

**McFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the McFarland Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday November 20, 2007, at the McFarland High School Multipurpose Room. Board President called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent

Jim Kasiner, Member

Board President asked Irene regarding Jim Kasiner and if she had heard from him and if he had received his agenda. Irene responded that she had called him and that he would not be attending this meeting but would be here for next months meeting and that he did receive his board packet.

Student Board Members

Ivan Marquez
Israel Guerrero

Staff Present:

Gabriel McCurtis
Smith Efada
Maria Salgado
Manuel Cantu
Lori Schultz
Kim McManaman
Ty Bryson
Ruben Ozuna
Mario Torres
Shirley Ritchey
Melissa Melendez
David Lopez
Sandy Hannah
Josie Ortega
Numerous Others

Irene Melendez
Candy Clark

Lilia Vargas
Albert Melendez
Roberta Burgh
Martin Schmidt
Louie Gomez
Jane Gonzalez
Yolanda Gonzalez
Michelle Rubio
Maribell Fernandez
Gladys Trevino
Flora Diaz

Public Present:

Arturo Munoz
Mr. & Mrs. Marcos Padilla
Gabriel Cantu
Alejandra Guerrero
Esmeralda Gonzalez
David Borcky
Others

Laura Munoz
Socorro Munoz
Anthony Ortega
Maria Ozuna
Rosemary Rodriguez

Invocation – Luis Bustillo

Public Communication

Board Vice President asked if the public had any comments regarding the Closed Session agenda items. There were none.

Closed Session

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:40 p.m.

Open Session

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

Report of Closed Session

- A. No Action Taken
- B. No action taken
- C. Student 0708-08 – Pulled
- D. Student 0708-09 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year with a behavioral contract upon return. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- E. Student 0708-10 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year with a behavioral contract upon return. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- F. Student 0708-11 – Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by Rey DeLeon to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year with a behavioral contract upon return. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- G. Student 0708-12 – Pulled
- H. Student 0708-13 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year with a behavioral contract upon return. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- I. Student 0708-14 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello for a Suspended Expulsion with Stipulations. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.
- J. Student 0708-15 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to expel student for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year with a behavioral contract upon return.

Action Items

A. Revision of Agenda of November 20, 2007.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to pull Action Item IX. C. Consent Agenda #6 & XI. Presentations 1 & 2 be moved to follow Consent Agenda. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the agenda of November 20, 2007 with revisions. Revisions being: Action Item IX.C. Consent Agenda #6 being pulled from the agenda. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2007 (Regular Meeting), October 18, 2007 (Study Session) & October 25, 2007 (Special Meeting).

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by David Arguello to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2007 (Regular Meeting), October 18, 2007 (Study Session) & October 25, 2007 (Special Meeting). Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-5 & 7. Item 6 was pulled. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

1. Approval of Warrant Registers
2. Approval of Travel, Conference, and Related Expenses
3. Approval of Interdistrict Agreements for the 2007-2008 school year
4. Approval of Annual Trustees Fall Dinner Meeting of the Kern County Supt. of Schools Office and the Kern County School Boards Association (including spouses).
5. Approval of 2007-08 Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Technical Education Grant Award
6. Approval of Instructional Assistant – In House School Suspension (Classified)
7. Approval of 2007-2008 Agricultural Vocational Education Incentive Grant

IX. Presentation

1. KCSOS – Kathy Caric gave a power point presentation regarding Adequate Yearly Progress and Program Improvement Status. She listed the NCLB Title I Standards and Assessments. She stated that annual assessments are required for mathematics and ELA in grades 3-8 and once between grades 10-12. Science will be added in 2007-08. She stated that states must develop a single statewide accountability system that applies to all schools and all students and must develop a definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). All students must reach the proficient level by 2014. She proceeded to state that the current PI status of McFarland Unified Schools is: Browning Road PI Year 4, Kern Avenue PI Year 3, McFarland Middle PI Year 5 & McFarland Independent PI Year 1. McFarland High and San Joaquin High are not in Program Improvement. She stated what corrective actions the schools in PI needed to accomplish in order to get out of PI status. She said the District/LEA must make all AYP targets for 2 consecutive years to exit program improvement. She stated that it is possible to get out of PI status in 2 years but it's getting harder. She stated that 99% of the districts are in year 3 Program Improvement and the projection in that that number will continue to grow.

Supt. McCurtis asked regarding External Entities and said, "that many times there's a lot of resistance."

Kathy responded that having qualified External Entities is sometimes necessary. "They come in and want to sit down and see what they can do, everyone coming together as a team. There are times you have to be an expert, but the combination is important to follow through."

Supt. McCurtis asked if the outside entities were free or if the district would have to pay.

Kathy replied that they are not free and some are more expensive than others but they are necessary. She concluded that it will make a difference in the lives of the children and provided a Chinese proverb: "If we don't change our direction we're likely to end up where we're headed."

2. Adult Education Students - MLC – Students from the Computer Class

Juanita Gonzalez (Jane) thanked the board for providing this class to the adult students. She stated that in the beginning it was very awkward for her but with the assistance of the instructor Armando Zabala she was doing very well. She thanked them for money well spent.

Sherry Mello also thanked the board for the opportunity to attend this class. This is her second time taking the class and she is learning so much more regarding hardware and excel. She thanked the board for having the class and allowing them to have it.

Armando Zabala – Instructor of the Computer Class also stated that it is wonderful to have these students. He is teaching them Word, Excel & Power point. He also thanked the board for their support.

Information and Proposals

A. Community Input

Esmeralda Gonzalez – (interpreter was present) She spoke regarding the issue of her daughter and the incident that happened at MMS on Sept. 28th. She stated that she had received a response letter from the district but that she was still not in agreement with the outcome and would like something else done to remedy the situation. She would like justice to be done for her daughter. Her daughter is still complaining of headaches. She stated that they are looking for a solution to this problem.

Socorro Munoz – Parents for Education group stated that she came today to clarify some things regarding the Padres of Educacion. This group has been here for many years back since Principal Gates was at the high school. She stated that there were many nasty flyers going around that were vulgar and lies. They have mentioned her husband. There is information being said about people that have been here for many years. She added that there is plenty of persons wanting the recall. She stated that the people know what they are signing and added that there is a need for people to work together for the kids. It will be happier for the employees and something needs to be done about this. She added, "Let's have a happy community and happy employees."

Arturo Munoz – stated that he know a lot of people in the community. He is one of the oldest citizens in McFarland. He has people going to his house to complain. He added that the district belongs to the kids. The administrators and teachers work for them and added that we have good teachers and we have rotten teachers. He said McFarland was a good city to teach and learn. There is a lot of concern in the community and added, "you better do something about it."

Gabriel Cantu – “Thank you guys for what you are doing I feel it’s what we need for our kids. My children are learning things in 1st and 2nd grade that I didn’t learn till 4th grade. I wanted to take this time to thank you. The system has been hurting for some time. I wanted to let you know not to be discouraged. With the help of the county and state it will help our community and our children. You are doing a good job. It’s going to take a while. Thank you guys and all the teachers, staff and principals working in this community to make a difference.

David Borcky – Lions Club President – “Good Evening.” He wanted to let the board know regarding the Lions Club activities for the holiday seasons. He stated that the Lions Club was in its 40th year of providing 100 food baskets for the community and he was once again asking for assistance to collect food at the schools for the food baskets. What is collected will be taken to Browning Road cafeteria to be distributed to needy families. FRC has agreed to work with the Lions Club. He also stated that for the Thanksgiving baskets there were a total of 30 turkeys at present and they were working together with Nicole Parra to double that amount. He added that recently the Lions Club lost a good member, Lion Carroll Welch. He had perfect attendance. The Lions Club wants to keep his memory alive, and added that Mr. Welch used to drive the bus for the Parks and Recreation. The Lions Club will be giving a 3rd scholarship beginning this year. It will be called the Lion Carroll Well Memorial Scholarship. In closing he added that the Lions Club would appreciate anything the district can do to help out.

Board President Melendez added, “Let us know what we can do to help.”

Supt. McCurtis gave Lions Club President Borcky a personal check for \$100.00 to assist the Lions Club.

David Borcky thanked Mr. McCurtis.

B. Superintendent’s Report – Mr. McCurtis gave his report.

1. Attendance - Attendance is up from one year ago. Total is 3249 and one month ago we were at 3230 and one year ago we were at 3204. It looks like we’ve gained about 45 students.

C. Board Member Reports & Student Board Member Reports

Student Board Member Ivan Marquez gave the student member report for Sports, Academics and Clubs/Activities. (Israel Guerrero had to leave early) Regarding sports: Volleyball Semi-finals they lost against Garces, Cross Country will race at Woodward park on Saturday hopefully winning their 10th State Championship, Basketball has started and will scrimmage today against Tehachapi. Regarding Academics: Progress reports were due today, College Night held on Wednesday, November 14th had Dolores Huerta as their guest speaker. The new college oriented slogan was created, “Let the fire within, burn brighter.” Regarding Clubs/Activities: Prom is scheduled for May 3, 2008 at the Double Tree Hotel, Club Ed is collecting cans for the needy, MECHA is sponsoring Noche de Gala, Jessica Brandt and the Senior class are creating Cards of Hope, the McFarland High School Site Council has chosen their student representatives and Foreign Exchange Week was celebrated last week.

Board Member Reports continued.

David Arguello – None

Rey DeLeon – He said, “I came in last week and asked for information on Total School Solutions and haven’t received it yet.”

Board President Melendez congratulated Jim Price and Amador Ayon for a good coaching job for the Volleyball and Cross Country teams. Hopefully the Cross Country team will do great at the State meet. Also JV Football did a great job with a record of 5-0. He told staff to keep up the good coaching.

Marin Ortega Jr. stated he had made it to a few of the games for Volleyball. He attended the college night and he thanked Mr. Schmidt for a good job.

D. Reports

1. M/O/T – Robert Matheny – Tabled to a later date.

2. Browning Road School – Mario Torres gave a presentation. He state their vision as, “Our vision is to provide an environment that fosters academic success, self-esteem, and good citizenship.” And he also stated their goals as: All teachers have been provided with a copy of the district/board goals, All goals are posted in each classroom throughout Browning Road, and All teachers believe in providing a quality education to all students. Their current enrollment is 612 students. Their attendance rate is at 97% with their goal being 98%. Browning Road School made the AYP in Math and missed the AYP in Language Arts by 1 point. They had a growth of 9 points in API. They are all working together to close the student achievement gap through: Assessments, Data Analysis, Observing & Monitoring and Teamwork. Their afterschool programs are offered and they are in their first session which runs from Sept. 7th to Dec 7th. The teachers that work with Migrant Education are working with Migrant Students in the Far Below Basic and Below Basic, quintiles 1 and 2. The will help with API. The also have other teachers from Kinder and 1st grade that are also targeting students needing extra help. The Reading Counts Program is an Incentive Reading Program that involves 1st – 5th grade students and there are 570 students school wide. The program motivates students to read voluntarily and helps improve reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary skills – especially for English Language Learners. The students are rewarded for participating in Reading Counts by: Reading Counts Stores, Field trip to John’s Incredible Pizza, Raffle Assembly. There will be a school wide celebration following the raffle assembly if the students meet their goal of reading 30,000 books by May of 2008. Browning Road has a new discipline plan. Staff, Students and Parents have been well informed of the policy and procedures for correcting behavior. Detention has been implemented during recess and after school. During after school detention the students will be taught the seven pillars of character. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their effort, behavior & dependability once a month. Every three months, students are awarded Honor Roll, Special Achievement and Principal’s Award. Once a month students are recognized for visible improvements in reading by their teachers. They are rewarded with a special luncheon from Poker’s Pizza, Crowns, and Dining with the Administrative Cabinet. Mr. Torres went on to explain the Turnaround Program, Perfect Attendance, and Staff Incentives such as Perfect attendance luncheon, teacher of the Month, the golden chocolate bar, and the teacher and classified staff of the year. He listed some of the activities held such as: McTeachers Night (\$667.00 raised), Red Ribbon Week, Lifesaver Activity, Afternoon at the Movies, Spooktacular Monster Mash, Camp Keep and the Literacy parade. Future events are Operation Santa’s Elves, The Ned Show, Christmas Program (Dec. 12, 2007) and Read Across America (Mar. 14, 2008).

3. College Night – Martin Schmidt reported regarding College Night and guest speaker Dolores Huerta. He had thought they would have a better turnout with all the publicity they put out and letters to parents. They did have a good crowd and they also served dinner.

4. MTA – None

5. CSEA – None

Action Items (cont'd)

Old Business

A. None

New Business

A. Approval of Personnel Register

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the Personnel register with one exception. Item 4 A # 4 was not approved. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

B. Approval of Variable-Term Waiver for Katina Henry, 6th Grade Math Teacher at McFarland Middle School

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Variable-Term Waiver for Katina Henry. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

C. Approval of Resolution 0708-05

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve Resolution #0708-05 which is required to correct timeline issues as identified by STRS in relation to the 2006-2007 Early Retirement Incentive Program. Roll call vote: Arguello-Aye, DeLeon-Aye, Melendez-Aye, Ortega Jr.-Aye. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

D. Approval of Joint Use Agreement with McFarland Recreation and Park District

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

E. Approval of Application for Part-Day State Preschool Programs

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the application to apply for \$183,341.00 from the state to open another preschool in McFarland. Motion carried by a 4 - 0 vote.

F. Approval of Agreements between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Service Providers: A+ Educational Centers, Academic Tutoring Services, Carney Educational Services, National Farm Workers Services Center Field, Fresno CORAL Ihc.DBA CORAL & Extreme Learning.

Motion made by Marin Ortega Jr., seconded by David Arguello to approve the Agreements between McFarland Unified School District and the following Supplemental Educational Service Providers: A+ Educational Centers, Academic Tutoring Services, Carney Educational Services, National Farm Workers Services Center Field, Fresno CORAL IHC.DBA CORAL & Extreme Learning. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

G. Application for Continued Funding for Pre-School

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Marin Ortega Jr. to approve the Application for Continued Funding for Pre-School. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Advance Planning

A. Future Meeting Dates

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon. to approve the Annual Organizational Meeting date of December 11, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the next regular meeting date of December 11, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the next Study Session date of December 5, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Adjournment

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

Board President adjourned meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gabriel McCurtis, Interim Superintendent



Ramon Melendez, Board President

Marin Ortega, Jr., Vice President

Rey DeLeon, Clerk

David Arguello, Member

ABSENT

Jim Kasiner, Member