

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF OCTOBER 27, 1998**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 1998, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 1998. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of October 27, 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 Special Education Private School Placements; Hearing Officer Recommendations; Public Employee Appointment; Conference with CSEA Negotiator; and Conference with MVEA Negotiator.

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  
Jack Clarke, P/T  
Erma Nichols, P/T  
Suzanne Pickup, P/T

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:06 p.m.

REPORT OUT  
OF CLOSED  
SESSION:

The Board of Education discussed Private School Placement Case Nos. 12-98-99 through 17-98-99; Hearing Officer Recommendations Case Nos. 012-98-99, 019-98-99, 186-96-97, and 071-97-98. The Board approved the promotion of Aileen Ortega from Confidential Secretary, Curriculum and Instruction to Administrative Assistant of Schools/Educational Programs, effective October 28, 1998. There was no reportable action on Conference with CSEA Negotiator and Conference with MVEA Negotiator.

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

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY - 0 ABSTAIN - 0

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

**CONSENT ITEM - 101  
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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 Middle School  
 Mike Newcomb, Principal, Sunnymeadows Elementary School  
 Carol Castle, Assistant Principal, Landmark Middle School  
 Sam Patalano, Assistant Principal, Landmark Middle School  
 Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

Visitors

Jackie LePore	Tony Lopez	Ana Lopez
Michael McGhee	Mark Rosenbrook	Janine McCarthy
Jenelle Beard	Gail Kilgus	Teri Hilker
Renee Bayor	Diane Dreiss	Betty Simon
Kathyrn Jackson	Robert Washington	Carrie Weatherspoon
Lizabeth Heacock	Judy Haynes	Tom Crewdson
David Lara-Tellez	Kim Kruger	Ed McCarthy
Michael Belzman	Karen Sterling	Shaila Bergquist
Carlos Holguin	Bob King	Jesus Holguin
Anita Quinones	Jerry Kobelski	Paul Wilson
Brett Turnage	Stephanie Perea	Cynthia Dolan
Linda Barraza	Evice Grant-Brown	Julie Russell
Gary Baugh	Victoria Baca	Louise Palomarez
Bob Stouffer	Christine John	John Obermeyer
R.W. Smith	Diana Webster	Patsy Page
Stacy Koontz	Bruce Barton	Gordon Parker
Marva Horn	Debbie Eyer	Jennifer Brezina
Diana Gutierrez		

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

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jack Clarke.

INVOCATION:

On behalf of the Board of Education and administration, Board President Candelaria extended the deepest condolences to the family of Jerod Schroeder. This tragedy has affected not just one family but two families and the whole educational community. He asked the audience to take a moment to reflect on what has happened, and where we go from here. He thanked all the people who responded and commended them for the tremendous job done in keeping things under control. The classified and certificated staff did an outstanding job. The administrators were there to assist. Board President Candelaria stated that we need to keep in mind the two families and their sons. A moment of silence was observed.

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DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

October	29, 1998	11 a.m.	Special Study Session	Board Room
<del>November</del>	<del>10, 1998</del>	<del>7 p.m.</del>	<del>Regular Board Meeting</del>	<del>Board Room</del> Cancelled
November	17, 1998	7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Board Room
December	8, 1998	7 p.m.	Organizational/Regular Board Meeting	Board Room

RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

Evice Grant-Brown from Sunnymeadows Elementary School, Kim Kruger from Valley View High School, and Ed McCarthy from Vista Heights Middle School were recognized as the 1998 Moreno Valley Unified School District’s Teachers of the Year.

SCHOOL REPORT

Brett Turnage, Moreno Valley High School Board/Student Representative, reported the following activities: The French Club and BSU has a field trip to Knott's Scary Farm this month; October 30 – football game at Rubidoux; November 4 – assembly for students who have a 3.0 or above grade point average. Brett distributed invitations to all Board members for the assembly. Homecoming had a good show last week; however, Moreno Valley lost to Canyon Springs.

Paul Wilson, Canyon Springs High School Board/Student Representative, reported the following activities: October 26 – start of Red Ribbon Week; October 28 – Midland Leadership Day, college night, and reverse trick or treat day where students go to other peoples’ homes to give candy; October 29-31 – “The Women Who Came to Dinner” play by the drama department; October 30 – blood drive from 8:00 to 1:00; November 6 – minimum day; November 10 – host to 21 schools in Leadership Day and senior harbor cruise trip; November 14 – ROTC Sports Day. All sports are well into their season.

Stephanie Perea, Valley View High School Board/Student Representative, congratulated the 1998 Teachers of the Year, and reported the following activities: Homecoming was this past week and Valley View beat Murrietta; October 26 – School Site Council meeting; October 28 – U.C. application workshop; October 30 – World of Dance field trip for the dance club at RCC and Cal State application workshop; October 31 – band field competition at RCC; November 2 – department chair meeting; November 3 – Mr. Palomino will meet with the Chancellor of UCR; November 4 – additional U.C. application workshop; and November 7 – band field competition at RCC.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

Board President Candelaria indicated there are several individuals who had requested to speak to the Landmark Middle School Restructuring Plan. He stated that the Board had decided to pull that item from the agenda due to the circumstances of last week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Lizabeth Heacock stated she did not understand the pulling of the Landmark Middle School Restructuring Plan because it had nothing to do with the incident of last week. She said the students have learned that they can do nothing in school and still be socially promoted. Because they are not doing their work and are still promoted, their skill level decreases each year. They need to be held accountable. She stated that some of the students that knew the restructuring plan would be approved have made a drastic change in their academics already. This shows the students can do the work.

Renee Bayor declined her request to speak.

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Karen Sterling has two students at Landmark. She spoke in support of the staff and their efforts on the restructuring plan. She was disappointed that the item was pulled. She stated that Landmark and

Mountain View Middle schools have the longest school day in the county and, possibly, in the state. She feels a 30-minute homeroom is not necessary. Students shouldn't be doing homework during this time, they should be doing it at home. Some parents are concerned that the extra time after school is time for students to get into trouble. She said these students would be in detention. She stated the school doesn't have higher test scores because of the longer day. The survey done last year indicated there was 75-80 percent support of this plan.

John Obermeyer stated that he would not have to use his notes since the Board is holding over the item. Board President Candelaria stated he was in error and the Board would act on the item tonight. Mr. Overmeyer asked that the Board delay a decision until a true survey is done and parents can receive further information. He feels a survey needs to be mailed home so parents see it. He doesn't feel this is done when a student brings the information home in their backpack. He shared a concern about taking three minutes away from each class. He feels the staff doesn't have enough time with students now and it would be even less with the schedule change. He feels the parents should be allowed to acquire the same information the Board received at the last meeting so they can understand the plan.

Tom Crewdson declined to speak.

Anita Quinones shared a concern that the parents were not informed about the last Board meeting, nor did she receive a survey. She feels the survey should be mailed so that all parents receive it. There should be more input from the parents. She stated that if the plan is approved, the schedule should be revised to have the students attend the at-risk and foundation classes at the beginning of the school day instead of at the end of the day.

Diana Gutierrez stated that she appreciated the certificated staff for all they have done over the years for her students. However under these circumstances, she feels that the parents have been left by the wayside. She agrees that students and parents need to be more accountable. She feels this information needs to be presented to all parents so there is an overall understanding of the plan. She does not have a good feeling about the plan because she feels it is the teachers on one side and the parents on the other. She asked that the parents be brought into the process so there is an overwhelming acceptance of this plan.

Board Member Burks asked Mr. Dutton if he could address some of these issues and concerns. Mr. Dutton stated that a survey was sent out last year and the school received a 78 percent positive response. There were 400-500 surveys sent out to parents of the students who were in the sixth and seventh grades with approximately 200 of this number returned. This fall, surveys were sent out to parents of the incoming 6th grade students asking about the flextime schedule. There were 300 surveys sent out with 125-135 parent responses received. This averaged to an approximate 78 percent return. There was a deadline for returning the survey. He feels the parents that were interested in the proposal would respond to the surveys. He stated that the school is not trying to pull anything over on the parents. The staff has taken a lot of time and planning to talk about what it is they want to accomplish for the students. The staff realizes that it will not be an easy task to accomplish the goals. With the flextime schedule and the credit system Landmark desires to implement, it will be like running two different schools.

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Notification was sent out to parents inquiring about interest in school site committee participation such as School Site Council and PTSA. This also included the School Restructuring Steering Committee. There were no responses received for interest in the restructuring committee. He feels there is no time

to wait to implement this plan because it is critical to begin to make the students accountable and take pride in their work. There are too many students who chose not to do their work. He has every confidence in the staff. There is a lot of work to be done. He asked the Board to support the commitment and expertise of the staff which is necessary to implement this plan.

Board Member Ashe stated she was not at the last Board meeting, and she did not receive a copy of the proposal. She feels there needs to be a buy-in from all parents. She asked how the staff would address the concerns of the parents.

Jim Dutton stated that parents are invited to be involved. He feels the sooner this plan is implemented, the more beneficial it would be for the students. Parents are always welcome to be involved. This is not a one-time plan.

Board Member Ashe asked if parents' working schedules had been taken into consideration with an earlier release time. Mr. Dutton indicated that transportation arrangements have been made to transport students who participate in these programs, tutoring, study hall, and Foundation classes. He stated that most referrals occur in the afternoon because the students get tired and lose interest in school. He feels the needs of Landmark students would be better met if classes began earlier in the day. There would be no time that students would be roaming on campus. If they were on campus they would need to be in Foundation class, tutoring class, or study hall. Currently, if the student is not succeeding academically, there are no standards for holding the student accountable. He stated that he disagrees that standards are being lowered. If anything, standards are being raised to make the student become accountable.

Board Member Ashe shared a concern about those students whose parents cannot pick their student up after school with the new flextime schedule. She asked if arrangements had been made for the students to remain on campus until such time they can be picked up, even though they may not need the additional academic assistance. Mr. Dutton indicated there is a study hall after school.

Board Member Vackar said it was her understanding from the Thursday night parent meeting at Landmark that the restructuring plan was to be put on hold until information could be shared with parents. Board President Candelaria stated this would be addressed when that part of the agenda was discussed.

Board Member Burks stated that the recent circumstances cannot be used to delay this discussion. She indicated the restructuring meeting was held later that evening, and the parent concerns were discussed at that time. She indicated that things cannot be put on hold; we need to serve the students. The state will begin to take over the schools if the District does not find ways to serve the students. She stated that she did receive a Landmark survey in the mail and returned it. Everyone needs to take responsibility.

She stated there are many schools with restructuring plans and she understands there would be other schools coming forward with restructuring plans. Previously, the Board talked about giving the teachers the opportunity to articulate between one another because they currently do not have time. She feels the Board needs to encourage this because it is reflective of the District's test scores.

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Board President Candelaria asked the Board to bring forward presentations on Discussion Item 275 – Middle College High School and Discussion Item 675 – Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center. It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

Dr. Wisher stated that the District has been working with RCC on a middle college high school program which has resulted in a collaborative grant. She introduced Diana Webster, Project Director from Riverside Community College, to present this information.

Ms. Webster stated the middle college high school program is a joint venture between Moreno Valley Unified, Val Verde Unified, and Riverside Community College. This program has been funded under a planning and development grant under the Chancellor's Office of the state of California. She indicated that to date there are approximately 24 middle college high schools in the nation. These programs have been developed to address students who are targeted to be considered highly at risk or may drop out of high school.

Through the partnership of MVUSD, VVUSD, and RCC, area employers and mentors are joined together to provide career-related internships to the students during the two-year program. Some of the goals to be accomplished are:

- Increase graduation rates at each school/district.
- Increase college-going rates at each school/district. (This area has one of the lowest college going rates in the state.)
- Link students to careers and college.
- Address the needs of academically capable students who are not achieving or fitting in well in the comprehensive high school.
- Provide a supportive success-oriented partnership structure to build success for at-risk students.

Planning for this program included meetings with school district administrative leaders, counselors, principals, and teachers. Planning sessions included a cross section of high school and college faculty, counselors, and other leaders. Specialty planning groups included district students services and curriculum leaders.

The mission of the middle college high school is to provide at risk junior and senior high school students with an opportunity to achieve their academic and career potentials and goals. The program provides high school classes combined with college classes in a challenging, supportive, and motivating collegiate setting.

One of the things desired for the program is to have a high technology component to the program. The planning groups are working to sponsor students through special grant funding. Students would be linked to higher education institutes in the area that each student would work. A goal is to have students integrated into their instructional curriculum with a laptop computer. An option of this would be a desktop computer.

The first year will begin in the fall 1999 with sixty students enrolled. The second and third years will increase to 120 students, with the possibility of an increase after three years. Students are being recruited through feeder high schools and other promotions in the spring of their sophomore year. In this program, students attend all classes on the Moreno Valley campus of RCC, will take a combination of high school and college classes, and will receive both high school and college credit for college classes.

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Several advantages of the middle college high school program is that students will remain on the rolls of their native high school, school districts will retain ADA for high school and most college classes, and schools will retain graduation and college-going rates.

Ms. Webster reviewed curriculum plans, grade requirements, and graduation requirements. Should the student not meet the necessary requirements, the student would be placed on probation or referred back to their home school.

Board Member Ashe asked if there was a timeframe where a student can earn credits, and if there were any accelerated classes. Ms. Webster stated it would depend upon the correct courses the student needs to take to meet graduation requirements. A student could acquire credits in a short period of time because there are accelerated classes; however, these classes are typically more challenging. It is not recommended that a student attempt this until they have been in the program one or two semesters. However, the student would be given the opportunity after they have a successful track record. The high school classes will be semester classes.

Board President Candelaria asked about transportation. Ms. Webster indicated that at this point the students would be responsible for their own transportation. Dr. Wisher stated this issue was addressed with the Bridge Program and the District found itself running empty busses. It was found that students carpooled. Ms. Webster indicated that students do not want to call attention to themselves but want to blend in with the other students.

Board President Candelaria asked about what type of orientation would be provided to transition students into the college setting, and what was the success rate. Ms. Webster stated there would be an orientation during the recruitment and selection process. The committee has developed an outline of information to be included in orientation to include career study skills, classroom etiquette, and how to be successful. Because this is the first year, a success rate is based on the history of other schools that have started at the same rate. High school graduation rate is approximately 96-98 percent. The rate for students who have gone onto college after participating in this program is 90-94 percent. These success rates are what the District is hoping to achieve.

Board Member Ashe asked how the recruitment process would work. Ms. Webster stated there would be information sessions at the high school, parent information nights, and notification would be done through the newspapers. Board Member Ashe feels this brings a competitive edge to this process.

Dr. Wisher asked that this item be brought back to the next meeting for the Board to take action for the purpose of identifying staff.

Discussion Item 675 – Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center was brought forward for a presentation by Lt. Crichton from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Lt. Crichton stated that through the realignment of March Air Force Base, the Sheriff's Department has acquired 400 acres of property through a federal grant which costs one dollar per year for five years. The Ben Clark Public Training Center trains first responders, which includes emergency/medical personnel. Presently the center is comprised of the County Sheriff, County Fire, the Department of Forestry, the Fire Marshall, Riverside Community College, California Highway Patrol, and California Fish and Game.

He presented a brief video on the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center and what services offered at the facility. The center would provide training and classes for public safety and emergency medical personnel. It is the desire of the District to form a partnership between the center and the District to develop various academy programs and expand the School-to-Career program. This partnership would begin by providing meals for the training center through a newly created culinary academy.

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Lt. Crichton stated that the center has gained more notoriety in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento than in the District. It is envisioned to have a life of 50-60 years. The aim of the center is to provide additional training possibilities. It is only limited to the imagination.

Dr. Wisher referred to the School-to-Career plan that was previously presented to the Board. Two areas that would be met are in public safety and culinary arts. The facility offers potential opportunities to offer a hotel/hospitality program. The initial need that the center has, and that the students are anxious to participate in, is a culinary academy. There is one operating, however, it has a waiting list. The center is looking for someone to provide food services Monday through Friday for three meals a day. There is a kitchen facility that would be renovated. There are also classrooms available where a full curriculum of courses could be provided. Lt. Crichton feels transportation could be provided for these students. Dr. Wisher stated that working with this program would meet one of the Board's goals.

Mr. Okun indicated there is an immediate need for meals which is currently being provided by inmates. It is anticipated that more tasteful meals could be provided. Two major criteria would be that it not impact the primary factor of child nutrition and the program would be self-supporting. The center would have to guarantee a certain number of meals. Until the center has received title to the property and the facilities have been upgraded, the District's central kitchen would need to be utilized to provide the meals. This would allow the District to implement a culinary/hospitality academy. This plan would necessitate the hiring of additional personnel in food services to provide these meals and transport the meal to the facility. He asked that this item be brought back for Board approval.

Board Member Burks shared a concern about inmates being around while the students are at the facility and asked if they would be transitioned out of the facility. Mr. Okun stated they would be transitioned out of the facility when the District begins to provide the meals.

Dr. Wisher stated that preparations need to begin to design the program and staffing. Board Member Burks asked what site would be utilized, and what the cost would be to the District. Dr. Wisher stated that it may depend on what the Board decides to do with Arnold Heights. Any additional cost would be for the staffing required in the classroom. This cost has not yet been calculated out. However, the supply costs would be recouped similar to the process utilized by food services.

Board Member Burks asked if students would get paid. Dr. Wisher indicated that the District would start as an academy but might want to create apprenticeships and move to have entry-level positions. Many of the classes offered are through Riverside Community College which affords linkages into those classes.

Board Member Vackar suggested there may be additional funds through the County JTPA program and the District may want to look into this. Dr. Wisher stated that the District is trying to keep this program internally at this time.

Board President Candelaria thanked Lt. Crichton for the presentation. He said he looks forward to working with this program. He asked how soon a plan could be brought back to the Board for review and approval. Dr. Suazo stated that the first phase to be brought forward would be food services. Mr. Okun indicated that the goal would be to bring this item back to the Board in November or December.

**CONSENT ITEM - 101**

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CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Consent Agenda Item 201 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 301 through 305 under Fiscal Services, Items 401 through

415 under Human Resources, and Items 601 through 603 under Support Services be approved as presented.

VOTE: AYE - 5

NAY- 0

ABSTAIN – 0

CONSENT AGENDA

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 201 Out-of-State Conference Attendance – U.S. Department of Education’s 1998 Regional Conferences on Improving America’s Schools – Badger Springs and Moreno Valley

Board Member Burks asked if staff would bring back information to inservice other schools on how to Improve America’s Schools. Dr. Wisner stated that the focus on this conference would be on information regarding the Title 7 Grant.

FISCAL SERVICES

- 301 Direct Purchase List  
302 Purchase Order List No. 6  
303 Fiscal Services Document  
304 Resolution No. 1998-99-25 to Expend Excess Funds  
305 Acceptance of Donation/Resolution No. 1998-99-26 to Expend Excess Funds

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 401 Managerial Personnel Resignation  
402 Short-Term Certificated Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year  
403 Certificated Personnel Employment on Variable Term Wavier for the 1998-99 School Year  
404 Home Teacher Employment for the 1998-99 School Year  
405 Certificated Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year  
406 Grade Level Leader Employment (K-5) for the 1998-99 School Year  
407 Extra Duty Personnel Employment (K-5) for the 1998-99 School Year  
408 Extra Duty Personnel Employment (9-12) for the 1998-99 School Year  
409 Certificated Substitute Personnel Employment for the 1998-99 School Year  
410 Classified/Noon Duty Personnel Resignations  
411 Classified Personnel Promotion  
412 Classified Personnel Increase in Hours  
413 Classified Personnel 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 – 1997-98  
603 Contractual Agreements – 1998-99

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ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Bernadette Burks that Action Agenda Item 125 under Superintendent, Items 225 through 229 under Curriculum and Instruction, Items 325 through 326

under Fiscal Services, Item 425 under Human Resources, Items 525 through 528 under Student Services, and Items 625 through 626 under Student Services be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

SUPERINTENDENT

125 Resolution No. 1998-99-27 – National Character Counts Week

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

225 Special Education Private School Placement Nos. 12-98-99 through 17-98-99

226 Landmark 1998-99 Restructuring Plan

Board Member Vackar stated that after the meeting on Monday, she thought this item would be put on hold until further information was shared with the parents in order for there to be a full buy into the plan. She is in support of the proposal; however, she does have some questions.

Board Member Ashe referred to goal number four of the plan that states, "Landmark staff will strengthen the school/parent partnership." She feels that because of what happened, staff and parents will be able to work this out.

Board Member Burks stated these same concerns have come forward when other schools have brought their restructuring plan to the Board. She feels that if teachers and administrators are going to be held accountable, they need to have time to implement the plan. It is not just about Foundation classes, but teachers having the time to articulate with each other about what does and does not work.

She feels that parent participation went down because of the Board's restriction of people coming onto the campus several years ago. The parents quit coming. She feels Landmark needs to have the opportunity to go forward with this plan.

Board Member Vackar feels there are two different issues – the plan and parents understanding the plan. She feels the parents need to have a full understanding of the proposal. It seems the many parents were not aware the proposal was coming to the Board. She feels there should be a community meeting so concerns can be shared, questions answered, and there is a full buy-in by parents for this proposal to be successful.

Board Member Ledbetter stated he was invited to a special education IEP and it was questioned why he was there. He has been a special education teacher for the seventeen years and is extremely interested. He read the following information, "We need to work together to provide a productive future for our children. We experienced the death of one of our young people last week. When we lose a young person, it is extremely sad for the family, friends, and society at-large. We cannot afford to lose our youth as they are our future. We are well aware of the things that are wrong in the world, the home, our schools, and society at large. These items cannot be ignored. Each of us must do our part and serve as individuals and help develop a better society. Regardless of our race, creed, or color, we must be ready to work together and help our community. Together we can!"

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ACTION AGENDA (CONT.)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (CONT.)

Board President Candelaria addressed Mr. Dutton and stated that it appears there was a general consensus of the Landmark restructuring plan. He asked Mr. Dutton to follow-up on issues brought up by parents and Board members. He requested Mr. Dutton do further parent education to address these concerns.

- 227 California Partnership Academy Grant Award – Automotive Transportation Technology Academy – Valley View
- 228 Preschool Staff Development Grant Award (IDEA, Part B)
- 229 Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Membership

Mark Rosenbrook stated that IEPs are being altered. He shared a copy where one area, the positive behavior plan, had been changed by someone from the District office. He cited an IEP where six items were changed after the IEP. When the parent came back into the office to sign the IEP, it had been altered. This is against the law. He feels certain individuals think they are above the law. All education is special and all students are entitled to it. He stated that he would provide copies to Board members.

Dr. Suazo was asked to follow-up with this issue and get back to the Board.

Board Member Burks asked for clarification about staff. Mr. Rosenbrook indicated that the paper trail is clear.

Board Member Ashe stated that she empathizes and that there needs to be trust and communication within the community.

Board Member Burks stated that statements are made and people need to be cautious about the kind of statements being made. The Board has been aware for quite a long time of the problems in special education. Special education should be the concern of all Board members. This concern is not just a particular site but of top administration. This has to be addressed.

Board Member Ashe indicated that she was in attendance at the last special education meeting and she spoke to staff.

#### FISCAL SERVICES

- 325 Declaration of Surplus Property
- 326 Notice of Completion – 1998 Summer Relocatables Phase I

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

- 425 1998 Certificated Recruitment Dates and Locations

#### STUDENT SERVICES

- 525 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 012-98-99
- 526 Expulsion Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 019-98-99
- 527 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 186-96-97
- 528 Expulsion Re-Entry Hearing Officer's Recommendation Case No. 071-97-98

**CONSENT ITEM - 101**

SUPERINTENDENT  
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#### ACTION AGENDA (CONT.)

#### SUPPORT SERVICES

- 625 Class Size Reduction

626 Second Reading and/or Adoption of Board Policy 5116 – School Attendance Enrollment Options

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT

175 November 10, 1998 Board Meeting

Dr. Suazo stated this item was placed on the agenda for the Board’s consideration. The second Board meeting of November was changed to the 17th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. This would put the two November Board meetings back-to-back, and it makes a large of demand on staff. It was suggested that the Board consider having only one Board meeting on November 17. November 11 is a District holiday. Staff feels there are no pending agenda items that can not be taken care of at the November 17 meeting.

Board Member Vackar expressed a concern about setting up a time for a special study session. She suggested the study session scheduled for October 29, 1998, be changed because of the time of the day. She feels it should be in the evening so parents can participate. She feels there is a lot of interest. She suggested the November 10, 1998, meeting remain scheduled. The study session could be held then.

Dr. Suazo indicated that the meeting has already been posted for October 29, 1998 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a two-hour presentation.

There was Board discussion. A decision was made to keep the special study session as scheduled. Minutes will be available for anyone that is interested. People can request a copy of the videotape of the meeting if they supply their own blank tape.

It was motioned by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Bernadette Burks that Discussion Item 175 be approved as presented.

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

275 Middle College High School Program

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Mr. Okun stated that this is the same resolution that was previously presented to the Board. The Board requested a copy of the CSBA resolution. CSBA language was the same as the previously presented resolution, which came from the Coalition of Adequate School Housing. Mr. Okun indicated that apparently both organizations are using the same standard resolution. He stated that the resolution being presented tonight has some modifications in the language to be more specific to the District, especially addressing the modification of older schools.

It was motioned by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Charles W. Ledbetter that Discussion Item 675 be approved as presented.

**CONSENT ITEM - 101**  
SUPERINTENDENT  
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S-C-12

VOTE: - AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

676 Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Rosenbrook stated that on October 16, 1998, he submitted a request to speak to the Board in Closed Session to the Superintendent's office. He received a call from Dr. Bennett and was told he would need to follow the appropriate channels. On several occasions he and several other parents met with Dr. Suazo. She assured them that she would deal with the issues herself. He stated that at no time did she indicate a formal complaint needed to be filed in order to get resolution. She gave the impression that these concerns and allegations would be delegated to appropriate staff and the parents would receive a call back. No calls have been received to date as promised. He feels the fact that since no communications has occurred, the parents need to go further for resolution to the allegations.

Mr. Rosenbrook asked the Board members why the District is lying and why the parents are getting the run-around. The only one individual under the Board members is Dr. Suazo. She should know procedures and policies equally as well as Board members. If this should have been a formal complaint, she should have told the parents. The parents need the Board's help to bring resolution to the allegations and concerns to be addressed. He stated it is the Board's job to give appropriate direction and to work together with the parents for resolution. There has been only one Board member that has called him about his concerns. On a separate issue, two Board members contacted him. He feels the allegations and concerns brought forward are not unfounded. The District and Board needs help.

Bob King has talked with Dr. Suazo, Dr. Wisher, and Dr. Bennett regarding his special education issues. He indicated that they are attempting to handle the problems, however, there has not been much action. He stated he has forwarded a complaint to the Department of Education regarding the special education program which includes items such as denial of services to special education students as stipulated in IEPs; mandating changes in signed IEPs; placing students at risk by juggling of aides; ignoring the recommendations of IEP teams; providing special education in inappropriate areas such as holding an RSP class on a stage; ignoring the importance of parent participation which is in violation of IDEA 97; and violating the confidentiality of special education files by making copies and sending them across the District. He feels action needs to be taken. The parents are tired of the games being played and not getting any action from administrators. Therefore, the parents are taking action themselves.

Board Member Burks requested the special education parents be able to meet with the Board in Closed Session.

Dr. Suazo stated that the issues being talked about by Mr. Rosenbrook and Mr. King are being addressed by Mr. Clarke, legal council. It is still in process and it is her understanding that resolution is near. She believes when there is a complaint against an employee which was handled on an informal basis as the process indicates, and since no informal resolution was found, now the complaint needs to be addressed through the formal complaint process. By the time it comes to Closed Session, it is the appeal part of the process.

Board Member Burks asked for an update for Closed Session and to give the opportunity to ask questions. Board Member Ashe stated she is also tired and looked to Mr. Clarke for some answers. She feels the District is in denial. She attended the special education parent meeting. Dr. Wisher and Dr. Wheeler were also there. There are issues and concerns. She asked why they are not being addressed.

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Mr. Clarke stated that he is processing the formal complaints that have been filed and is working with Mr. Roy Jones of the California Department of Education. He could provide an update to the Board in Closed Session on the formal matters of due process. He could speak to the parents. He stated that because of the confidentiality he cannot address these issues at this time.

Dr. Suazo stated that the representative from the California Department of Education would be at the District tomorrow investigating these matters, so it is in the process of being resolved. Board Member Vackar asked if this representative was at the request of the District.

Mr. Rosenbrook clarified that his issues have been resolved. However, he requested to speak to the Board in Closed Session as there are other issues of 29 plus families that need to be resolved.

Mr. Clarke indicated that parents have contacted him and he has been working with Mr. Jones and district staff to resolve these issues. He feels many of the concerns are based on miscommunications, and with increased dialogue these issues can be addressed and resolved.

Board Member Vackar asked how many District complaints are being reviewed by the California Department of Education. She requested a memo with this information. She feels that it does not sound like closure is happening with special education issues, and the Board needs answers.

Mr. Clarke stated that the number of formal complaints has decreased. There seems to be concerns about requests for information and lack of communication to address issues. There needs to be increased dialogue.

Board Member Ledbetter stated he brought information to the attention of administrators a number of times. He feels the mainstreaming program is in the advantage for the special education student. There has been nothing done about the attitudes of mainstreaming students. He feels the problem of attitude does not start in the classroom, but it starts in the higher administrative positions.

Board Member Burks asked Mr. Clarke who he has been working with at the California Department of Education and if contact has been made with Dr. Brownlee. She feels the Board needs an update. The District needs to know what direction the State expects it to go to become compliant and to resolve the parent issues.

Dr. Suazo stated she has been communicating with Mr. Clarke. She suggested that a database be established to keep better track of cases because there are so many people involved. Mr. Clarke indicated that he is working directly with the technology department to set up a database.

Board Member Burks asked for clarification that Dr. Whelton would be talking to the parents and Board about his findings on the program quality review, and if a line-by-line audit would be discussed. Dr. Wallace verified this.

Board Member Ashe stated that the bottom line is that staff needs to be directed to do their job.

Board Member Ledbetter stated it is very important to mainstream the students into the classroom. He asked how a regular teacher could refuse to take a special education student into the classroom after the student has been declared ready to be mainstreamed with regular students.

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Janine McCarthy feels there has been preventing a group of concerned parents from speaking to the Board in Closed Session. On October 13, 1998, she delivered a memo addressed to each Board member. To date she has received no response. She stated that as a Board member there is a responsibility to respond within five days. Special education is not only Board Member Burks' concern. She stated that she expects a response back from the Board.

On September 21, 1998, Ms. McCarthy had a meeting with Dr. Suazo. Dr. Suazo stated that she would personally take care of the issues. To date Ms. McCarthy has not had a response from the Superintendent. Dr. Suazo received a copy of a letter delivered to the SELPA Director and Ms. McCarthy has not received a response from anyone. She stated her student has an unsigned IEP from March 12, 1998. She requested action and does not want her son to be a tragedy at his school site.

Board Member Ashe stated that she did not receive a copy of the letter. She indicated she would respond. She asked for a copy of the letter.

Jennifer Brezina stated her son was referred to the District when he was two years old and could not speak. She trusted the District to provide services that her child needed. Within the first five months, she learned the District was in violation and noncompliant in five different areas. In June she filed a complaint with the California Department of Education. At that time, the District was found non-compliant in eleven different areas. She called Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Wisher to resolve these issues and has not received any response.

Mrs. Breniza said she had talked with Dr. Suazo six weeks ago, but still nothing has happened. She stated that special education could be a strength to a district or a bankrupt liability. She feels the Board needs to be aware of these issues because there is a serious risk of State funding being withheld. She feels the District is spending unnecessary fees on legal proceedings for noncompliant special education issues. She asked that special education be put on the next agenda to address these compliant and noncompliant issues. She requested the Board review policies and procedures and make the necessary personnel changes to bring the District back into compliance with State and Federal laws.

Mr. Clarke stated he has been addressing her concerns within the last few days; however, he cannot address specifics at this time because of the confidentiality of the issues.

Ms. Brezina agreed that her issues are being addressed but that this was ongoing. There are many other special education parent concerns that still need to be addressed.

Jenelle Beard directed her question to Dr. Wisher. She stated that everyone is concerned about test scores, but asked about textbooks. At the last Board meeting, the Board approved the math textbook adoption of one class set. She asked how a student could learn math with textbooks only in the class. She feels this is a major core subject, and there should be a sufficient number of textbooks available. She doesn't feel the extra books in the library would help this problem. She asked what would be done for the other parents who do not have textbooks.

Dr. Wisher stated that there are 50 textbooks allocated to each school site with a portion in the library on reserve and for checkout. If the site's textbook supply is depleted, additional books would be allocated. This was communicated to the middle school principals last week. This issue is supposed to be addressed in the site newsletter.

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Board Member Vackar asked if there could be a district block for information pertaining to the District in each site newsletter so things could be standard.

Board Member Burks doesn't feel that everyone reads the newsletter. She asked if it was not possible to get a second set of textbooks. She indicated the next time textbooks are ordered, there needs to be two sets of textbooks for each student.

Dr. Wisher stated that the committee recommended classroom sets and library copies based on planned activities

David Lara-Tellez addressed the Landmark situation that happened last week. He shared a concern that the parents were not aware of the incident. There was no communication. The parents were not able to speak to their students. He feels there needs to be a review of how to handle a situation like this in the future. He felt there needed to be a more sensitive approach to parents who were arriving at the campus.

Louise Palomarez does not support the truancy ordinance that the city is trying to pass. She shared a concern about a letter received by her daughter's school. It stated that parents should send their student to school whether they are ill or not so the school would receive money. She feels this is all about money. She addressed the Landmark incident. She asked where the administrators and campus supervisors were. She stated that the Board needs to be more sensitive to the students' needs.

Victoria Baca stated she was overwhelmed about what happened at Landmark. She received many phone calls from people out of the area. There were two victims. She shared an incident that happened at Vista Heights with her nephew. He was threatened with a knife by a female student. Yesterday her nephew had been hit in his eye by the same girl. She stated that school administration indicated to her there would be no action taken until the investigation was completed. She stated that other students are disciplined for a lesser offense than this. She asked the Board what happened to zero tolerance. She stated the District needs to be consistent with the zero tolerance policy.

Board President Candelaria asked Dr. Suazo to follow up and get the details. He asked that this information be faxed to the Board tomorrow.

Debbie Eyer, Landmark Middle School band teacher, thanked the Board, administrators, and community for the support and assistance shown to the parents and staff at Landmark Middle School during the last several days. She stated there was not enough time to notify 1,400 parents. Landmark School has experienced a great loss. She shared a concern about the negative media portrayal of the school. She stated that Landmark is a good school with good students. The staff is growing stronger each day and they are doing what is best for the students. She invited everyone to Jerod's memorial service scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 1998, at 7 p.m. at the Valley View High School gymnasium.

Gail Kilgus has been a volunteer at the school sites for many years. She stated neither the school nor district should be blamed for the situation at Landmark last week. It was under the control of the police department. She indicated that parents need to teach their students by their own actions and show respect for others. It starts at home. She urged parents to become involved at their student's school and set a good example. She feels if more of the parents would stop trying to pass the responsibility of their students on, we would all be better off. Besides holding the staff/students accountable, we need to hold the parents accountable.

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S-C-16

Marva Horn stated that she attended a crisis meeting at Landmark last night. She saw a number of things take place. She feels the most appalling thing was the way Board Member Ashe behaved regarding proactive discipline and politicking. She does not feel Board Member Ashe is worthy to sit on the Board of Education. She does not feel proactive discipline is not good for Moreno Valley Unified School District.

Board President Candelaria stated that we need to re-focus on the memorial services tomorrow evening.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEM

V-A Review of 1998-99 Financial Statements ending September 30, 1998

V-B Winter Break Closure

BOARD DISCUSSION

Jacqueline L. Ashe brought forward the following items:

- She stated that she does support proactive discipline. She feels it is a good discipline program. She was not advocating pro-active discipline at Landmark. Someone inquired about it. She stated that everyone has freedom of speech. She stated that there were a lot of people grieving at Landmark, and out of that came questions about pro-active discipline. A parent asked her how discipline problems could be addressed. She has received calls from community members and employees regarding discipline. She has seen things on campuses that are appalling. She feels problems need to be dealt with and not be in denial. She indicated that the District needs to provide all students with a safe environment to learn.

Tracey B. Vackar brought forward the following items:

- She had no comments at this time.

Charles W. Ledbetter brought forward the following items:

- He read the following statement, "We have arrived at a period in the world when all adult persons should be willing to be held accountable for their actions and make contributions to society. Education for all people must be provided as we seek ways to provide a moralistic and prosperous future for the people of the world. If we would demonstrate caring and sharing for all people in our world today, there would be fewer people in poverty or ready to fight when upset. The young mind today is capable of doing many wonderful things. Let us show them love throughout society, television, movies, and home videos. If we work together as a team, we can do it! Together we can!"

Bernadette Burks brought forward the following items:

- She asked about a generic maintenance contract. She would like to speak to Mr. Okun about that. Mr. Okun asked her to call him so they can discuss it because he was not familiar with this issue.
- She asked about the amount of legal fees for the special education department.

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- She asked about the status of Mountain View Middle School's Restructuring plan. She shared a concern about the plan taking so long. Dr. Wisher indicated that they are working on a draft to incorporate with the school plan. She asked to talk to Dr. Wisher about this.
- She would like to see the District encourage parents to return to volunteer at the school sites.

- Mrs. Burks shared a concern about students wishing to speak to the Board, or parents with students who wish to speak to the Board. If it is on a non-agenda item, it gets too late and they leave. She stated that it was the majority of the Board who changed the time of when non-agenda items are addressed. It has been stressed that communication needs to be there.

Alex T. Candelaria brought forward the following items:

- He had no comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Charles W. Ledbetter and seconded by Bernadette Burks that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

VOTE: AYE - 5

NAY - 0

ABSTAIN - 0

**CONSENT ITEM - 101**