

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

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

**Absent**

Jim Kasiner, Member

**Student board members:**

**Absent:**

Israel Guerrero & Ivan Marquez

**Staff Present:**

Gabriel McCurtis  
Smith Efada  
Candi Clark  
Cynthia Virrey  
Albert Melendez  
Yolanda Gonzalez  
Melissa Melendez  
Margie Perez  
David Lopez  
Amador Ayon  
Others

Irene Melendez  
Roberta Burgh  
Manuel Cantu  
Mary Williams Smith  
Sandra Espinoza  
Ty Bryson  
Maria Salgado  
Mariana Quinonez  
Louie Gomez  
Martin Schmidt

**Community Present:**

Pastor Roy Mendez  
Karen Rowe  
Others

Gloria Story

**Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation – Roy Mendez**

**Public Communication**

None

**Closed Session**

The board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:08 p.m.

## **Open Session**

The board re-convened to Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

## **Report of Closed Session**

- A. No Action
- B. No Action

Board President stated that they would continue with Closed Session at the end of the meeting to complete closed session business.

## **Action Items**

- A. Revision and Agenda Approval of Agenda of January 15, 2008

Board President asked that Item XIV. M & N be moved to the beginning of the New Business Section. Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the Agenda of January 15, 2008 with revisions. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

- B. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2007 (Organizational & Regular Meeting) and December 5, 2007 (Study Session).

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr., to approve the minutes of December 11, 2007, (Organizational & Regular Meeting) and December 5, 2007 (Study Session). Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

- C. Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of Warrant Registers
- 2. Approval of Travel, Conference and Related Expenses
- 3. Consideration and Approval of Superintendent Designee
- 4. Approval of Student Teaching Agreement TCH0814

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr., to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-4 as presented. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

## **Information and Proposals**

### **Community Input**

None

### **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 3198 students enrolled. One month ago there were 3230 and one year ago there were 3176 students. "We are up higher than we were a year ago but we've fallen a few students since our last monthly

report. One thing that we're finding out is this district is not declining enrollment." Also in his report he stated, "We were in Visalia all day and they talked about the budget from the Governor and there are some cuts in the budget. It will affect K-14. K-12 is going to be hit. They're saying about 400 million dollars. It is very important that we spend our categorical monies. Those are the monies that are earmarked for certain things. The Governor is very supportive of the idea of schools in Program Improvement in districts like ours. There will be support but they are getting a little more stringent on what their requirements are for us and so by the next board meeting I should let you know what some of those stringent requirements are. We have our CBO here and she has worked very arduously to make sure that our budget is in alignment and as you know we did get an approved budget this year and so that is a good thing. I'm keeping you informed. In your weekly update you have some of the budgetary items and as I get more I will get you more."

He proceeded to introduce Mr. Ayon the Cross Country Coach who made Coach of the Year.

Coach Amador Ayon thanked the board for all their support and proceeded to introduce some of the team members that had made the Cross Country All-Area Team. Jesus Gomez and Alfonso Cisneros made first-team. Eddie Garcia, Marco Perez and Gerardo Alcala made second-team. Also, receiving Honorable Mention were Eddie Bautista, Marco Camargo, Jose Gomez and Francisco Nava. He stated, "I appreciate your acknowledging the kids for all the hard work that they do. We are going to continue to strive for that ultimate goal of bringing the 10<sup>th</sup> State Championship to the community and McFarland High School. The kids are working really hard right now and with that in mind thank you and the people that are here, the administrators, the board, athletic director, teachers and parents. Again, thank you."

Board President Melendez thanked Mr. Ayon and the students.

Board Vice President Marin Ortega Jr. also congratulated them and said, "You guys that made second team, with the board you are first team. It's a lot of hard work and we thank you for that."

## **Board Reports**

David Arguello – None

Rey DeLeon – None

Marin Ortega Jr. – None

Ramon Melendez – He welcomed everybody back and said he hoped everyone had a Happy New Year and enjoyed the holidays. He thanked everyone that was present for their attendance and stated the board was back to continue.

## **Reports**

1. Family Resource Center – Margie Perez reported on the Family Resource Center and all that serviced provided by the center. Some of the community services provided were: Family Case Management, Emergency Food and Clothing, Utility Assistance and Translations Service. Also provided are Referrals to Health Services, Health Insurance, Mental Health Counseling, Rental, Utility, Housing Assistance and Employment & Training such as Proteus and Employers Training Resource. Classes also provided to the community include: Student Readiness Initiative (10 week class) held by the Family Advocate, Parenting Class (10 weeks), Neglect Class (8 weeks), Parent Project Class (10-16 week class) which focuses on Parents, Truancy, help for substance abuse, gang violence (probation dept.). They also have partnerships with collaborative agencies such as the Department of Human Services, Probation Dept., EDD, Health Net, Public Health Dept., Henrietta Weill Family Guidance

Clinic and the Alliance Against Family Violence. Some of the Events held by the Family Resource Center include: Operation School Bell sponsored by the Assistance League of Bakersfield which designated 180 slots to McFarland and included Kern Avenue, Browning Road, McFarland Middle, Migrant and FRC students. It took four days to complete. Also, the Kern County Dental Network held appointments for students and provided Tropical Fluoride to them. The Freeze Food Give Away was held from Feb. 16, 2007 to December 14, 2007 and provided families with food due to the freeze with assistance from the State of CA and the Bakersfield Food Bank. She stated that the major funding sources for the Family Resource Center were First Five (which had just approved extending their funding to 2010) and the McFarland Unified School District. Interim Director Margie then read their Mission statement, "To promote a sense of community where families, community organizations, and businesses can work together to provide accessible human services. To support families in their mission to raise children who are emotionally, mentally, and physically healthy." She then thanked the Board Members and Mr. McCurtis for their support.

2. MOT – Rescheduled to February 12, 2008
3. MTA – None
4. CSEA – None
5. Williams Act Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report ( Irene Melendez) - None

#### **Presentations**

1. Recognition – Cross Country Recognition was done during the Superintendent's report.

Before she gave her presentation Supt. McCurtis addressed the board and stated that he had asked Ms. Burgh to come before the board and show what an Instructional Leader does. He added, "She is here to talk about the Professional Learning Communities and shortly after, Springboard is coming in and that's one of the things that they do advocate in the Professional Learning Communities, that analysis and things of that sort. So Ms. Burgh is right in line in terms of what it takes for us to do what it takes to get out of Program Improvement.

2. MMS – Roberta Burgh stated she was asked to give a short power-point presentation regarding Professional Learning Communities and she was very happy to do so. She stated that, "she truly believes that Professional Learning Communities can turn the school into a student standard organization with the staff working collaboratively together to improve through discussion." She and all the elementary principals are attending workshops in Bakersfield at the County Office and they have brought several of their Leadership teachers with them who are going through that training. She proceeded with an overview of what Professional Learning Communities are. In traditional schools: The focus is on teaching, Teaching is done in isolation, Teachers think of themselves as autonomous, independent contractors, Most teachers have little input into the school's vision and mission statements and The school's mission statement is generic and tangential to classroom work. Also, The principal makes the decisions and teachers do what (and only what) they are told to do, The curriculum and the textbook are one and the same, Assessments are norm-based, Test results are used for grading purposes only, Students who do not learn are given the opportunity to catch up, the rest is up to them. She named some of the essential elements of a PLC: A PLC is a collaborative venture, is always focused on student learning, distributes leadership responsibilities, narrows the curriculum to its essence, shares best practices as a means of improving instruction, uses "assessment for learning" in addition to the

usual "assessment of learning." She added that working as a team, PLC's typically: Develop common assessments, Develop a common rubric, Examine student work, Strategize common interventions, Provide objective feedback to one another, and Use student results to revise assessment instrument. In conclusion she added that she had included some articles on Professional Learning Communities and a Rubrick for their information.

Supt. McCurtis addressed the board president and board by adding that what they had just seen is what an Instructional Leader does. He added that when he has been to Ms. Burgh's school he has seen that there is always a focus on learning. With her leadership and what she is doing there he knows that they will see a substantial improvement in the scores. They are at Year 5 Program Improvement and he doesn't think they will be there too much longer. He stated that he believes that she will give the district what it takes to move the middle school along. He added that he as Supt. is very pleased with her leadership.

### **Old Business**

A. None

### **New Business**

Items M & N were moved to be addressed first in New Business.

M. Approval of Resolution 0708-06 for Contingent Tax Liability

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve Resolution 0708-06 for Contingent Tax Liability. Motion carried by a Roll Call vote: David Arguello – Aye, Rey DeLeon – Aye, Ramon Melendez – Aye, Marin Ortega Jr. – Aye. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

N. Approval of Contract between Springboard Schools and McFarland Unified School District for Administrative Professional Development.

Gloria Story and Karen Rowe gave a brief overview of Springboard Schools for the board members and community.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the contract between Springboard Schools and McFarland Unified School District for Administrative Professional Development. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

A. Approval of New/Revised Board Policies – First Reading

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the First Reading of the New/Revised Board Policies. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Personnel Register

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr, to approve the Personnel Register as presented. Motion carried by a 3-1 vote.

C. Approval of Contract between Kern County Superintendent of Schools and McFarland Unified School District for Title I External Monitor & Review Services

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the Contract between Kern County Supt. of Schools and McFarland Unified School District for Title I External Monitor & Review Services. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

D. Approval of Agreement between McFarland Unified School District and the following supplemental Educational Service Provider: Club Z! In Home Tutoring Services, Inc.

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by David Arguello, to approve the Agreement between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Service Provider: Club Z! In Home Tutoring Services, Inc. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

E. Amendment to Contract between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Services Providers: A+ Educational Centers, Academic Tutoring Services, Carney Educational Services, National Farm Workers Services Center Field, Fresno CORALihc.DBA CORAL & Extreme Learning.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello, to approve the Amendment to Contract between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Service Providers as listed. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

F. Approval to Purchase Acoustical Panels for the High School Band Room

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve Purchase of Acoustical Panels for the High School Band Room for \$6,000 to be used from their Discretionary Block Grant. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to group items G – L together for approval after discussion. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

G. Approval of 3 year Contract for Telecommunication Services including DS-3 connection to Kern County Supt. of Schools by A T & T for E-Rate Application.

H. Approval of 3 year Contract for SmartNet Services from Nexus IS for E-Rate Application

I. Approval to Award bid ER 11-001 for voice/data video station cables to AT & T.

J. Approval of Bid ER 11-002 for Networking Equipment to AT & T.

K. Approval of Bid ER 11-003 for Wireless Networking Equipment to AT & T.

L. Approval of 2 year Contract of Services with Sprint Nextel for Cell Phone Service.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve items G – L as presented. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Items M & N were moved to be addressed first in New Business.

## **Advance Planning**

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the next regular meeting date of February 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the McFarland High School Multipurpose Room. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

The board then reconvened to Closed Session at 8:12 p.m.

The board reconvened to Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

## **Report of Closed Session**

C. Student #0708-18 MMS - Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with stipulations. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

D. Student #0708-19 MHS - Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year with stipulations. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

E. Student #0708-06 MMS - Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello for re-admittance of student 30708-06 as recommended. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

## **Adjournment**

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Board President adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



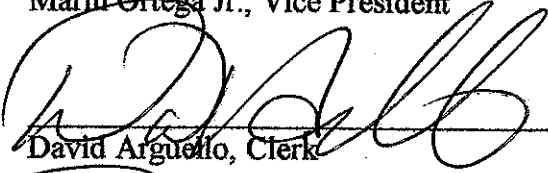
Gabriel McCurtis, Secretary to the Board



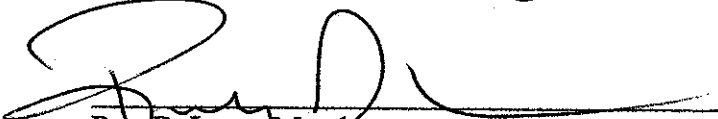
Ramon Melendez, Board President

*absent*

Marin Ortega Jr., Vice President



David Arguello, Clerk



Rey DeLeon, Member

**ABSENT**

Jim Kasiner, Member