

McFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the McFarland Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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
Rey DeLeon, Member

Absent: Jim Kasiner, Member

Student board members:

Absent: Ivan Marquez Israel Guerrero

Staff Present:

Gabriel McCurtis	Irene Melendez	Cynthia Virrey
Smith Efada	Roberta Burgh	Lori Schultz
Candi Clark	Chris Breyer	Margie Perez
Mario Torres	Mary Williams Smith	Teresa Arvizu
Javier Ruiz	Sandra Espinoza	Martin Schmidt
Yolanda Gonzalez	Ty Bryson	Mike Elliott
Melissa Melendez	Maria Salgado	Robert Matheny
Valerie Perez	Valerie Garcia	Michelle Rubio
Rick Sparks	Kim McManaman	
Others		

Community Present:

Luis Bustillo	Nitasha Sawhney	Grace Vallejo
Carlos Ramirez	Alejandra Guerrero	Francisco Reyes
Others		

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation -- Luis Bustillo

Public Communication

Rick Sparks had comments regarding Closed Session item A. He comments regarding discipline & dismissal. He asked that the board use the same criteria and the same things that are used for teachers should also be used with administrators in the school district as well and not put them on some kind of pedestal. In a meeting with Mr. McCurtis last year he stressed the importance of looking for "A+ teachers" and he agreed with him. He added, "as for Administrators, they are supposed to be our educational leaders and why can't they be expected to be "A+" as well. When people are abusive, when administrators are abusive, inappropriate, unprofessional, their people skills are bad and people feel harassed. That's not professional behavior and that goes on in several of our schools with several of our administrators. He asked that the board take a look at the situation in regards to the March deadline. He

stated that he doesn't like answering and trying to defend the administrators. When he gets a complaint about administrators and something that happened, he looks at it and usually doesn't do too much about it. He may take a strong look into it. He continued, "But when it happens over and over and over again. One administrator that he is concerned about has had four, maybe five official complaints filed at the district, two by teachers, one by classified and one by a parent. To me this is not appropriate behavior and the least we should do is cover ourselves so if the behavior and what goes on doesn't improve from March 15th till the end of May, that we're not stuck with this person. You need to take a look at the morale of the teachers and what they're looking at coming back to as well. If I look at what they're coming back to, I know how I felt when my former principal was there and I had to come back to him and what it did for my morale. Think of the people at these schools. We have two in particular with that have very impersonal skills in dealing with teachers, dealing with people out in public, yelling, demanding and things like that are inappropriate." He went on, "The district even agreed on one complaint that a very biased, harassing thing happened to this teacher and there was nothing, the administrator was sent to training or something like that. I hope that every time when the future teachers mess up that the school district will say, ok, we'll pay for you to go to training." He concluded, "So this is my concern and I hope that the administrators will be addressed tonight. I am not asking for firing of anybody, just take a good solid look and start talking to people more than Mr. McCurtis. I respect Mr. McCurtis and his opinion, but it is not the only opinion and not the only feedback. Thank you"

Closed Session

The board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:12 p.m.

Open Session

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

Report of Closed Session

No action for now the Board will adjourn back to Closed Session after New Business.

Action Items

A. Revision and Agenda Approval of Agenda of March 11, 2008

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the Agenda of March 11, 2008. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2008 (Regular Meeting).

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr., to approve the minutes of February 12, 2008. 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 School Site plans for Browning Road, Kern Avenue, McFarland Middle School, McFarland High School and McFarland Learning Center

5. Out-of-State Travel Request -- MHS Cross Country Team Track Meet in Portland, Oregon on October 11, 2008
6. Approval of Renewal of Contract for Labor for Independent Contractor Richard Thome.
7. Approval of Renewal of Contract for Labor for Independent Contractor David Gomez.
8. Authorization (or Approval) to Advertise a Notice to Contractors Calling for Bids for the Demolition of 306 Lockwood.
9. Authorization (or Approval) to Relocate five (5) Portable Classrooms from MHS to other District sites.
10. Authorization (or Approval) to Call for Bids from Relocatable Vendors for a DSA Approved two-story, 10 classroom building for McFarland High School.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega, to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-10 as presented. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Information and Proposals

Community Input

Board President stated that there were a couple of gentlemen that wanted to speak but that it was taken care of. He asked CBO Candi Clark to come up and give a briefing on the baseball team. She stated that the gentlemen wanted to use the baseball field for a game on Sunday. After talking to them she asked that they provide insurance before they are allowed to use the field.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent McCurtis gave the attendance report.

1. Attendance - Superintendent Gabriel McCurtis gave the attendance report in which he stated that the monthly total was 3176 students enrolled. One month ago there were 3145 and one year ago there were 3179 students. He stated, "Since the last board meeting the State did contact us and let us know that of the ninety-eight districts getting sanctions we were 28. That meant we had a moderate sanction. It calls for a DAIT team, a District Assistance Intervention Team that will come in and they will help us to do what needs to be done to make Program Improvement. Tomorrow, myself, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. McManaman will be going to Sacramento. We will have a chance to address the State Board of Education in terms of things that are affecting us and our P.I. status and I will give you more feedback when that is over."
2. CSBA delegates were chosen and submitted to CSBA. Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to select Parks and Lockheed as Delegates to CSBA. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Supt. McCurtis thanked the Board President and the Board. He also added that the awning was complete at Browning Road School thanks to the MOT Dept. Also the High School will be having their WASC accreditation coming up within the next few months and that the principal Mr. Martin Schmidt is doing an outstanding job their as their instructional leader there at the high school. He concluded his report.

Board Member & Student Board Member Reports

Student Board Members were absent.

Rey DeLeon -- None

David Arguello -- None

Ramon Melendez – Board President stated that the March 15th deadline affecting our District is also affecting everyone statewide. It is that time of the year for the March 15th deadline. He thanked all staff from the Supt. on down for all their hard work that has been done. Everyone knows the things that they have been through the last two years to now. He stated that for the board members and the discussion from earlier they will be taking into consideration all input brought to them. He again thanked the community.

Presentations

1. MHS Counselors – Christy Bowman and Regina Cardoso – They distributed a College Counseling Handbook. They gave the mission statement: To help our students and their families understand the importance of obtaining a college or post high school education. To provide each of our students with the opportunities needed to prepare them for success in college. To provide our students and their families with the information they need to make informed decisions about college choices, application processes, and financial aid. They mentioned some of the Programs offered from Bakersfield College as: Outreach, EOPS, Supportive Services. The Vocational/Trade Schools mentioned were: San Joaquin Valley College, Santa Barbara Business School, Truck Driving School, Art Institute of Southern California, Lyles College of Beauty, UTI and Military Opportunities. They proceeded to state the steps for admission to the universities, Financial Aid is: Grants, Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study. They recommend that all seniors complete the FAFSA application for Student Aid which must be completed by March 2nd. They gave the requirements for scholarship applications. The hand book included all this information. They reported that the high school was used as an SAT test site and had received an e-mail requesting an increase to 5 test days. The site has a positive impact for Delano and Wasco as well as McFarland.

2. Summer Academy – Sam Ramirez - Vice Mayor of Delano and Grace Vallejo – Mayor of Delano – Reported on the Summer Academy and Sam stated he had been working at McFarland High School for two years. He stated that the students need somewhere to go and something to do. They are hosting the Summer Academy in Delano and have a couple of spots for McFarland. They provide three activities, snacks and a safe environment for students. It includes Earlimart, McFarland, Pond and Delano. They both stressed the importance and significance of the Summer Academy in regards to the students. They distributed a flyer and application to the board members regarding program. The cost to attend is Free, with lunch and snacks provided. They also stressed that space was limited to 500 kids from 10-16 years of age. Some of the activities include: Basketball, Swimming, Volleyball, Track and Field, Karate, Dance, Computers/Windows Movie Maker/Internet and Painting. The program would include 100 kids from McFarland for a cost of \$5,000 and would require transportation. The time frame would be from 12:45 for pickup to 4:00 return. The Summer Academy would take place from June 18th to July 13th. He added that they are asking for collaboration with the school district for this program.

Board Vice President thanked Mr. Ramirez and added that he is familiar with this program and would like to recommend it. He added regarding the ROC program and the benefits of the Summer Academy. He would like to see it happen for our district.

Mayor Grace Vallejo added that this program would promote the door between the two communities. They both thanked the board.

Reports

1. MHS – Martin Schmidt gave the McFarland High School presentation. He proceeded: A heightened awareness of their goal to increase gains in student achievement are: API Goal – 628 in 2008, CAHSEE Goal – 75% of 10th graders pass, AYP Goals: English – 34% proficient and Math – 35% proficient; Academic Support: English and Math support classes for all below basic and far below basic students, CAHSEE prep classes for all seniors who have not passed, Math and English tutoring available after school, CAHSEE prep classes available after school, and ELD support classes for all EL Students; Using Data to Drive Instruction: Quarterly benchmark assessments, Data is scanned into Edusoft database, Teachers using data analysis to identify areas of curriculum needing to be retaught; Teacher Collaboration: English, math, science and social studies departments each conducted a formal walkthrough and debrief process, All teachers worked together in focus groups on WASC review; Teacher Collaboration: English teachers meeting weekly to design lessons and assist one another; Technology as an Instructional Tool: 13 Smartboards were installed, Teachers trained to use Smartboards, Computer Labs used constantly for: College Ed., Reading Intervention, Math Intervention, Computer/Graphics; Building a “College-Going-Culture”: College Ed. Curriculum for all 9th graders, Exposure to “My Road” for 10th-12th graders, College Night with speaker Dolores Huerta, Many students attend the College Fair, Financial Aid & college planning appointments, Scholarships being awarded throughout the year, College banners hung in the main hall, gym and cafeteria, College tagline was created by our students; Renovations to The Campus: Built an office for the registrar, Divided a large classroom to gain additional classroom space, New concrete sidewalks, new gym windows, Parking lot resurfacing; Athletic Success: Boys Football had an exciting season, Boy’s Cross Country finished 3rd in State, Boys Basketball were league champs, Girls’ Basketball were league champs, Girls Volleyball had 28 wins and 3 losses; The High School has a strong Fine Arts Program, the choir put on a wonderful Christmas Concert, the Band played at all home FB games and marched in two parades, the Art students produce and display wonderful pieces of art; they have a strong Discipline Plan with in School Suspension, Saturday School & After School and lunch detention; They are also continuing work on the Single Plan for Student Achievement, the Dept. members have worked on revising and updating the SPSA, the School Site Council has worked to review and update the SPSA and the SPSA will be submitted to the Board of Education for Approval; Regarding the Accreditation the entire staff worked on the WASC report, the report has been approved by the School Site Council and the Board of Education, The WASC visiting team will be here March 30 – April 2, a Reception will be held on March 30 from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. and Board members are encouraged to attend; Special Programs at McFarland High include, AVID, AP Classes, FFA, and VTC; Clubs and Activities are PEP Assemblies, Breast Cancer Awareness Week and Club ED Project; Some of the needs for the future at McFarland High are: Additional Classrooms to include a computer lab, science lab, room for IS and offices for New Counselor and Curriculum Coach, Also needed are a full time Band Teacher, New Exterior Doors (gym, office building and shop building), and Electronic Reader Board.

2. Technology & Information Services – Tabled to next meeting

3. Annual Autism Awareness Conf. – District Rep./Special Education – Melissa Melendez “Good evening Supt, Board Members and Staff. I am Melissa Martinez-Melendez the Districts Community Advisory Committee Representative for the Student Support Services Department. I am here to thank you in person for allowing myself and one of our special education parents to attend the 12th Annual Autism Awareness Conference. The speakers o this year’s Autism Awareness Conference were Drs. Robert & Lynn Koegel. They are directors of the Koegel Autism Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They are actively involved in the development of programs to improve communication in children with Autism, an in providing support and intervention services in school districts, within California and throughout the United States. Today, 1 in150 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. Having been given the opportunity to attend this year’s conference gave us the opportunity to listen and interact with the speakers as well as other

people who are involved with helping children with autism who are being serviced in our district and to our parent in working with her own child. Children with autism are often misunderstood. If we continue to learn as much as we can about working with these children there will continue to be great hope for the progress to come. We can become the proper support system they need so that they too can be productive individuals in society.

4. MTA – Rick: Stated that he had something positive to add. First MTA just sent 12 teachers Anaheim to the “Good Teachers Conference”. Regarding negotiations, they are going very well. It is sometimes a frustrating process. He feels strongly that with their team and the District Office team working together will be a “win, win” situation. In regards to negotiations he had nothing negative except impatience to report. They have not reached an agreement yet. Also, he added that the idea of teamwork to make a dream work is a good idea. He commented regarding his monthly meetings with the Supt. and that he had to wait too long in the lobby at the last meeting in November or December. He added that two grievances since Jan. 2006 had not been responded to. He added that at times, “we really feel like we’re not important.” He added that in the January minutes he had read on the presentation by Mrs. Burgh on the Professional Learning Communities and added that CTA wholeheartedly supports this if done correctly. He added that he feels obligated to respond to PLC because they are the future and said, “get teachers involved in the training and the teaching.” He also commented on the Golden Handshake and the need to get the Resolution approved soon if possible since there was a problem from last year and two teachers didn’t get it last year and the district is trying to resolve this. This is a retirement issue. He asked, “How Important are the teachers?” He does support the changes being made and that MTA had a lot to do with the changes needing to be made. He stressed the importance of talking to the teachers. He stated that he appreciated the board listening that he didn’t need to feel negative and thanked the board.

5. CSEA – None

Old Business

Approval of Resolution #0708-09, Requesting the Board of Supervisors of Kern County to Issue and Sell General Obligation Bonds of McFarland Unified School District, (Kern County, California) Election of 2004, Series 2008C.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve Resolution #0708-09 Requesting the Board of Supervisors of Kern County to Issue and Sell General Obligation Bonds of McFarland Unified School District, (Kern County, California) Election of 2004, Series 2008C. Roll Call Vote: David Arguello – Aye, Rey DeLeon – Aye, Marin Ortega Jr. – Aye, Ramon Melendez – Aye. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Approval of Resolution #0708-10, Providing for the issuance and sale of 2008 Refunding General Obligation Bonds of the District in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$3,000,000 to refund the District’s 1998 General Obligation refunding and approving related documents and actions.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to Approve Resolution #0708-10, Providing for the issuance and sale of 2008 Refunding General Obligation Bonds of the District in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$3,000,000 to refund the District’s 1998 General Obligation refunding and approving related documents and actions. Roll Call Vote: David Arguello – Aye, Rey DeLeon – Aye, Marin Ortega Jr. – Aye, Ramon Melendez – Aye. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

New Business

A. Personnel Register

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

B. Approval of 2nd Interim Report – Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for approval of the 2nd Interim Report – Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Motion carried a 4-0 vote.

C. Approval of Browning Road School's Discretionary Block Grant

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr, seconded by David Arguello, to approve Browning Road School's Discretionary Block Grant. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Board adjourned to Closed Session at 8:42 p.m.

Open Session

Board re-convened to Open Session at 10:47 p.m.

Report of Closed Session

A. Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal/Release {G.C. 54957}

The following was inadvertently left out of the closed session report:

The District is of the position that it had already taken all appropriate and required action to release Employee #1479 from her previous position as the District's Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and to reassign her to the classroom because the Board never voted to ratify or approve the awarding of such a contract to Employee #1479. However, Employee #1479 has initiated legal proceedings against the District challenging the Board's action. Accordingly, in an abundance of caution, and considering the uncertain nature of legal outcomes, the Board hereby takes action to terminate Employee #1479's alleged contract pursuant to the alleged contract's termination without cause provisions. The Board's March 11, 2008, action to terminate Employee #1479's alleged contract in no way acknowledges or concedes that employee #1479 had a valid and/or enforceable contract with the District for the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services position.

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr. seconded by David Arguello for approval. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Also,

Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal/Release {G.C. 54957}

The following employee shall be given notice that they shall be released from the position indicated effective June 30, 2008, and reassigned to a classroom teaching position or other position for which the employee has a valid credential Employee #2201, Principal.

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

B. No action taken

C. No action taken

D. Student #0708-22 MHS – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to Expel Student #0708-22. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

E. Student #0708-24 MHS – Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by David Arguello to Expel student #0708-24. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

F. Student #0708-26 MHS – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to Expel student #0708-27. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

G. Student #0708-27 MHS – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to Expel student #0708-27. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

H. Student #0708-28 MHS – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to Expel student #0708-28. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

I. Student #0708-29 MHS – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to Expel student #0708-29. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

J. Student #0708-30 MHS – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to Suspend Expulsion for student #0708-20 with stipulations. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

K. Student 0708-31 MHS – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to Suspend Expulsion for student #0708-31 with stipulations. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Advance Planning

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve date change for the next regular meeting date to April 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the McFarland High School Multipurpose Room. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Adjournment

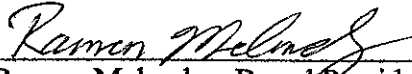
Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



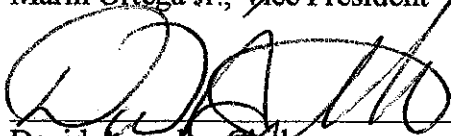
Gabriel McCurtis, Secretary to the Board



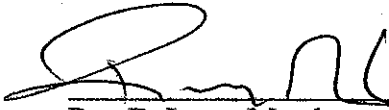
Ramon Melendez, Board President



Marin Ortega Jr., Vice President



David Arguello, Clerk



Rey DeLeon, Member

Absent

Jim Kasiner, Member