

MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL STUDY SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MARCH 7, 2002**

The minutes of the Special Study Session of March 7, 2002, are being submitted to the Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2002. The minutes are a complete and factual record of action taken by the Board of Education at its Special Study Session of March 7, 2002.

**MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
25634 Alessandro Boulevard  
Moreno Valley, California 92553**

**THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE AUDIOTAPED PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953.5**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education opened the study session at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL: AYE - Ashe AYE - Bailey ABSENT - Baugh AYE – Sayre AYE – Vackar

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Vackar.

Administrators Present

Nicolas Ferguson, Superintendent  
John Costello, Deputy Superintendent, Schools/Educational Programs  
Louise Bigbie, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services  
Pat Chandler, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction  
Cindy Stewart, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Joseph Palomino, Director, Secondary Education  
Kathy Nordin, Director, Elementary Education  
Dan Reed, Director, Accountability, Assessment, and Training  
Claudia Gray, Director, SELPA  
Debbie Fay, Principal, Moreno  
Bruce Hemlock, Principal, North Ridge  
Mary Jones, Principal, Vista del Lago  
Janine Brauer, Principal, Edgemont

Visitors

Zenia Lowe	Becky Shreiner	Ken Schmidt
Mary Perea	Nancy Stuller	Guy Pierce
Diane Tudge	Terry Witkowski	Lori Holland
Greg Solomon	Cynthia Osier	Valerie Osier
Emmalee Osier	John Collins	

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

**CONSENT ITEM – 002  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MARCH 26, 2002**

S-C-2  
I. DISCUSSION

- Budget Study Session

Dr. Ferguson stated that this study session was called at the request of the Board. The purpose is to hold public discussion and give the audience an opportunity for their input.

Dr. Costello presented an overview of the 2001-02 second interim financial report. The District currently is \$1.5 million short of a 2 percent reserve. He reviewed the 2002-03 budget assumptions. There is a projected shortfall of \$4 million for the 2002-03 school year. This shortfall does not include a 1 percent increase in salary or if the COLA is reduced from 1.8 to 1.65.

Dr. Stewart reviewed the 2002-03 budget implications which include the modification of middle and high school staffing at 100 percent, reduction in force of three high school assistant principal positions, reduction in force of three elementary assistant principal positions, and a reduction in force of five elementary and three middle school counseling positions. These proposed implications would be a total cost savings of \$4,327,541.

Dr. Ferguson stated that school district budgets are a function of the state economy. The District receives between 70 to 80 percent of its funds from the state. Since the September 11 attack and the energy crisis California has experienced, the state and schools are suffering. This year most of the proposed midyear budget cuts were restored. However, they were one-time funds, not ongoing funds. Most school districts throughout the state will implement budget cuts next year. Some are making budget cuts this year.

The District has a March 15 legal deadline. This deadline would require the District to give notice to affected personnel if the proposed recommendations were implemented. School district budgets are made up of 85 to 90 percent of people and related costs such as fringe and fixed benefits. It is the hope of the District that something can be done between now and mid-May to actually finalize this proposal. He has asked staff for any suggestions to maximize revenues, to talk about being more efficient, and reallocating resources to avoid budget reductions. In the final analysis, there will be budget reductions.

Board members shared concerns and asked for clarification on the proposed process. It is the Board's desire to do everything in its power to keep people employed. Employees are valued. The District will work hard to find a position for everyone. It is a high priority of the Board to ensure that the job base stay in the community.

A request was made for a copy of the District's organizational chart, an internal analysis of administrative ratio, and administrative ratio comparison information of other school districts the size of Moreno Valley.

#### Public Comments

Ann Adler, Moreno Valley Educators Association (MVEA), asked about the reduction in force layoff and the process. It was suggested that Cindy Stewart meeting with Ann and Katherine Underwood to clarify the process.

**CONSENT ITEM – 002**  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MARCH 26, 2002

S-C-3

Becky Shreiner, Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), shared a concern about the clerical support staff for the assistant principals and counselors. Would they be reassigned?

John Collins, community member, asked for clarification of timelines and shared a concern about the elimination of the elementary music program.

Debbie Fay, Association of Moreno Valley Management Personnel (AMVMP), shared a concern about the reduction in counselors and assistant principals. Who would pick up the workload of these individuals?

The Board requested any suggestions or other solutions from the community. The Board wants input and dialogue.

The Board is confident that the District will get the budget under control. This may be a difficult and painful process, but the budget will be put back on track. The Board will do everything possible not to impact employees and their families in a negative manner.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Tracey B. Vackar and seconded by Jacqueline L. Ashe that, there being no further items to come before the Board of Education, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

VOTE: AYE – 4 (Absent – Baugh) NAY – 0 ABSTAIN – 0

**CONSENT ITEM – 002**  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MARCH 26, 2002