeup these classes. He feels this will assist students to become focused on getting minimum grades in school.

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Mr. Dutton introduced staff that prepared and would present the restructuring plan – John Rose, Lucy McKetney, Linda Barrera, and James Gaier. Staff presented the following information.

#### Landmark Restructuring Plan

Landmark Middle School staff is dedicated to providing students with the highest quality of education by providing a dynamic learning environment and positive school climate designed to maximize student potential. There is an increasing concern about the number of students who move through the school system without acquiring the skills and self-motivation to achieve success in high school and beyond. This restructuring plan is being proposed because of the need to have a system in place to provide accountability for students, staff, and parents. The students deserve to have a school structured to meet their diverse needs. Staff believes this plan meets this challenge by providing such an environment, with an emphasis on science, math, and technology. It will assist the students to realize higher academic achievement and become responsible, life-long learners.

In order to create and implement programs which address the needs of the students and staff and encourage parent and community involvement, the Restructuring Committee designed a flextime schedule that would allow the Landmark staff to focus on school improvement goals. With the addition of flextime time to the daily schedule, opportunities for professional collaboration and program improvement would emerge. To keep pace with the demands of a technologically-oriented society, the Landmark staff feels this opportunity to expand and improve the educational program is vital to the success of all students.

Landmark Middle School's shared vision is to prepare students personally, academically, and socially to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. By providing a focused magnet program which emphasizes the integration of math, science, and technology in all curricular areas, the opportunity for students to succeed in a technologically-oriented world would be greatly enhanced. The entire school community would strive to excel in its educational programs for all students.

Restructuring of the daily schedule to include a 45-minute flextime would allow for the following:

- enhancing the learning of at-risk students.
- improving site technology.
- evaluating and updating programs regularly.
- publicizing student activities and achievements.
- increasing student/teacher/parent communication.
- encouraging student involvement in school administration.
- cross-curricular team, department, and grade level integration.
- supplementing funds through grant writing.
- utilizing the multiple intelligence approach to maximize student learning in all curricular areas.
- increasing staff teaching, technology, and integration skills.
- increasing multicultural activities.

Goals of the restructuring plan would include:

- Landmark students would become actively engaged in the learning process across the curriculum. Curriculum would be structured to promote every student's personal, academic, and social development.  
Flextime activities would include:
  - instituting Foundation classes designed to reinforce learning and accountability for the at-risk student.

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- instituting a 24-credit system to increase student accountability for academic success.
  - providing individual or small group tutoring.
  - enhancing the existing School-to-Career Program by providing students with the opportunity to explore a variety of careers and develop computer workplace skills.
  - Increasing student participation in academic and extra-curricular activities such as spelling bee, speech contests, community-sponsored contests and school clubs.
  - cross-curricular team, grade level and department integration.
  - designing and evaluating lessons using Multiple Intelligence strategies to further reinforce the learning of the at-risk and regular student populations.
  - creating a positive reward system involving assemblies, field trips, positive notes home, 6th grade orientation, improved extra-curricular activities.
  - evaluating "Foundation classes" to increase at-risk student achievement.
- Landmark students will experience the integration of science, math, and technology across the curriculum and in every area of student involvement by:
    - reviewing and redesigning the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade technology curriculum on an ongoing basis to promote student computer competencies.
    - increasing student use of technology in the classroom.
    - writing grants.
    - utilizing site technology to promote student multimedia projects.
    - implementing the use of the internet for student research and presentation of student projects.
  - Landmark will provide a safe learning environment in which all students will have an opportunity to learn and develop respect for different cultures, ethnic groups, religions, and special needs groups.
    - creating and implementing a student learning center to ensure the success of all students.
    - implementing a peer coaching system among staff to enhance technology integration, classroom management, and instructional delivery.
    - creating a student discipline court and appeals board.
    - increasing student participation in school safety and discipline committees.
    - planning for the expansion of the multicultural activities program.
  - Landmark staff will strengthen the school/parent/community partnership by:
    - increasing opportunities for teacher/parent/community contact.
    - creating a public relations staff position, funded through SBCP funds, to promote school/community relations.
    - creating opportunities for student publications.
  - The 45-minute flextime period incorporated at the end of the school day will facilitate improved student success. Evaluation of goal achievement would include:
    - improved National Percentile Ranking to 50 percent or better in all categories for each grade level.
    - increased transitioning of specially funded students into the regular classroom.
    - increased student participation in school and community extra-curricular activities.
    - increased number of clubs and extra-curricular programs.
    - increased use of cross-curricular lesson plans.
    - increased grade point average.
    - a 50 percent increase in student usage of technology across all curricular areas.

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- an 80 percent or better positive response on parent, student, and staff climate surveys.

- a 60 percent reduction in repeat referrals by the year 2002.
- increased visibility of administrators as instructional leaders.
- increased number of multicultural lessons and activities.
- increased daily attendance.
- increased funds from grant writing.
- increased positive media contact and student publications.
- increased number of students passing all classes.

“Students tend to learn as little or as much as their teachers expect. Teachers who set and communicate high expectations to all their students obtain greater academic performance than teachers who set low expectations.” Harry Wong.

Board President Candelaria asked what the current student usage of technology was across all curricular areas. Mr. Dutton stated that he did not have the figures at this time, but it is not yet at 50 percent as indicated in the evaluation of goal achievement. Mr. Dutton indicated that the goal is to expand the technology use by bringing in additional hardware and working on getting more technology into the hands of the students. All classrooms have at least one computer. There is one computer lab and one technology lab with a career education component.

Board Member Burks commended the improvement of technology at Landmark. Mrs. Vandeman, Landmark’s computer teacher, was recognized and commended for her assistance in the technology improvement.

Board Member Vackar stated that with all the data and information presented, it took time for the staff to work on a plan to implement better student achievement. She feels it shows a true desire of the site for student success. She commended the staff for their hard work and for bringing a resolution plan forward. She stated she strongly supports the proposed plan.

Dr. Suazo stated that staff support is very evident for this proposal. Staff in attendance was recognized. Dr. Wisher asked the Board to approve the notification to the parents of the schedule change because of a required 30-day advance notice, and to bring this item back for action. The Board was in agreement.

Discussion 375 – Special Education Audit was moved forward at this time. Dr. Wallace stated that the approval of the program quality review and the consultant proposal for Dr. Johnny Welton, the Director of the Contra Costa County SELPA, is being presented tonight. The fee would not exceed \$18,000 for a staff of five to conduct the program quality review. This amount would include travel, food, and lodging expenses. The program quality review staff would review the District’s programs and what is offered. If additional funds can be generated on the District’s J-50, the consultant proposal rate would be reduced. However, savings would not be realized until after the review has been completed.

Mrs. Burks asked what organization would be conducting the financial part of the audit. Dr. Wallace stated that the District’s auditors have completed 60 percent of a special education audit. If it is desired for an in-depth audit of only special education, Dr. Wallace stated that she would need to obtain a quote from them and additional companies. They do a complete check detail by detail. The special education program would need a special audit. Dr. Wallace understood that the program quality review of the special education program was to be conducted first to see what came from that, and then the financial audit would be done.

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Dr. Suazo stated that the study would bring to light some of the financial aspects of the special education program funding. This information would need to come forward first. The auditors would then need to look at more specifics. The program quality review and financial audit would not occur simultaneously. Mrs. Burks asked if equipment was going to the correct places, and questioned the funding of programs, and vision therapy. She asked if this would tell how many students receive vision therapy, etc.

Dr. Wallace stated if this information is what is requested, Dr. Welton could provide it. He would like to meet with each of the Board members, but she is not sure if this would be possible. Mrs. Burks asked if Dr. Welton could call all the Board members for clarification. Mrs. Burks asked what type of programs that would be reviewed. Dr. Wallace indicated that information has been distributed to the Board. The audit would include County operated, severely impaired, and emotionally disturbed classes. Dr. Welton is requesting to speak to the SDC program administrator and teachers. Mrs. Burks asked if Dr. Welton would be talking to the SEPAC parents and suggested that this group be included.

Mrs. Burks asked about a Project 8 program. Dr. Wisner was not familiar with this program but stated that there is an ACTION program for adult learners that are housed at the mall. This program also would be included in the review. Board Member Candelaria asked when this process would begin. Dr. Wallace stated that Dr. Welton would like to begin this Thursday pending Board approval.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter to approve the Special Education Program audit.

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

**STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Dr. Wisner and Dr. Reed presented information regarding the middle school textbook concern brought up by community and Board members. For the recently adopted language arts curriculum, 50 pupil editions per teacher and 50 pupil editions for each library were purchased. The District received two teacher editions per teacher, one for training in the spring and one teacher edition is received upon textbook purchase. Each teacher received a resource pack. Each site would have two hundred classroom novels. The District will pay for 150 novels and the site will pay for 50 novels.

During the 1993-94 science adoption, one set per grade was purchased. The intent was to use the textbook for a short period of time and pass it onto other teachers and grade levels. Each grade level had a set of books, which included resource materials and teacher editions. The adoption of social science in 1991-92 was the last adoption where one textbook was purchased for every student. One book was purchased per student with five extra for each grade level at each school. The annual income for textbooks and materials is approximately \$450,000 for grades K-8. The language arts adoption this year will total approximately \$2 million.

Board Member Burks stated that in the past there has been a textbook at the site and a textbook for each student to take home. She asked if the District is ordering only one set of books. Dr. Wisner indicated that the committee has made a variety of recommendations depending on the materials and the ability to use the materials independently. Books have been made available in the library for students to check out. If a parent is requesting a book for home use this is being provided. The committee's recommendation is not to automatically purchase one book for the classroom and one book to go home with each student. For example, with 200 classroom novels, it is not cost effective for each student to have a copy of each novel.

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Because of the large expenditure of purchasing textbooks, Board Member Burks asked what type of resources the District receives from publishers. Dr. Wisher stated that there is a written agreement with each vendor. Additional support and training and additional teacher editions are usually requested. Also, the District serves special education students and resource teachers that require multi-grade materials and resources.

Board Member Burks indicated that communication to the parents is not good. The parents need to know that each student has two books available to them. Dr. Wisher stated that this should be communicated to the parents by the principal through the school site newsletter. Dr. Wisher stated that the intent is to always have textbooks available in the library. If there is a problem, the administrator is to contact the District office. Board Member Burks asked if a parent is requesting to purchase a book what could be done. Parents have told her the District cannot sell a textbook. Dan Reed stated that parents are referred to the vendor to purchase the textbook. The District cannot sell its textbooks.

Dr. Wisher stated that parents should not be encouraged to purchase textbooks. She indicated this would be clarified with the principals at a meeting later this week.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ruth Ellen Schmutz stated she is very excited about the opportunity that Canyon Springs High School has to participate in a concert tour of Europe over spring break. They will be competing with other choirs throughout the world. She will be a chaperone and has two daughters that will be attending. Both of her daughters had an opportunity to participate in the Japanese Student Exchange Program and it changed their lives. She thanked the Board for the time and service that they devote to the students of the District, and for promoting excellence.

Christina Schmutz, Canyon Spring High School senior, encouraged the Board to approve this trip. She stated that she had a wonderful experience when she went to Japan. It was probably the best one in her life. She feels that with the opportunity to compete, the students will have experiences and unforgettable moments that will touch their lives. If the group does not go, the students would miss out on the opportunity to meet new people and have new experiences. She thanked the Board.

Ashley Mercurio, Canyon Springs High School senior, feels this trip will hold an educational value for the students. She has been to other countries and gained enormous educational value. It is more interesting to learn when studying a country that you have visited. She would like the students and parents to have the opportunity to experience this.

Emily Schumtz stated that she went to Japan and had a wonderful experience. She still communicates with her family. They visited her this spring. Her family has also gone to Mexico. She feels it is exciting to see places she has visited when she studies about them in textbooks. She thanked the Board for their time.

Celia Assef, a Canyon Spring High School parent, stated that her first field trip is what made her decide in a career choice. She feels this opportunity will encourage the students to decide what they are going to do for the rest of their lives. She thanked the Board for their time.

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Susan Holtan shared a concern about Action Item 233 – SEPAC Membership. She feels that the action the Board takes should stay in alignment with the comprehensive and local plan for special education. She distributed information to the Board. She stated that several things have been left out of the process:

1. The composition of the SEPAC shall include a Board of Education ex-officio member. She hopes the Board selects a member to meet this requirement.
2. The term of membership is for one year. However, according to the administrative regulation, the term is for at least two years.
3. She shared a concern that she and her husband turned in their application for membership six months ago. Another parent, Jennifer Brazine, turned in her application two months ago. They were then told that their applications had to be approved by SEPAC. These applications were approved. At the end of the SEPAC meeting, there were two more parents who completed applications. The process of the application is to have it presented to the Board for approval and not wait six months for this to happen. She hopes this process will be followed.
4. All memberships do not need to be renewed. She feels it looks like the District is trying to limit the committee to 15 members, however, the bylaws state 20 members.

Board Member Burks stated that the bylaws do state 20 members for two-year terms. She asked that the parents who submitted applications to be included in the consideration for membership. It was agreed that the item be pulled, corrected, and brought back to the Board.

Ralph Smith, spokesperson for concerned parents, stated that he is fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the 3Rs Conference scheduled to begin tomorrow. He hopes the zones of acceptance will move forward and participants will return with positive feedback from the conference. He feels that there is some improvement in the District.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Consent Agenda Items 101 through 102 under Superintendent, Items 201 through 217 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 301 through 306 under Fiscal Services, Items 401 through 415 under Human Resources, and Items 601 through 602 under Support Services be approved as presented. Item 603 was pulled for a separate vote.

VOTE: AYE – 4 (Ashe-Absent)

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

#### ITEM (S) VOTED ON SEPARATELY

Moved by Bernadette Burks and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Item 603 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE – 3 (Ashe – Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN – 1 (Vackar)

#### SUPERINTENDENT

101 Minutes of the Special Closed Session Board of Education Meeting of September 14, 1998

102 Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 22, 1998.

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CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 201 Out-of-State Conference Attendance – 1998 Educator Airlift Program – Moreno Valley
- 202 Out-of-State Conference Attendance – National Association of Biology Teachers – Moreno Valley
- 203 Out-of-State Field Trip – National Dance Team – Valley View
- 204 Out-of-State Field Trip – New York City Big Apple Tour – Sunnymead Middle
- 205 Conference Attendance – Extended Literacy Learning – Armada
- 206 Conference Attendance – National Educational Network – Creekside
- 207 Conference Attendance – California Early Literacy Learning – Armada
- 208 Conference Attendance – California School Leadership Academy – Hidden Springs
- 209 Conference Attendance – California Consortium for Independent Study – March Mountain
- 210 Overnight Field Trip – Bands of America – Canyon Springs
- 211 Extra Pay for Extra Duty – Resource Specialists
- 212 Extra Pay for Extra Duty – Gifted and Talented Education After-School Program 1998-99
- 213 Stipends for School-to-Career Site Liaisons
- 214 Membership – Music Educators
- 215 1999 Middle School Student Exchange Programs
- 216 1998-99 Outdoor Education Programs
- 217 Out-of-State Field Trip – Vocal Music Program – Canyon Springs

FISCAL SERVICES

- 301 Direct Purchase List
- 302 Purchase Order List No. 5
- 303 Fiscal Services Document
- 304 Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-22 To Expend Excess Funds
- 305 Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-20 To Expend Excess Funds
- 306 Acceptance of Donation/Approval of Resolution No. 1998-99-21 To Expend Excess Funds

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 401 Certificated Personnel Employment on Variable Term Waivers
- 402 Grade Level Leader Employment (K-5) for the 1998-99 School Year
- 403 Extra Duty Personnel Employment (K-5) for the 1998-99 School Year
- 404 Extra Pay Personnel Resignations (9-12) for the 1998-99 School Year
- 405 Extra Duty Pay Personnel Employment (9-12) for the 1998-99 School Year
- 406 Certificated Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 407 Classified/Noon Duty Personnel Resignations
- 408 Classified Personnel Voluntary Demotion
- 409 Classified Personnel Non-Paid Leave of Absence
- 410 Classified Personnel Increase in Hours
- 411 Classified Personnel Promotions
- 412 Classified Personnel Employment
- 413 Noon Duty Aide Employment
- 414 Classified Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year
- 415 Amendments to Consent Agenda Items

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 601 Personal Services Agreements
- 602 Contractual Agreements – 1998-99
- 603 Contractual Agreements – 1998-99 – RCOE – **Separate Vote**

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ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Bernadette Burks that Action Agenda Items 125 under Superintendent, Items 225 through 232 and 234 through 235 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 325 through 328 under Fiscal Services, and Items 525 through 530 under Student Services be approved as presented. Item 233 was pulled.

VOTE: - AYE – 4 (Ashe-Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

SUPERINTENDENT

125 Resolution No. 1998-99-19 – American Indian Heritage Month

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 225 Special Education Private School Placement Nos. 010-98-99 through 11-98-99
- 226 Textbook Adoption
- 227 Conflict Resolution and Violence Reduction Grant
- 228 Tobacco Use Prevention Education (T.U.P.E.) Grant Award
- 229 Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant Award
- 230 Consolidated Application – Part II
- 231 Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant – Edgemont, Serrano, Sunnymead Elementary, Badger Springs, Sunnymead Middle, and Moreno Valley
- 232 School-to-Career Plan
- 233 Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Membership - **PULLED**
- 234 California Partnership Academy Grant Award – Health Careers Academy – Canyon Springs
- 235 California Partnership of Creative Technologies – Canyon Springs

Board Member Vackar shared a concern regarding item 232, 234, and 235 that the partnerships are being pulled in different directions through the School-to-Career Program and the academies establishing mentorships. She feels there needs to be some way to bring everything together so the partnerships are not divided between the academies. She suggested that each site have a particular focus instead of the same area. There doesn't seem to be any articulation. There is also a concern about not receiving matching funds. She suggested that the site develop a budget to submit to the District. The District could then return the revised budget so that the site knows there is the match. The in-kind support needs to be better demonstrated.

Dr. Suazo stated that she was just made aware of this concern. Dr. Wisner is working on this concern.

FISCAL SERVICES

- 325 Renewal of Leases for Relocatable Buildings
- 326 Authorization to Go to Bid for Generic Electrical Work

Board Member Burks asked what would happen by going back to generic bids. Jeff Okun stated the project that is being proposed is a bid specification that allows the district to select a contractor that would do work of the scope of the project. Because it is a multiple-phase project, it would eventually exceed the bid limit if it were awarded to one contractor. This project is a variety of work at numerous sites.

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One choice is to scope the project and go to bid for the whole project. A disadvantage would be to have to hire an engineer to design the project and then go to bid. It is not known what is needed or what the situation requires at each site. A generic bid allows an award to a generic contractor. As a site's needs increase, the contractor can go out and estimate the needs and costs.

Board Member Burks shared a past concern about the controversy over generic bids, and how would it be handled should controversy arise again. Mr. Okun stated that for projects under \$3,000, contractors are used on a rotation basis. For anything over \$3,000 but under \$8,000, verbal quotes are obtained. Information is mailed out to contractors that have expressed an interest in bidding the District's projects. Bid specifications are advertised in industry publications and newspapers.

Board Member Burks indicated that local businesses had difficulty with the opportunity to bid in the past. Mr. Okun stated that the generic bids have been used for convenience, and it does not necessarily result in the lowest bid. The bidding climate cannot be predicted.

Board President Candelaria asked if the electrical upgrades have to do with the expansion of technology. Mr. Okun indicated that many of the older sites do not have a sufficient amount of outlets for technology.

- 327 Notice of Completion – Duct Work at Sunnymead Elementary
- 328 Notice of Completion – Reroofing at Various Sites

STUDENT SERVICES

- 525 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 095-96-97
- 526 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 178-96-97
- 527 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 79-97-98
- 528 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 155-97-98
- 529 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 171-97-98
- 530 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 50153-97-98

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

- 175 Conference Attendance – California 3R's Project

Board Member Burks asked how the Board could vote to release money for themselves when this is not normally done. Dr. Bennett stated the Board approves conferences and expenditures. He doesn't see a problem with this being approved.

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that this item be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE – 4 (Ashe-Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

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176 California School Boards Association Conference Attendance – Student/Board Representatives

Board Member Burks stated that she has tried to get this on the agenda in previous years. She feels that students should be included in this experience. Other districts bring their students. Dr. Bennett indicated that four sessions on Friday, December 4, 1998, are specifically designed for student/board representatives. He has offered to take the students. The students are to contact him before the end of the week. Board Member Vackar stated that Paul Wilson, Canyon Springs representative, has expressed interest in attending.

It was moved by Bernadette Burks and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that this item be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE – 4 (Ashe-Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

275 Landmark Restructuring Plan

FISCAL SERVICES

375 Special Education Audit

SUPPORT SERVICE

675 First Reading – Board Policy 5116 – School Attendance Enrollment Options

Mr. Okun stated that the Board approved the magnet school grant applications this evening. This Board policy reflects statements contained in the grant application required by the U.S. Department of Education. Transfers will be granted to reduce the minority group isolation at the magnet schools. This is a voluntary desegregation program and the transfer process is the vehicle that has been chosen to implement the goals of the program.

Board Member Vackar asked how this would affect current transfers. Mr. Okun stated that it does not affect current transfers but could affect the application of new transfers to schools. The process is a multi-tired process dealing with social economical status first; based upon the area and community the student lives in. In the process, priority would be given to those students who lived within the area of a higher social economic status. This would increase the diversity of the school per the grant requirements. Board Member Vackar asked about the criteria used to qualify and how the District will implement it. She has a concern that a higher social economic student could bump a lower social economic student.

Dr. Wisher indicated that the process to be used was worked out by the attorney from the Office of Civil Rights. In order to be eligible for the grant, there is a process to try to promote positive demographic shifts to eliminate minority isolation. Students choosing to come into the school would promote a greater balance through these layering criteria.

Board Member Vackar shared a concern that a student from a higher social economic background area is not able to bump a student with a lower social economic because of where they reside. She stated that if this is the case, she is not in support. Dr. Wisher stated that the criteria could be brought back to the Board. Board Member Vackar asked if this information could be included in the next Board packet.

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Board Member Burks asked if this would only affect the magnet grant schools. Dr. Wisner stated that this was correct, and it was to encourage incoming students to the magnet schools. Board Member Vackar shared a concern that if a student lives in an area that is perceived as a higher social economic area, how would it be known if that student meets that criteria.

Dr. Wisner indicated that there is a multiyear matrix identifying the number of students in terms of the shift the District would like to create. The essence of the funding of the grant is by creating programs that attract students. Any school that is receiving magnet school grant funds has to follow this procedure. Dr. Suazo stated that the criteria information would be forwarded to Board members.

676 Resolution No. 1998-99-24 – Proposition 1A

Mr. Okun reviewed information on the proposition that was presented at the last Board meeting. This resolution is on the agenda for discussion/action. He stated this is not a clean bond measure. A clean bond measure does not have any strings attached. This bond measure is tied to Senate Bill 50, which has other provisions that would take effect if the bond measure passes. The two major provisions are changes in the State School Building Program and changes in the developer fee collection. Most districts seem to support this proposition. With the change in the 100 percent funding to a 50/50 percent funding for growth and modernization, it places more burdens on local districts to fund projects. However, there is money in the State School Building Program.

If the bond measure fails and districts do not support it, the message being sent to legislators is not the message that districts think they are sending. The bond measure is for money. The changes are all in legislation. Legislation can be amended, modified, or regulations can be developed to help refine the measure to make it more workable. Mr. Okun does not feel this would result in a clean bond measure.

Mr. Okun stated that Senate Bill 50 could cause problems with the District because it raises the amount of matching funds. The revenue sources and amounts raised are limited.

Board Member Burks asked how this would affect the District. The District does not have a bond to assist with matching funds, nor does it have available matching funds. Mr. Okun indicated that a needs assessment for a bond is being conducted. This may force the District to consider a bond measure in the future.

Board Member Vackar attended a CALSSD meeting last week. Dr. Suazo was also in attendance. Senate Bill 50 and Proposition 1A were discussed. She appreciated the stand Dr. Suazo took. She feels this legislation would hurt many school districts and would take Moreno Valley out of line in the building process. CALSSD remains neutral on Proposition 1A. There are expectations that there would be amended language to “clean-up” the hardship issue. She feels it is important that the Board is involved in this in the future. She commended Dr. Suazo for her understanding and concerns about what this means to the District.

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Board Member Vackar feels statement number 6 in the resolution -- "provides four years of facility funding without raising taxes" -- is not true. In order to get the money, 50 percent needs to be paid. No districts have that kind of money available, so the district would have to go out with a bond issue to raise this money, which would also raise taxes eventually. She feels a resolution needs to explain what it would do to the District and the community. She requested that the language be amended. This proposition addresses technology in the resolution, and she doesn't feel it provides additional funds other than for modification.

It was requested that this be brought back to the next Board meeting with revised language.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEM

None.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION

Jacqueline L. Ashe was absent.

Tracey B. Vackar brought forward the following item:

- She stated that she was late tonight because she attended a meeting with the Valley Health Systems Board on behalf of the Canyon Springs Health Career Academy. They have a very strong partnership through Moreno Valley Community Hospital, which also implements a Kids Fair. They will be implementing a regional health career focus for their foundation. This may include scholarships and workshops for health careers throughout Riverside County in conjunction with three different hospitals. It was a good presentation. She congratulated the District.

Charles W. Ledbetter brought forward the following items:

- He was very proud of the Restructuring Plan presentation given by Landmark this evening.
- He will be attending the 3Rs Conference. Teaching respect, reform, and religion will be discussed. He feels this conference will be very interesting.
- He shared a concern about the language heard in television programs. He feels this does not benefit the students.
- He is concerned about the number of students not in school. He feels that truancy needs to be addressed.
- He stated all these things will be discussed at the conference in Torrance. He hopes to come back with some answers.

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Bernadette Burks brought forward the following items:

- She asked the status of a meeting on SAT 9 test scores. Dr. Suazo and Dr. Wisher indicated that this would need to be discussed at a special study session, which would also include discussion on the State Accountability Report and Improvement Schools. There was Board discussion on scheduling this session. It was agreed that the Study Session would be scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 1998, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Board Room.
- She asked why Mountain View Middle School has not come to the Board with a restructuring plan. Linda Wisher stated that she is working with the principal and School Site Council on a plan to meet the criteria for the school improvement plan. In order to be compliant with CDE School Improvement, areas of duplication are being reviewed so all elements can be combined into one plan. It is the goal to bring to the Board one plan that includes everything. Board Member Burks shared a concern about the length of time this plan is taking and stated that the school needs support to complete this process. Dr. Wisher indicated that the school improvement plan needs to be implemented this school year.
- She asked about the status of the Parks and Recreation and the middle schools sports program. She asked for a list of costs being paid to the City. There is a parent group that has concerns. She feels a meeting needs to be called to review their concerns, review how the program is being run, and get their suggestions. If the District is paying a certain amount of money, she wants to make sure those funds are being used. Mr. Okun stated that he would communicate with the contact person.
- She asked about the legality of the other administrators' contracts because they were not developed through the same process as the Superintendent's contract. She shared a concern that these contracts were done in Closed Session and the public did not see or hear the details of those contracts. Dr. Suazo stated that she would contact legal counsel to respond to Board Member Burks' concern on this issue.

Alex T. Candelaria brought forward the following items:

- He will be attending the 3Rs Conference on Wednesday and Thursday. He hopes to come back with good information to share with everyone.
- He has briefly talked with Dr. Suazo about having a workshop for new Board members to review duties, processes, procedures, current and upcoming issues, and information on the District. He feels this would have been helpful to him, in addition to the Boardmanship Program he participated in. Board Member Burks asked to include Board relationships.

Dr. Suazo stated that Board Member Burks was referring to understanding the governance model of the Board. She indicated that each division is planning on an orientation for new Board members, which would include the seated Board members. Because of the timelines and holidays, this orientation would probably not be planned until January.

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- He shared a concern about not being able to schedule a joint meeting with the city council. He feels it is very important this happen because issues such as a truancy ordinance, crossing guards, and Charter School need to be discussed with both governing boards. The

school district has not been asked for any input by the council. He indicated that the next council meeting is scheduled for October 20, 1998, and the truancy issue would be on the agenda. He plans to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

VOTE: - AYE – 4 (Ashe-Absent)

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN – 0