

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF OCTOBER 27, 2009

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2009, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 2009. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of October 27, 2009.

**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 Regular meeting at 5:05 p.m. to convene into Closed Session to discuss Board Deliberation Regarding Student Discipline Cases; Public Employee Employment/Appointment; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Non-Reelects; Conference with Labor Negotiators; Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation; Conference with Real Property Negotiator; and Personnel Complaints.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON CLOSED
SESSION:**

There were no public comments on the Closed Session agenda.

The Board of Education convened into Closed Session at 5:06 p.m.

Members Present

Tracey B. Vackar, President
Jesus M. Holguin, Vice President
Jacqueline L. Ashe, Clerk (Late)
Victoria Baca, Member (Late)
Rick Sayre, Member

Administration

Rowena Lagrosa
Barbara Davis

The Board of Education reconvened into Regular Session at 7:10 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF
CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board of Education gave direction to legal counsel regarding litigation. They also gave direction to Risk Management regarding case 07-60822. The Board has approved, in Closed Session, a settlement agreement resolving the District's issues in the existing litigation between the City of Moreno Valley Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside, in exchange for a payment to the District in the amount of \$1,000,000. Copies of the settlement agreement are available upon request. The Board of Education will reconvene into Closed Session after the Regular Session adjourns to continue discussion on the remaining Closed Session Agenda items.

ROLL CALL: Aye – Ashe Aye – Baca Aye – Holguin Aye – Sayre Aye – Vackar

Administration Present

Rowena T. Lagrosa, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Ken Schmidt, Director, Student Services
Kim Kruger, Director, Secondary Education

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Vista del Lago's Principal, Gil Ocegüera, introduced John Francis, English Teacher and READ 180 instructor and trainer, to present information regarding the success of the READ 180 program at their site. READ 180 is an opportunity for students to develop their literacy skills so they can be competent and successfully challenged in content areas.

Mr. Francis stated that the READ 180 program is for students that are two or more years behind in reading. This year's students (9th and 10th graders) are reading at the elementary level (3rd and 4th grade). They also scored below basic or far below basic on their CSTs. 70% of the students are EL and 25% are RSP.

The program works best when there are smaller class sizes (15 or less students), longer class time (90 minute blocks), supplemental textbooks, and rotations where the students don't just sit in one spot. Using the program, students should increase their skills by approximately one grade level per year.

Students in the READ 180 program have done well on the CAHSEE. Depending on class size, forty to sixty percent of the students passed the CAHSEE one year after taking READ 180. Smaller classes did substantially better.

Mr. Francis stated that one of the perceptions about the READ 180 students is that they weren't smart. This is not the case. The students are missing some skills. Once they achieve those skills, they achieve tremendously. Some have moved up from a first grade to a tenth grade skill level in one year because they achieved the necessary skills. Ninety percent of the READ 180 students completed their portfolio essay and were graded the same as all other students at the school. They scored an average of 2.60 compared to a 2.33 from the general population. They also improved their CST scores.

In 2007-08, every freshman was tested to help with their placement. All were retested at the end of the year. READ 180 students went up 166 points compared to the rest of the freshman who went up 76 points; however, READ 180 students focused only on reading.

The schools have made a big investment in READ 180 with the licenses, System 44 (a program for the lowest readers), classroom libraries, and veteran teachers.

Most of the students come into the program and say they do not like to read because it is frustrating. Most have really struggled and have a just about given up. Once they realize they can be successful, a change in them can be made and they can accomplish something important.

There was Board discussion and clarification regarding the program.

STAFF RESPONSE FROM COMMENTS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following is staff response to comments made at the October 13, 2009, Board Meeting on Agenda and Non-agenda items:

A District employee emphasized the need for counselors indicating that the counseling services are directly linked toward achieving the District's goals of reducing the dropout rate and increasing students' academic achievement. Resulting from the two counseling grants which ended at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school year, the District has had to reduce the number of counselors assigned to schools and strives to maintain the appropriate counseling ratio which is outlined in the MVEA Bargaining Agreement.

A District transportation employee highlighted many areas which were addressed when the Superintendent met with Bus Drivers. Some of the issues/questions have been addressed and some will be addressed throughout this school year and through the negotiations process.

A request was made for information regarding the federally funded McKinney-Vento Act which addresses our homeless student population. Under the law, qualifying families include individuals who lack a "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence". The law is enacted to ensure that students identified as homeless have equal access to the same free public education as is provided to other children. It is meant to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success in schools for homeless children. Additionally, it is also meant to remove barriers due to lack of transportation, immunization, school records, and other problems associated with registering students in school. Anyone seeking further information is encouraged to contact Ken Schmidt, Director of Student Services, at 951-571-7500 extension 17630.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items at this time. One comment will be made when the item is considered by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The President of the Moreno Valley Educators Association spoke regarding concerns with the Empowering Parents program that is being funded through Title I. She stated that the justification for expending funds on this agreement was to ensure parent involvement to be in compliance with the federal regulation that one percent of the Title I funding be allocated to parent involvement. Students do best academically and socially when there is support at home from their parents. The association shares, with the District and the staff of Empowering Parents, the goal of increasing high school graduation rates and college attendance; however, they feel they are replicating programs already established in the District. Their focus is not only on parent involvement but also on student activities that are already occurring at the sites. AVID teachers and counselors instruct students on effective study habits, encourage interest in college attendance, and help with goal setting to meet admission requirements. They arrange field trips to colleges as additional motivation. These are the same activities highlighted in the Empowering Parent program, yet Empowering Parents costs over \$60,000. The president urged the Board to analyze which programs are working now, and to support those, before adding new ones at considerable cost.

Two parents from Canyon Springs spoke in support of Coach Brian Pate. They had heard that there was some type of investigation regarding Coach Pate. They wanted to say that they have never heard a negative word about the coach. He has fun with the kids, supports the students, is involved in their activities, and treats them like family. They feel that he is one of the better coaches and is a great man. They disagree with anything negative that has to do with him.

A community member spoke about the good example his mother, a volunteer at an elementary school, was to students. She set the example that doing the right thing for the right reason at the right time, one person can make a difference in the world. He stated that this is not the case regarding the leadership within the Moreno Valley Unified School District. He referred to an article in the newspaper about a mistake reporting statistics on a safety report. This was not a little mistake. Five people were supposed to check the information regarding behavior issues before it was sent to the state. He stated that the article said this was status quo within the District by stating, the school district is scrambling to send the correct statistics to the CDE and figure out how the snafu occurred. In a world where perception is reality, how does the Board intend to change the perception? It is a leadership issue when teachers are robbed on school grounds and procedures are not being followed regarding checking out students. He agreed that none of this was malicious or intentional, but it was failed leadership. Leaders need to be held accountable for their actions.

This item was moved forward from Discussion/Action Items.

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

Superintendent

- RCC/March Health Care Academy

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Monte Perez, President of Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley Campus and Dr. Wolde-Ab Isaac, Dean of Health Sciences. She stated that, based upon the success of our current allied health academies and living in the hub in the Inland Empire of allied health services, we are looking at the possibility of developing an early college high school that would focus on the health science professions.

Dr. Perez stated that Riverside Community College – Moreno Valley Campus has had a long standing partnership with the Moreno Valley Unified School District and that they have an outstanding allied health program. Their vision is to become a sustainable community with allied health. There are jobs in the medical fields and they have a 90% completion rate with 100% employment for their students in the allied health programs. RCC is proposing to have a partnership with MVUSD to create a health sciences high school that would be focused on graduating students to go to medical school and allied health careers. One of the key issues is creating diversity in the medical fields. They would like to create a pipeline from the community colleges and high schools to send students to the medical fields.

Dr. Isaac stated that RCC and the MVUSD have been cooperating in the conceptualization and planning of an Early College Charter High School with a focus on the health sciences professions. The main features would include:

- An emphasis on the preparation of students in the health sciences professions
- Satisfying all the requirements of the standard high school curriculum (A-G) and prepare graduates for entry into the health sciences professions
- The total capacity would be 500 students with low dropout rates and high retention, completion, and graduation rates
- Most classes would use the seminar approach to allow for optimal student/faculty interaction
- Elimination of duplication between college and high school curricula would allow for the integration of one to two years of college credit and complete high school graduation requirements
- No loss of credit if students pursue a different career
- Enrollment policy would reflect the entire District in terms of academic ability and socio-economic characteristics, not just academically advanced students

There was Board discussion and clarification regarding the program. Dr. Perez will provide a proposal from a similar program at a school in Sacramento for the Board's review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The President of the Moreno Valley Educators Association stated that the association is interested in working with RCC and MVUSD to expand career paths and other opportunities for our students. She asks that everyone work collaboratively and that all options be considered in planning this new program, such as expanding the health academies, developing a magnet school, researching the schools within a school concept, or expanding the middle college program. Charter schools remove funding and the governance from the school district even if the charter is dependent. Establishing a charter needs to be considered carefully and staff at the sites must be involved in the planning process from the beginning.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Jesus M. Holguin and seconded by Rick Sayre to approve Superintendent Consent Items F-1; Educational Services Consent Items G-1 through 5; Business Services Consent Items H-1 through 17; and Human Resources Consent Items I-1 through 17, as presented.

There was Board discussion and clarification regarding Item H-15.

VOTE: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 0

ACTION AGENDA

It was moved by Jesus M. Holguin and seconded by Rick Sayre, to approve Superintendent Action Item J –1; Educational Services Items K-1 through 2; and Student Services Action Item M-1, as presented, pulling Business Services Item L-1 for a separate vote.

VOTE: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 0

It was moved by Rick Sayre and seconded by Victoria Baca, to approve Business Services Item L-1, as presented.

VOTE: AYES – 4 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 1 (Ashe)

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

Business Services

- Report on Request for Proposal and Bidding Process

Josie Ripoly, Director of Purchasing, gave a presentation regarding the Standard Purchasing Process. This process is used to ensure consistency and a fair and equitable process for all our vendors.

A Request for Bid (RFB) is used when the Purchasing Department knows exactly what the District needs and has specific specifications. It is used for public works or labor such as painting, roofing, and other facility projects. The requestor is required to provide a payment bond to ensure the subcontractors and suppliers are paid, a performance bond to ensure the contractor assigned will perform according to the District standard and the specifications, insurance, and a contractor's license.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is used when the District has a general idea of the type of services they may need. It was utilized when we went out for printing services, CPR/First aid, services, training, audit services, and document storage.

The components needed by the Purchasing Department include the scope of work or description of service, an established evaluation criterion, and a recommended vendors list provided by the requestor.

Purchasing develops a request for proposal packet that includes the standard contract clauses, special clauses, instructions, an evaluation criterion, and a conflict of interest clause. All communication is requested in writing. A specific deadline date, time, and location for proposal receipt is published in the Press Enterprise, on the Purchasing website, and is emailed or mailed to vendors. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting is held when needed.

After proposals are received, they are evaluated against the evaluation criterion and a recap of all proposals is prepared and forwarded to the department requesting the services.

Once the department and Purchasing has agreed on the firm to be awarded, a Board agenda item is prepared recommending approval. When approved, a contract is completed and a purchase order is issued.

There was Board discussion and clarification regarding the process.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education comments were suspended for this meeting because the Board of Education would be reconvening into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The Board of Education will continue in Closed Session to discuss the remaining Closed Session Agenda items.

The Board of Education reconvened into Open Session at 10:56 p.m.

REPORT OUT
OF CLOSED
SESSION:

There was no action taken. The Board of Education gave direction regarding the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.