

McFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
December 5, 2007

The Study Session of the McFarland Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, December 5, 2007, at the McFarland District Office Board Room. Board President called the study session to order at 4:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ramon Melendez, President
Marin Ortega, Jr., Vice - President
David Arguello, Member

ABSENT

Rey DeLeon, Clerk
Jim Kasiner, Member

Board President asked Executive Asst. Irene Melendez regarding Board Members Rey DeLeon and Jim Kasiner, and if they had been notified of the meeting. Irene replied that Board Member DeLeon had stated that he would not be attending due to the fact that he had a city meeting to attend and regarding Board Member Jim Kasiner she had been unable to reach him at his residence but that he was aware of the meeting.

Staff Present:

Gabriel McCurtis
Irene Melendez
Smith Efada

Kim McManaman
Maria Salgado
David Lopez

Public Present:

Richard Thome

Marilyn Lippiat

Board President introduced Richard Thome. He greeted the board and stated that the topic for the study session was: Student Achievement. He mentioned the previous study sessions held regarding Board goals and on improving student achievement. Regarding Program Improvement he stated that it is critical to focus on procedures to follow and specific action to get there. He stated that outside help could strategically get McFarland out of Program Improvement. There is a need to look outside the district for assistance. The good news is that if the district gets out of program improvement the students will greatly benefit.

Supt. McCurtis thanked the board for coming together with Richard Thome and Paramount and the mentoring which brought them to today and the topic of student achievement. He proceeded to introduce Marilyn Lippiat who he met 20 years ago when he attended the California Schools Leadership. She has since become a consultant. The knowledge that she can bring would benefit McFarland. He also stated that Kim McManaman would be giving a presentation on Program Improvement.

Kim McManaman continued with a presentation on Program Improvement. She explained what Program Improvement was and that PI is identified as failure to meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for two years in a row in Language Arts and Math. She went on to explain what PI status the district schools were in. We have MMS in Year 5, BRS in Year 4 and KA in Year 3. She went on to explain

the numbers and what the district needs to do to get out of Program Improvement. The Mission of the MUSD is to accelerate student performance through great teaching and great learning. She recommends the assistance from outside entities to help the district get out of Program Improvement.

Marilyn Lippiat from Quality Education Solutions then continued. She stated that she is a consultant and has been in this company for 5 years. She said they are a small group of consultants that help with student learning and being able to use what they know to help teachers and staff. Their focus is "Choosing Improvement over Innovation and Progress over Motion." Their criteria for decision-making are: Consistency, Forward progress, Practical and Do-able, Philosophical Alignment, Inclusive Processes, Building Capacity, and District-wide Solutions. The Company has people that have worked in different levels in schools. She stated that to support the district they, "focus on what makes a difference, Incorporate Research and practices that define successful and effective schools, build critical elements of sustainability, and Support and model Leadership and "Learning in Action." They have experienced people. Outside consultants are sometimes needed to help the districts use what they know but may not know how to use it. She stated that ongoing progress reports are necessary. The need to see results is very important.

Supt. McCurtis thanked Mr. Richard Thome, Kim McManaman and Marilyn Lippiat for their presentations. He stated that he also wanted to hear from Dr. Buster and Springboard and maybe at the next board meeting would also give a presentation.

The study session concluded with no action taken.

Board President adjourned the Study Session at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gabriel McCurtis, Interim Superintendent



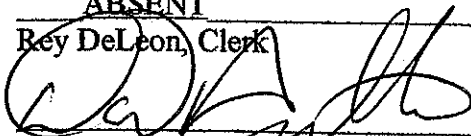
Ramon Melendez, Board President



Marin Ortega, Jr., Vice President

ABSENT

Rey DeLeon, Clerk



David Arguello, Member

ABSENT

Jim Kasiner, Member