

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF JANUARY 18, 2005

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 18, 2005, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2005. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of January 18, 2005.

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

**THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE AUDIO/VIDEOTAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5
AND REBROADCAST ON CHANNEL 16**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the meeting at 5 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Special Education Private School Placement Cases; Hearing Officer Recommendations; Public Employee Employment; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Non-Reelects; Conference with CSEA, MVEA and AMVMP Labor Negotiator; Conference with Real Property Negotiator; and Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.

Members Present

Jesus M. Holguin, President
Richard Coz, Vice President
Rick Sayre, Clerk
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Member
Tracey B. Vackar, Member

Administration

Nicolas D. Ferguson

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present - Ashe Present- Coz Present - Holguin Present - Sayre Present- Vackar
Student Board Rep. – Lia Freeman

REPORT OUT OF

CLOSED SESSION: By unanimous vote, the Board of Education directed administration to finalize acquisition of an elementary school site (Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 482-090-009, 482-090-010, 482-090-012, 482-090-013, and 482-090-033). There was no other reportable action on the Closed Session Agenda items.

Administration Present

Pat Chandler, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Robert Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Olivia Hershey, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education
Joe Palomino, Director, Secondary Education
Dave Swift, Director, Facilities/Maintenance and Operations
Carol Allbaugh, Coordinator, Career Development
Kirk Skorpanich, Principal, Sunnymeadows
Kim Kruger, Principal, Valley View
Gloria Todd-Rousseau, Principal, Moreno Valley
Bobbie Byers, Administrator, Bayside
Estuardo Santillan, Business Office Manager
Sharon Cirigliano, Executive Secretary, Board of Education

**CONSENT ITEM - 101
SUPERINTENDENT
FEBRUARY 8, 2005**

The Board of Education brought forward Discussion/Action Item 375 – Citizens’ Oversight Committee. Bob Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, introduced committee members Ron Visser and Harold Trubo. Mr. Visser and Mr. Trubo gave a brief overview of the Citizens’ Oversight Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to review and report on the proper expenditures of the Measure A proceeds. These funds cannot be used for teacher or administrative salaries or for school operating expenditures. The meetings are open to the public. This committee falls under the Ralph M. Brown Act, which requires agendas to be publicly posted. Public comments are accepted at all meetings.

There have been five meetings held from May through December, 2004. The District received “A” and “A+” ratings which resulted in lower interest rates and an earlier payoff. The approved bond is \$50 million. The committee has toured Mountain View Middle, Moreno and Edgemont Elementary, and Moreno Valley High schools to observe completed projects and those to be accomplished. The three new elementary schools under construction are using the same prototype as the newest elementary school –TownGate. This has resulted in a savings to the District. Award of bids and timelines have been reviewed.

Future elementary, middle, and high school sites are being explored on the east end of the district. In addition, the District is looking at relocating Sunnymead Elementary (Atwood/Heacock) which would enable the expansion of Sunnymead Middle School. The District has a total of 507 projects. Eighty-four have been completed and 163 are in progress or scheduled. The \$50 million was divided into two components (\$30 million for new construction) and (\$20 million for projects). To date \$13,925,950.91 of the new construction and \$11,780,247.82 for projects has been spent or obligated.

Activities of the Citizens’ Oversight Committee are posted on the Committee’s web site and publicized via press releases, school newsletters, district publications, public access television and postings at the school sites. Board members commended the committee members for the time, energy, and effort they have provided to the District in working on this committee.

SCHOOL REPORTS

The following student Board representatives gave their school reports:

Michael Deaton, Valley View, reported that portfolio assessment day ended on January 8, which is a project requirement for first semester. There were over 1,700 portfolios that were reviewed and graded by staff and the English department. He congratulated staff for organizing this project. January 11 and 12 were flex days (restructuring days) and went well; January 12 was elective visitation day which provided students the opportunity to visit sessions to learn about their classes. Finals begin today and will continue through Thursday. On January 21 there will be the annual staff breakfast to celebrate the end of first semester and the winter formal entitled, “An Evening in Paris” will be held at the Riverside Auditorium. January 24 is the first day of second semester and the student calendar will be provided. First semester grade reports will be sent out on January 26. The boys’ varsity basketball team is doing well. He distributed an activities calendar to the Board.

Diana Byrd, Moreno Valley, reported that the French Club has been extremely involved in the campus beautification project by purchasing large trash cans decorated in the school colors of blue and gold. The French Club has also replanted the garden located next to the office in the main quad. The stage has been painted with the slogan, “Merit Virtue Honor Success” (MVHS). The midwinter formal is scheduled for January 29 at the Eagle Glen County Club in Corona. ASB is currently selling tickets for this event. Administrators visited all the 10th grade classes to provide motivational talks to encourage students to do well on the California High School Exit Exam. In-N-Out Burger will sponsor a special dance for sophomores to help students raise their test scores. The “Professional Learning Community” is underway. Principal Todd-Rousseau spoke at the Professional Learning Community conference in Palm Springs to share Moreno Valley’s progress.

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Clarissa Hernandez, March Mountain, reported that ASB hosted the first reward fun day on January 7. All students who earned 10 credits or more during the most recent 6 week grading period were invited to participate in various games, prizes, and food. In honor of Martin Luther King, students will participate in a Kindness and Justice Challenge which is to encourage students to be kind to others. The challenge is scheduled for January 18-31. March Mountain has signed up on the Internet to participate with schools from all over the United States.

Lia Freeman, Bayside, reported that Bayside and Charter are continuously striving to attain gradual improvement both academically and socially. The increased teachers' expectations of students and goals for student achievement are the emphasis for the current school year. The class of 2006 will participate in the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on February 8 and 9. Ms. Freeman reported on class announcements and planned activities in honor of African-American History Month.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A District employee expressed a concern about the Moreno Valley High School students eating outside in inclement weather. The school provided shelter for the students to eat in the multipurpose room and/or classrooms. A cover for the lunch area is on the school's list of projects for the local bond and will be constructed in the Spring. However, there are students who prefer to remain outside under the awnings with friends regardless of the weather.

A custodian spoke of the impact on the custodial staff at the high school level based on the large student enrollment and the lack of substitutes. The custodial staff was reduced during the budget cuts two years ago; however, positions have been added back. In fact, there are now 139.5 positions as compared to 124 in 2002-03. The District's custodial staffing is comparable to other school districts. It has been difficult to obtain substitute custodians. Human Resources continues to recruit a custodial substitute pool to have a sufficient number of substitutes available.

A warehouse employee said that the Warehouse is being expected to do more with less as on-line purchasing increases. The value of the Warehouse Study Committee was questioned. The District's warehouse operation currently has more staff than comparable districts our size. Measures have been taken to reduce the workload in the Warehouse. Several members of the Warehouse Study Committee feel that the committee was helpful in identifying issues, developing options, and providing factual information which shows that on-line purchasing is cost effective and saves taxpayers' money.

A school secretary shared a concern about the extra workload with on-line purchasing and no over time to implement instructional intervention programs at year-round schools. Year-round schools receive added staff to do intervention registration. This is similar to what other school districts do. Several secretaries have reported to staff that on-line ordering has significantly reduced their workload. The District continues to provide training to show its personnel how much more efficient and time saving the on-line purchasing is.

An employee noticed that gas valve replacements was an item on the bond list for Rainbow Springs but the school does not have gas lines. The intent was to do gas line replacements at all school sites with the exception of Mountain View, which had already been upgraded and Vista del Lago, which is a new school. When the work was being scheduled, it was determined that five elementary schools do not have gas lines, one of which is Rainbow Springs, so the project will not be necessary.

A custodian of Rainbow Springs, shared a concern about the quality of food served to the Head Start students during lunch. Staff reviewed the process of food preparation. It appears the food in question may have been heated at a high temperature causing the appearance of not being appetizing. However, the food was perfectly safe for consumption.

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A Serrano teacher requested the Board to consider keeping Serrano on a year-round schedule or a single track schedule. The teacher presented a signed petition requesting that Serrano not be changed back to a traditional schedule. Discussions were held about converting year-round schools to a single track. It was determined, with input from the employee associations and the Calendar Committee, that this could not be done for the 2005-06 school year since the school calendars have already been negotiated and approved. This issue will be a consideration when the 2006-07 school calendars are reviewed and negotiated. Serrano is projected to have only 734 students next year. To be a year-round school, necessitates at least 800 students and preferably 900.

A classified employee asked about the classified positions that have not been filled and what the plan is for filling these positions. Staff has provided this employee a copy of the classified vacancy log. When a new position is created, the process calls for the position to be sent to the Joint Fiscal Management Committee for input.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Carmen Castillo, Selina Mack, and Lola Trammell, Hendrick Ranch parents, spoke about the attendance boundary changes. Their students currently attend Hendrick Ranch and will be moved to Chaparral Hills. They are concerned about the walking distance to the new school, the quality of teachers, the educational needs of their students being met, and child care issues. Staff was directed to work with these parents.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lequice Jukes, CSEA president, stated that she has been involved with the District since 1977 in different capacities as parent, community member, and staff member working at various sites in the District. In the next few months the District will face some serious challenges that will be affecting many lives. As the new CSEA president, she feels that in working together, communicating, and doing what is right and fair for all students and employees, these challenges can be faced with dignity and professionalism. She looks forward to working with the District for a positive and successful 2005.

Daryl Terrell, community member, shared a concern about the City working with the District. He feels that improving the quality of education should be at the top of the priority list. Good schools and successful students are essential for the prosperity and the quality of life for the citizens. He feels that the City has an obligation to work with the District to improve the educational opportunities of the students.

CONSENT AGENDA

In reference to Consent Item 205 – Professional Learning Community Conference, Board Member Vackar thanked Gloria Todd-Rousseau for the presentation she made at this conference about the progress Moreno Valley High School has made with the professional learning community.

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Richard Coz that the Consent Agenda, except Consent Item 101 and 102 be approved as amended. Consent Item 403 was amended to reflect the appointment of Emilio Gallegos, assistant principal, Armada to K-5 principal, site to be determined; and Bruce Jorgensen, science teacher, Moreno Valley, to K-5 principal, site to be determined.

VOTE: AYE - 5 NAY- 0 ABSTAIN – 0

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Richard Coz to approve Consent Items 101 and 102 as presented.

VOTE: AYE - 4 NAY- 0 ABSTAIN – 1 (Ashe)
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ACTION AGENDA

students would be eligible to participate in graduation activities or not. The survey showed that most school districts that do provide a certificate of completion allow students to participate in graduation activities. The Board has a current policy that states if students do not meet all the graduation requirements they may not participate in graduation activities.

The Board needs to consider 1) if it wants to give a “certificate of completion” or stay with just giving diplomas which indicates that all of the requirements have been met, and 2) if a certificate of completion is provided, will the students be allowed to participate in graduation activities or not.

A concern that the District might be lowering its standards by providing this certificate was shared. The students should be consulted. It was requested to ask the high school student Board representatives for some input. A question was asked about where this certificate would take the student in the future. Information on the passing rate of the CAHSEE by student category and the developed curriculum was requested. There was Board discussion. It was suggested that this discussion come back to the Board after the District has received tests scores for this year.

In conclusion, the Board requested information on the pass rate for the first class that it will effect, hear from the students about their perspective, see the developed curriculum, and bring back several options to the Board for consideration.

BUSINESS SERVICES

375 Citizens' Oversight Committee

This item was brought forward earlier in the meeting.

376 Approve Attendance Boundaries for Three New Elementary Schools and Other Schools Affected

Bob Crank, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, stated that the District is opening three new schools in September 2005 – Chaparral Hills, La Jolla, and Ramona. When new schools are opened, attendance boundaries need to be established, which also affects boundaries of existing neighboring schools.

This District is fortunate to have the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) which is represented by members of the employee associations, administrators, parents, PTA and community members. This committee has studied various scenarios of the new schools and existing schools. After each meeting, committee members got feedback from their constituents. When the committee arrived with recommendations to set the boundaries of the new schools, this allowed reducing the size of some of the larger schools and taking these schools off of a year round schedule. At that point there were several meetings with all the principals to explain the new boundaries and the affects on the existing schools.

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The CAMM committee was reconvened to review options, anticipate problems, and decide how to inform everyone. Principals held meetings with staff and parents regarding the proposed recommendations. The main concern that most of the parents had was that they like the school their students are currently attending. If there are legitimate circumstances and space for the student to stay at their current school, the District will work with the parents on the transfer process. He introduced Dr. Paul Baird, consultant.

most significant change is reflected in the Administrative Regulation changing the notification date from March 1 to March 15. Staff will bring this policy back for second reading and adoption at the February 8 Board meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ITEMS

V-A Administrative Regulation

- AR 4313.2 – Promotion/Demotion/Reclassification

The following items were brought forward:

Rick Sayre

- He had no comments.

Richard Coz

- He had no comments.

Tracey B. Vackar

- She had no comments.

Jesus M. Holquin

- He thanked all the individuals that made a presentation tonight and for their contribution to making this system better for the students.
- He said that based on what the Governor is doing, the District is going to be facing some challenges and it may be difficult. He hopes that all the employee groups can continue to work together to provide services to the students
- He reviewed the calendar of Board meeting dates with the Superintendent. The Board calendar will remain as presented in December 14 with the understanding that there is flexibility that when a Board meeting is going too long, another Board meeting can be scheduled or the Board can call for a study session.

Board Member Coz feels that more time is sometimes needed for input or Board deliberation. It was suggested that the Board calendar come back to the Board as a discussion item on the next agenda.

Jackie Ashe

- She expressed her condolences to the Hopkins family. She attended the memorial service yesterday. Ms. Hopkins really loved the students. She was a great teacher. She will be missed.

Nick Ferguson

- As mentioned earlier about the Governor's proposal on the state budget, education offered \$2 billion to help the state balance the budget last year with the promise that education would be protected in future years. The education community feels disappointed. We need to invest in education. You cannot have the expectations without the support.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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Superintendent Ferguson stated that the District has recently lost two well known, excellent teachers – Ms. Carrie Lynne Hopkins, Vista Heights Middle School, and John “Jack” Cook, Gifted and Talented Program (GATE). He asked the audience to observe a moment of silence in their memory.