McFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT **BOARD MEETING MINUTES** April 15, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the McFarland Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at the McFarland High School Multi-Purpose Room. The meeting was called to order by Board President at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ramon Melendez, President

Marin Ortega Jr., Vice President

David Arguello, Clerk Rev DeLeon, Member

Absent:

Jim Kasiner, Member

Student board members:

Ivan Marquez (late arrival)

Israel Guerrero (late arrival)

Staff Present:

Gabriel McCurtis Kim McManaman Mario Torres Rick Sparks Manuel Cantu Margie Perez Martin Schmidt Jackie Hernandez

Robert Matheny Sandra Espinoza Others

Irene Melendez Candi Clark Cynthia Virrey Michelle Rubio

Lori Schultz Ty Bryson David Lopez Sandy Hannah Melissa Melendez Jane Gonzalez Mary Williams Smith Teresa Arvizu Albert Melendez Mike Elliott David Heredia

Susana Bustillo

Carmen Richer Corina Nunez

Smith Efada

Roberta Burgh

Community Present:

Elizabeth Perez

Cecilia Gonzalez

Bonifacio Garcia

Others

Parents & Students

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Board President asked if Mr. Kasiner had been notified of the meeting and if he had been sent the agenda and packet. Irene Melendez replied that they had indeed been sent to him and that he would not be present for the meeting, but would be available by telephone.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Manuel Cantu

Recognition of Staff/Students

Five and Ten year employees were recognized and presented with certificates and pins for their years of service to the District.

Students that gained two or more performance bands in one year in Language Arts and Math were also recognized and presented with certificates for their accomplishments by Teresa Arvizu and congratulated by the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent.

Public Communication

Rick Sparks had comments regarding Closed Session item A. He congratulated all the students receiving awards. He stated that he hated to follow with the following but stated that that is what he does. Also before he began he wanted to make sure the minutes reflected that even though he was making some comments on things that are a big concern to them and him, he wanted it understood that they still support the board, his organization still supports the board the same way they have since they (the board) started. They still support the district office and superintendent, but that doesn't mean that he is going to sit by anymore like he did with the last superintendent and board and let them do whatever they wanted when he knows its wrong. So he wants it reflected and there are people in the audience that will take the information that he is presenting and use it against the board. He stated that he has not gone to the dark side. He is still with the board. He just wants to work with the board. He stated that he came to the meeting with some concerns. First is the Supt. evaluation. He can't understand how an evaluation can be done by school board members of the job somebody is doing without any input from the people who work with that person or those people, day in, day out. So, if it's a possibility, he wanted to share some things he would put in an evaluation. One of the biggest things Mr. McCurtis has done is built a very strong, supportive district office staff. He believes the Assistant Supt. and CBO and those people are wonderful and teachers have a great relationship with them. He would put that as something positive. But where he is concerned is the open communication between bargaining unit and the supt. He feels it doesn't exist and if it does exist it comes from their side. Sometimes the issues that come to him, sometimes he just needs to speak to the supt. but its not possible. One of the biggest concerns is not making administrators accountable for unprofessional behavior. Last time he spoke to the board a little bit. But he didn't know, it was pretty obvious by all the e-mails and calls he received this week that nothing was done to curtail the administrators that he has the most concern about. They are still riding roughshod over teachers and probably everybody else. He stated that too much time is spent on training and on the job training. When the supt. should be here to help and is not here to solve our problems. He added that it seems like the supt. spends a lot of time at workshops. He understands the need for that, he also goes to regular workshops to learn his job. The only difference is he doesn't get paid from his job. Another of his concerns was regarding three teachers that he feels were cheated out of years worth of retirement. He realizes that this should be taken care of and it probably will but the bottom line is there were warnings about it back in January 2007 and it got stalled and got messed up. He also stated that another concern was the failure to officially respond to two grievances for over a year. Also, failure to meet the requirements provided by the contract of the association both in the EERC committee and the monthly meetings. He also had comments regarding the supt. supporting the administrators at all costs with very little sanctions for unwarranted and unprofessional behavior. He concluded by thanking the board.

Elizabeth Perez a parent also addressed the board regarding her son who was up for an expulsion recommendation. She asked that the board reconsider and that her son not be expelled. She asked that her son be granted another chance to continue his high school requirements to graduate. She stated she had positive letters from teachers on the behavior of her son in their classrooms. She asked for the boards help and she didn't know what else to do. She believes her son is a good student and has not had any other problems with him. She stated her son had hopes of attending college but due to this incident he is reconsidering. She wants her son to be able to get the best education that he can. She will bring the letters to the board.

Closed Session

The board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:32 p.m.

Open Session

The board re-convened to Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

Report of Closed Session

- A. No action taken
- B. Motion made by Marin Ortega, seconded by David Arguello for approval. By a vote of 3-1 the board voted to approve settlement agreement and to accept the resignation of Employee #2261 FRC Director under the terms of a Resignation Agreement and Release. Motion carried.
- C. No action taken
- D. No action taken
- E. No action taken
- F. No action taken
- H. Student #0708-32 MHS Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for Suspended Expulsion with stipulations of student #0708-32. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- I. Student #0708-33 MLC Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to Expel student #0708-33. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Item G was tabled

Action Items

A. Revision and Agenda Approval of Agenda of April 15, 2008.

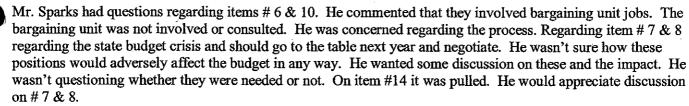
Board President stated that Consent Agenda item #14 be removed from the agenda. Also, on the Personnel Register under A. New Hires, the first name be pulled from the personnel register. Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr., to approve the Agenda of April 15, 2008 with revisions. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2008 (Regular Meeting) March 4, 2008 & March 19, 2008 (Special Meetings).

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2008, March 4, 2008 & March 19, 2008 (Special Meetings). Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

- C. Consent Agenda
- 1. Approval of Warrant Registers
- 2. Approval of Travel, Conference and Related Expenses
- 3. Approval of Interdistrict Agreements
- 4. Approval of Camp KEEP Agreement for the 2008-2009 School Year
- 5. Approval of Organizational Chart
- 6. Approval of Special E. Job Descriptions
- 7. Approval of a Second School Psychologist Position
- 8. Approval of Food Services Supervisor Position & Job Description
- 9. Recommendation for Elimination of FRC Director Position (effective 4/16/08)
- 10. Approval of Special Education Teachers: Moderate/Severe (Self Contained) and Mild/Moderate Emotionally Disturbed
- 11. Approval of Middle School and High School Counselor Supplemental Counseling Program
- 12. Approval of Bid from Wise Engineering Inc. for \$6,500 to demolition the house @ 306 Lockwood

- 13. Approval of HIV-AIDS Prevention Education Curriculum
- 14. Approval of Agreements between McFarland Unified School District and International Group Education Services Learning Network Foundation



Consent Agenda items # 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 were pulled for discussion. Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon, to approve the Consent Agenda items # 1, 3, 4, 9. 11, 12, 13. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda item # 2. Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr to approve. Motion carried by a 3-1 vote.

Consent Agenda item # 5. Motion made by Rey Deleon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to table to end of meeting. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda item # 6 & 10. Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda item # 7. Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Consent Agenda item # 8. Motion made by Rey De Leon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to table to end of meeting. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Information and Proposals

Community Input

Mark Whisler had requested to speak but left early.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent McCurtis thanked the board and stated it was good to see the two student board members Israel Guerrero and Ivan Marquez. He stated that they had been out of the country since the last board meeting. He asked where they had gone. They stated they had visited France, Italy, Monaco.

Superintendent McCurtis gave the attendance report.

1. Attendance - Superintendent Gabriel McCurtis gave the attendance report in which he stated that the monthly total was 3172 students enrolled. One month ago there were 3176 and one year ago there were 3151 students. He stated that our enrollment still continues to be stable and also has grown since last year and that is a good thing. He also wanted to report that when it comes to the General Obligation Bonds he got a letter from the bond company and they said when the bonds were being issued, considered to be issued, we were at a B- rating and they changed our rating 1 full grade as the district received an A-. He said, "The man spoke to me and said that it is not very common for the ratings to change that drastically but because the rating institution sees the good things that are happening that caused them to change our rating to a more positive rating. Therefore, in terms of interest and things we pay lower interest the higher the rating is. That's a good thing. Also, we met, a group of administrators (he introduced Candi Clark, Smith Efada, Robert Matheny and Sandy Hannah) and interviewed at least 10 Architects and narrowed it down to a group of four. These architects will be used to move forward on some of the construction we will be doing in the school district. We're still in pursuit of building an elementary school site, central kitchen and doing the

various modernizations at the high school site. We had a board study session and you had a chance to hear about some of the architects and things and so we're proud to say that we're moving forward. It is our desire within the next 2 years that you'll see some of these things like schools, central kitchen coming to fruition." He continued, "Also, I did attend a few things, if you recall in Sacramento by the State Board of Education to discuss the sanctions that our district would go through. We received a moderate sanction and the moderate sanction basically says that we must have an outside entity come in and help us in reaching some of our goals at least dealing with PI. We also have attended meetings at the County related to the OEIA grant that we've gotten, 11 million dollars over 7 years and so we're moving forward getting that kind of information out. I'm also proud to say, I would like Margie to stand up for a moment, please. This is Margie Perez. When she took over last year in January or February, the First Five Commission, because of what was going on in the District, pulled our funding. It was a 3-year funding for \$450,000. At the meeting when they pulled our funding, Board President Melendez was there, myself, Cynthia Virrey, Maria Salgado, Smith Efada & Margie were there and a few of us addressed the First Five Commission and let them know we would begin to look into the situation and we would improve things in the District. So, they gave us a reprieve that allowed the funding to continue on a 1-year period for that year that would have ended sometime this year. But because of the excellent administration and the leadership and all the positive things that they're seeing, they turned around and granted us a 3-year grant and instead of \$450,000, what it was originally, was now \$540,000 and so this are some very positive things. I heard a question today and I don't have to get defensive, they said, 'why is the Superintendent out of the district?' I am out of the district because I'm the official representative for the district. I meet with State Leaders, I meet with County Leaders, I meet with professionals, I meet with builders, I meet with architects and the reason why our ratings change and the reason why they money is increasing is because they see a face. They see the face of the Superintendent here in the district and they're seeing stability in this school district and it's causing people to say, 'now we are willing to re-invest in McFarland. So I don't make any bones about me. I have to be out representing the district. If I don't meet face to face and shake hands and learn who these people are then all we are is a name and a name with, in many terms, a reputation that we are improving upon. So, I just wanted to report those things during our session here so that is my report Mr. President and Board Members." He concluded his report.

Board President thanked Mr. McCurtis for his report.

Board Member & Student Board Member Reports

Student board members Israel Guerrero and Ivan Marquez reported on ASB – Spring Fling Week, Clubs – FFA and the state conference, Prom on May 17th, Graduation on June 5th and the Spring Banquet. Sports – Tennis and Baseball have started League. Track has not started League yet. They also stated some concerns of the students: 1. Students would like more elective and AP classes. 2. More activities, especially school spirit activities (there is a loss of school pride at the moment). 3. More Counselors – at least one more counselor to assist Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Cardoso. 4. Magic Mountain Trip – had four busses and only three were used & they were concerned that money was paid for the extra bus.

Board President added that when he has concerns like those if he's worried about bringing it to the boards' attention he shouldn't be. He should not he sitate to bring it before the fact. When he has a concern let whoever is involved know. He thanked him for his report.

Mr. Schmidt explained that they were only charged for the three buses used. He also explained how the students completed the hours owed in order to go on the trip. He also explained about the CAHSEE scores were up in English for 10 graders and that 4 out of 5 are passing Math in the first try. These test scores affect the AYP (Annual Yearly Performance) and that is a good thing.

Rey DeLeon - None

David Arguello - None

Marin Ortega - None

Ramon Melendez - None

Presentations

1. Kathy Rowland and students from MHS reported on the Trip. She and students Ivan Marquez, Israel Guerrero, Christopher Bowman, Jessica Brandt, Miguel Rios and Olivia I Gonzalez gave a power point presentation with pictures of their trip. They each gave a brief synopsis of the different pictures and the places they visited and the things they did. She also stated they will be requesting approval for next year's trip to Europe during Spring Break of 2009 at the next board meeting.

Reports

1. Student Support Services – Mary Williams Smith: She gave a presentation and she gave the mission statement of the Support Services department: In Partnership with school administrators, teachers, students, parents and the community of McFarland, the mission of the Student Support Services Department of the McFarland Unified School District is to develop responsible and productive global citizens by implementing early interventions, supports and specialized academic instruction that will accelerate student achievement and allow students to grow to their full potential as individuals, complete education through high school and beyond, attain productive and fulfilling lives, and adapt to a changing world. The Support Services is located at 509 3rd Place. The administrative assistant is There are four categories of support and they are: Psychological Services, Jaqueline Hernandez. Nursing Services, Speech-Language Pathology and Special Education. Allan Andrews is the District Psychologist with Anita Licklider Psychologist Intern at Kern Avenue and Courtney Lancaster Psychologist Intern at McFarland Middle School. The Psychologists serve the entire district, both special and general education. Suzanne Villaruz is the district nurse and serves the entire district. She has two health aides: Susana Gomez and Gina Flores. The speech Language Pathologists are Veronica Gonzalez-Mello at Kern Avenue and Susana Bustillo at Browning Road, MMS and MHS. They have two Speech Aides: Melissa Melendez and Rebecca Quintanilla who assist the SLP's with all duties. The department also includes teachers at Browning Road: Jeanne Martfeld K-3 and Candace McBeath 4-5. The assistants are Mary Aguinaga and Raquel Gonzales. Kern Avenue has Tammy Littrell Pre-K, Julia Machado K-5, Janie Becerra K-2, Jan Agabashian 2-3, and Caroline Sulenski 4-5. Their assistants include: Soraida Gonzalez, Griselda DeLeon, Paula Herrera, Yolanda Gonzalez, Alice Perez and Angelica Gonzalez. McFarland Middle School has Richard Sickles 6-8, Andres Sanchez 6, Carolyn Burns 7, and Dena Pullam 8. Their assistants include: Trini Ortega, Socorro Zavala, Elizabeth Ortega and Monica Rios. MLC has Humberto Chairez. MHS has Elizabeth Ward Self contained, Gary Pierson RSP and Leo Spriesterbach RSP. Their Assistants include Sandy Garza, Cheri Pennywitt and Rebecca Torres. She gave a brief summary of all the different services they each provide such as Monitor and confer with teachers, administrators, students and families regarding students, Plan, organize, coordinate and implement the observation, assessment and treatment of psychological, behavioral and related issues and problems to name a few. Also, the nurse provides health and nursing services. She identifies, assesses, plans, intervenes, and evaluates student health concerns. She conducts the required

health screenings for vision, hearing, scoliosis and others etc. The Speech dept. provides speech and language assessments and therapy. They administer and interpret diagnostic tests to identity the language, speech, hearing and motor skills needs of referred students; evaluate results and determine appropriate therapeutic program including learning experiences to meet articulation, voice, language or fluency needs and they write assessment reports as well as consult with parents, teachers and principals regarding the needs of the students. They are looking forward to next year servicing more students.

- 2. Technology & Information Services David Lopez also gave a powerpoint presentation with his statement If we work together anything is possible. He stated that with diminishing funds we will continue to look at grants, at services offered for free or little compensation, but offering big benefits. We will continue to make the technology we currently have work better for us. He showed the significant savings the district has had due to E-Rate funds. Next years Erate Projects are: Full wireless coverage for all campuses, updating of older networking equipment and wiring new classrooms. He also stated that Micosoft Vouchers were given for \$81,691 for hardware and software. Currently we have \$70,000 in software vouchers left for the sites to use. The hardware funds were completely used this past year. The are voucher funds that might be dispersed in a second round next year. Voucher purchases made include: 50 projectors for classrooms, 16 Brother printer/scanners for Edusoft, 4 Lab printers, 11 Smartboards and various software for the sites. The high school/middle school video grant in the amount of \$18,000 was received to create a video studio for the high school and the middle school to use. Also received were 2 cameras and a state of the art studio system.
- 3. MTA - Rick: "Regarding negotiations, we had a meeting a week ago. A small committee met to go over some, develop language. Negotiations are winding up and its our goal... we actually have two more meetings scheduled. Possibly wind it up and sign off on May 1st and we should ratify before the next board meeting. We are working with the district office regarding sending teachers and teams to a five day training at UCLA. It's a CTA sponsored Summer Institute scheduled for Aug. 3-8. We hope to send teachers, principals, and community members from the School Site Councils. Sounds like a very positive thing. Regarding QEIA at the district level hopefully we can get together and see what's going on with that. We still have a concern regarding the two grievances submitted. Also, regarding the security breach item we are concerned but we believe the district people are working together to resolve this. Also, regarding the TV people and the TV coming to town, I want to go on record that in his opinion it is just stuff. And it reeks of the same things we have had problems with in the past. If you sign an anonymous letter it doesn't deserve action. If I have a problem with what you are doing, it will be signed Rick Sparks, President of the Union MTA and you will know where it comes from." He also added that they will have an awards banquet entitled "We Honor Our Own" from CTA honoring the membership. Receiving 2nd level awards are Lynn Runyan, Kim Whealy, and Ed Levenson. Receiving 1st Level award is Julie Machado for the work that they have done. He also added that regarding the budget cuts from the state he will be going to Sacramento with Mike Elliott to lobby our legislators and he asked that everybody make a special effort to contact their legislators to keep the budget cuts from going through. "This is going to cause all of us a whole lot of grief." He also added that on May 14th the Day of the Teacher there is a big picnic sponsored by CTA at Yokuts Park or the Day of the Teacher. They try to keep it light but due to the situation there will probably be lots of speakers there. It is a county wide thing and he wanted to invite the board and administration. There will be sandwiches, hotdogs, games for the kids and jumpers. He concluded by thanking the board.

4. CSEA - None

Action Items (cont'd)

Discussion

2006-2007 Audit Report – Candi Clark gave a brief overview and summary of the Audit Report that was completed along with the findings and recommendations. Discussion followed.

Old Business

Approval to Reconsider Action Item

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve request to reconsider action item B. Motion was defeated by a vote of 2-2.

Approval of Contract with Total School Solutions on the Early Reading First Grant Application

No Action taken due to Approval to reconsider action item was defeated.

New Business

A. Personnel Register

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon, to approve the Personnel Register as presented with one revision. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Approval of Resolution #0708-13, STRS Retirement Incentive Program

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. for approval of Resolution. Roll Call vote: David Arguello – Aye, Rey DeLeon – Aye, Marin Ortega Jr. – Aye, Ramon Melendez - Aye. Motion carried a 4-0 vote.

C. Approval of 2008 – 2009 School Calendar

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the three week calendar for 2008-2009. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

D. Approval of New/Revised Board Policies - BP 6020 & AR 6020

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the First Reading of BP 6020 & AR 6020. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

- E. Approval of Revision of the McFarland Unified School District English Learner Master Plan Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Revision of the McFarland Unified School District English Learner Master Plan. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- F. Approval of Contract Addendum with Quality Education Solutions and McFarland Unified School District for Professional Development Services

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the contract addendum with Quality Education Solutions and McFarland Unified School District for Professional Development Services. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

G. Approval of Browning Road Discretionary Block Grant

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Browning Road Discretionary Block Grant. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

H. Approval of McFarland Middle School Discretionary Block Grant

Motion made by Rey De Leon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the McFarland Middle School Discretionary Block Grant. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

I. Approval if the Caldwell Flores Winters Contract

Motion made by Rey De Leon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the contract with Caldwell Flores Winters. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

J. Approval to Utilize the Mega-Item Transfer allowed by State Law for Categorical Programs

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve to utilize the Mega-Item Transfer allowed by State Law for Categorical Programs. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

K. Approval to Authorize the CBO to Utilize Fund 17 for Legal Professional Fees and Equipment purchased for Browning Road.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for approval to Authorize the CBO to Utilize Fund 17 for Legal Professional Fees and Equipment purchased for Browning Road. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

L. Approval of Attendees at Celebration of Stars Banquet as well as the cost of the Awards

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for approval of Attendees at Celebration of Stars Banquet as well as the cost of the awards. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

M. Use of Legal Counsel

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve Garcia Calderon Ruiz as Primary legal counsel. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

N. Approval of Architectural Firms

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the firms as listed. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

O. Approval of Agreements between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Service Provider: Professional Tutors of America

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the Agreement between MUSD and the Supplemental Service Provider: Professional Tutors of America. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to continue the meeting past 10:30 p.m. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:38 p.m.

Open Session

Board re-convened to Open Session at 11:19 p.m.

Report of Closed Session

No action

Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:20 p.m.

Open Session

Board re-convened to Open Session at 11:27.m

Report of Closed Session

G. Public Employee Appointment/Employment

1. FRC Program Manager

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the appointment of Margie Perez as FRC Program Manager subject to clearance. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Consent agenda item #5 Organizational Chart – Discussion was held regarding the Organizational Chart. Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the organizational Chart. Motion carried by a 3-1 vote.

Advance Planning

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the next meeting date of May 13, 2008. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Adjournment

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Board President adjourned the meeting at 12:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Mod
Gabriel McCurtis, Secretary to the Board
Kumon Meline
Ramon Melendez, Board President
Man Offer I
Marin Ortega Jr., Vice President
Le Mo
David Arguello, Clerk
Rey De Leon, Member
Absent
Jim Kasiner, Member