

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

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MARCH 3, 2015**

The minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3, 2015 are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2015. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Special Meeting of March 3, 2015.

**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 Special Meeting at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Baugh-Present Fleming-Present Holguin-Present Johnson-Present

Board Members Present

Gary E. Baugh, Ed.S., President
Cleveland Johnson, Vice-President
Jesus M. Holguin, Clerk
Denise Fleming, Ed.D., Member

Administration Present

Judy D. White, Ed.D., Superintendent
Mays Kakish, Chief Business Official
Martinrex Kedziora, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. Educational Svcs.
Robert Verdi, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Tim McGillivray, Public Information Officer
Diane Hellerstedt, Administrative Asst, Board of Education

Registered Visitors

Harold Acord	Eligio Ranzeliv	Jennifer Barat
Carol Howk	Zina Alkhamaisi	Tonna Dagenhart
Ruthee Goldkorn	Basil Kimbucu	James C. Baker II
Janet MacMillan	Gloria Borjon	Shannon Souh
Cathy Fulgenzi	Debra Whitford	Debra Craig
Pat Fulgenzi		

Introduction: President, Gary E. Baugh:

The Governing Board previously voted to make a provisional appointment to fill the current school Board vacancy. By law, this is an open process. We have received and reviewed the candidates' application materials, and tonight the Board will interview each individual. To ensure that it is an equitable process, all candidates will be asked the same set of questions by our Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Robert Verdi. This will allow the Board members to be active listeners and to take notes. As a matter of fairness, the candidates have been encouraged to remain out of the Board Room while the other applicants are being interviewed until their own interview is completed.

Schedule for the Day: Vice President, Cleveland Johnson:

The Interview Process will go as follows:

- 3:15 p.m. – 7:25 p.m. – The Board will conduct the interview process with seven candidates.

- *There will be a meal break from 5:10 – 5:55 p.m., as well as five minute leeway between each of the scheduled interviews.*
- *In order to maintain the integrity of the interview process, we would like to ask the audience not to approach the Board of Education during any breaks.*

Public Comments will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

- *For today's Special Meeting of the Board of Education to provisionally appoint a Board member, the Public Comments forms must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant to the Board, Diane Hellerstedt, and will be accepted up through the last interview, at approximately 7:30 p.m.*
- *Public comments pertaining to this agenda item ONLY will be accepted today. Non-Agenda items will not be accepted.*
- *Individual speakers shall be allowed to speak for **two minutes** on the agenda item. The Board of Education shall limit the total time for public input on today's agenda item to **one hour**.*

The Nomination Process will commence after the Public Comments, no later than 8:30 p.m., followed by Board Deliberation; then Voting on the Provisional Appointment of a Nominee.

Board President Gary E. Baugh spoke to introduce the Interview process:

During the February 17, 2015 Special Study Session, the names of the applicants were placed on individual slips of paper and randomly drawn to determine the order of today's interviews.

I would like to encourage the audience to maintain the integrity of the interview process by not sharing any information vocally or electronically with any of the candidates during this process.

Before starting each interview, the applicant will be given up to two (2) minutes to present to the Board any information that best explains why he or she is interested in being a Board member and what experience has prepared him or her for this position. Each candidate will be asked nine (9) questions and will be allowed up to 25 minutes for the opening statement and to respond to all nine questions.

Dr. Robert Verdi, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, conducted interviews:

Welcome. You have a total of 25 minutes to complete this entire interview and your opening statement. Please respond accordingly:

1. *How does the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) affect the school district's budget and what ideas do you have to help the district remain fiscally solvent while also addressing the needs of our students.*
2. *How would you prioritize the district's facilities needs?*
3. *Describe a good board meeting. What are the objectives of a good board meeting?*
4. *What do you perceive to be the District's number one challenge and what steps would you recommend to resolve that problem?*
5. *As a trustee, what do you see as your primary purpose or primary role? How would you fulfill that role, both as an individual and as a member of the governing board?*
6. *Would you support a decision made by the Board even if you personally voted against it?*

7. Describe your response if a parent cornered you in the grocery store and asked for your support on a particularly hot issue.
8. Share what you know of Moreno Valley Unified School District's Strategic Plan and how you would support it.
9. What are your views pertaining to the Common Core State Standards?

The Interview Schedule:

No.	Time	Candidate
1	3:15 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Patrick Kelleher
2	3:45 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.	Esther Bonafoux Rivera
3	4:15 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Debby Johnson
4	4:45 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.	Jennifer Baca
	5:10 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.	BREAK
5	6:00 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.	Imran Farooq
6	6:30 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.	Keri Then
7	7:00 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.	Delorise Anderson

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Board President – Gary E. Baugh:

Individual speakers shall be allowed to speak for two minutes on the agenda item. The Board of Education shall limit the total time for public input on today's agenda item to one hour.

- Community members thanked the Board for the transparent process and commented on the excellent quality of the candidates
- Three community members spoke in support of candidate Imran Farooq based on his experience, commitment and readiness to serve, and his thorough and knowledgeable answers to the interview questions.
- Four community members spoke in support of candidate Debby Johnson, citing her work ethic, interaction as a good role model with students and schools, and her many contributions of time and effort.
- One community member spoke in support of candidate Keri Then, citing her passion for higher education, breadth of knowledge and ability to be a team player..
- One community member asked the Board to keep the students as the focus when considering an appointment and not to be pressured by other considerations.

Dr. Robert Verdi – Nomination Process:

We have completed the Board Applicant interviews and have come to the portion on the Agenda: “Selection/Provision Appointment of Applicant to Existing Board Vacancy.”

Before moving forward, I would like to thank the applicants for their participation. It is not easy to go through a public selection process like this. There are obviously many well-qualified applicants who could fill this position. However, only one can be selected. We are moving forward to the selection phase now.

At this time, the Board will begin the nomination process by calling for an applicant to be considered for appointment. All Board members will be given an opportunity to nominate one applicant each, if they so choose.. Nominations do not require a second motion.

Before we proceed, we will give the Board some time for personal deliberations, to look over their notes, and organize their thoughts prior to the Nomination Process.

Nominations – President, Gary E. Baugh:

President Baugh informed the audience that the Board had been provided with the entire candidate packets from all candidates and had the opportunity to review all materials over the past weekend. He then verified all candidates were in attendance at this portion of the meeting and proceeded with the nominations:

*Nominations are now open. You have an opportunity to nominate one candidate. **Please remember that the first round nominations do not require a second motion.***

The following nominations were made:

[1] **Keri Then** was nominated by Dr. Denise Fleming.

[2] **Imran Farooq** was nominated by Jesus M. Holquin.

Cleveland Johnson did not nominate a candidate, stating his choice for a nomination, Imran Farooq, had already been nominated.

[3] **Patrick Kelleher** was nominated by Gary E. Baugh.

Board President Baugh expressed his appreciation to all the individuals who considered serving on the Moreno Valley Unified School District Board and participated in the process. He stated his hope that each of them would continue to be engaged in the district and community affairs.

Board Deliberation:

Dr. Denise Fleming

Dr. Fleming congratulated all candidates, stating they would all be assets to the Board. Each spoke of policy, budget, collaboration, listening skills and the role of a Board member. She stated they each brought a uniqueness, but that Keri Then stood out through her focus on academic knowledge of students.

Jesus M. Holquin

Mr. Holquin thanked all the candidates, noting they were all qualified. He said it is important to have desire, knowledge and commitment, and added that this is not an easy process to go through. He

supported his nomination of Imran Farooq, stating that he stood out for several reasons. They included his experience with economic and workforce development and his detailed answers to the interview questions which indicated thorough knowledge of the district and position, which would make it easy to step in and work together. He also cited his hands-on experience with workforce development and his connections which could open opportunities for students.

Cleveland Johnson

Mr. Johnson thanked all the candidates and stated that the quality of the candidates was tremendous. In looking for someone who stood out, he stated he weighed a lot of things, including the familiarity with Board meetings and readiness to deal with people. He was pleased that all candidates mentioned the direction and momentum of this Board and District, but he especially was looking for the person who would fit well within this group. He stated Imran Farooq stood out in this aspect and added he is already engaged in, and interested in coming together with the community.

Gary E. Baugh

Mr. Baugh expressed his support for Patrick Kelleher, citing his longtime residency in the community and his vast experience in the school district on many levels. He has no political agenda and understands critical areas such as accountability and the LCAP, and would be able to step right in to the position. He pointed out that two of the three candidates have run for other positions, and wondered of the motive and whether sitting on this Board was to serve as a stepping stone to something else. He stated he was pleasantly surprised at the quality of all of the candidates, and agreed that the focus of this decision should be on the children. He believes that Patrick Kelleher stood out over all the others

President Baugh asked if there was more discussion. With none, he called for a motion to bring forward one of the nominated candidates for a vote.

Cleveland Johnson made a motion to appoint Imran Farooq to fill the existing Board vacancy. The motion was seconded by Jesus M. Holguin.

RECORD OF VOTES:

- D. Fleming – Nay
- J. Holguin – Aye
- C. Johnson – Aye
- G. Baugh - Nay

Vote: Ayes – 2 Nays – 2 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Motion Fails

Board President Baugh asked if there was another motion. Dr. Denise Fleming made a motion to appoint Keri Then to fill the existing Board vacancy. Mr. Baugh called for a second to the motion, but there was none.

Motion Fails

Mr. Baugh made a motion to appoint Patrick W. Kelleher to fill the existing Board vacancy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Denise Fleming.

Before voting, discussion ensued on the process, the implications of continuing with additional motions and the possibility of revisiting any previous nominations. Dr. Verdi explained that the previous motions have failed, and the process could continue with motions for remaining candidates until exhausted.

Mr. Baugh restated the motion on the floor to appoint Patrick W. Kelleher to fill the existing Board vacancy and called for a vote.

RECORD OF VOTES:

- D. Fleming – Aye
- J. Holguin – Aye
- C. Johnson – Aye
- G. Baugh - Aye

Vote: Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Motion Passes

By a vote of 4 to 0 the Board of Education of the Moreno Valley Unified School District appoints Mr. Patrick Kelleher to the Governing Board.

Board President Baugh made the following statement:

I am sure that I speak for the entire Board when saying that we congratulate Patrick Kelleher and welcome him as a provisional appointee to the Governing Board of the Moreno Valley Unified School District. I would also like to thank each of the other candidates for their participation. As I stated before, we encourage all of you to stay interested and involved in the District and in the community. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

The Oath of Office was administered to Patrick Kelleher by Dr. Judy D. White, Superintendent

"I, Patrick Kelleher, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter."

Mr. Kelleher thanked the Board. He stated it was evident that the quality of the candidates caused deep thought on the part of the Board in making this difficult decision, and recognized all those who came forward to fulfill this responsibility as candidates. He appreciates the Board's careful review of all the candidates and added that their demeanor and discussions revealed how seriously they took this process. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve and will do so to the best of his ability to serve students.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Denise Fleming

Dr. Fleming welcomed Mr. Kelleher. She stated that each and every candidate was qualified, and hopes this is not the end of their commitment to serve, because they have a lot to give.

Jesus M. Holguin

Mr. Holguin expressed his thanks to all the candidates for their desire to serve our 34,000 students, stating they all have a lot to offer and we still need their support. With our new Strategic Plan, the direction is good for the District. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Kelleher and added that we need him to get on board right away.

Cleveland Johnson

Mr. Johnson congratulated Mr. Kelleher and thanked him for his interest in the Board which is not new. He has been involved in the past, but now the role will be different and the commitment will be a little more. He thanked all the candidates for their involvement. He said this process has shown that when you have a good team others want to come and be a part of what is happening here. He expressed appreciation for all the important input and added that we won't forget. He asked them not to stop, to continue to share some of their wisdom and knowledge.

Gary E. Baugh

Mr. Baugh acknowledged former Board member Tracey B. Vackar in the audience to witness the process to fill her vacant seat.

Mr. Baugh told of his recent trip to Sacramento where the Board received an award for its great governance practices which was presented by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. He acknowledged today's process is a demonstration of good governance, which brought forward seven candidates, three qualified nominees, and after three rounds of voting resulted in coming together to choose an excellent candidate to fill the vacant Board seat. He was impressed with all the candidates and the homework they had done to prepare themselves for this process. He remarked that it is a privilege to serve as the Bard President this year. He explained it was the determination of the Board to make an appointment instead of incurring the \$200,000 cost of a special election. They believed and have shown through this process that we can bring good candidates forward, interview them, vet them and have someone qualified join the Board and hit the ground running. Mr. Baugh said he is delighted to have Patrick Kelleher join the Board, know he will add to the Board, and need his insight on a one-on-one student basis from his many years of experience.

Dr. White

Dr. White personally thanked all the candidates. Although she has to wait on the decision of the Board, she stated that she could have work with each and every one of them, and wished there were more positions we could fill with such quality candidates. She reminded them that she is the one that will be reaching out to them to serve on committees, and ended with a quote about staying united; "We are only as strong as we are united, and as weak as we are divided, so we need to stay united."

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.