

**McFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 14, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the McFarland Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday August 14, 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  
David Arguello, Member  
Rey DeLeon, Clerk

**Absent**

Marin Ortega, Jr., Vice - President  
Jim Kasiner, Member

**Student Board Members**

Ivan Marquez

**Absent**

Israel Guerrero

**Staff Present:**

Gabriel McCurtis  
Rolando Perales  
Maria Salgado  
Yolanda Gonzalez  
Melissa Melendez  
Rick Sparks  
Kim McManaman  
Mary Williams-Smith  
Ty Bryson  
Ruben Ozuna  
Mario Torres  
Shirley Ritchey  
Ramon Gonzalez  
Ernesto Diaz  
Violeta Alvarez  
Numerous Others

Irene Melendez  
Smith Efada  
Sandra Espinoza  
Dalia Cordero  
Margie Perez  
Albert Melendez  
Roberta Burgh  
Cynthia Virrey  
Martin Schmidt  
Louie Gomez  
David Lopez  
Michelle Rubio  
Alma Davis  
Veronica Mello  
David Heredia

**Public Present:**

Arturo Munoz  
Marcos Padilla  
Alejandra Guerrero  
Others

Pastor Roy Mendez  
Nitasha Sawhney

**Public Communication**

Board President asked the community if anyone had any comments to make regarding the Closed Session agenda items.

Alejandra Guerrero from the Parents for Education group requested to speak regarding Administrator – teacher ratios.

## **Closed Session**

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:39 p.m.

## **Open Session**

The Board re-convened to Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

## **Report of Closed Session**

- A. No Action Taken
- B. No action taken
- C. Student # 0607-05 – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for re-admittance. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.
- D. Student # 0607-12 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello for re-admittance. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.
- E. Student # 0506-11 – Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for re-admittance. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.
- F. Student # 0607-25 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to Suspend Expulsion with stipulations and transfer to Alternative School. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.
- G. Student # 0607-26 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to Suspend Expulsion with stipulations and transfer to Alternative School. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.
- H. Student # 0607-27 – Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to Suspend Expulsion with stipulations and transfer to Alternative School. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

## **Action Items**

- A. Revision of Agenda of August 14, 2007.

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the agenda of August 14, 2007 with revisions. Revisions being Consent Agenda item 12 and New Business item E – being pulled for discussion. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

- B. Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2007 (Regular Meeting).

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the Minutes of June 19, 2007. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

## **Consent Agenda**

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-11 & 13-19. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

Item 6 – Resolution approved by a roll call vote. Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon for approval. Roll Call: David Arguello – Aye, Rey DeLeon – Aye, Ramon Melendez – Aye with two board members absent. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve item 12 with stipulations & conditions. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

1. Approval of Warrant Registers
2. Approval of Travel, Conference, and Related Expenses
3. Approval of Interdistrict Transfers for the 2007-2008 school year
4. Approval of Agreement – First 5 Kern and McFarland Unified School District
5. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – ALLIANCE and McFarland Unified School District / McFarland Family Resource Center
6. Approval of Child Development Contract for 2007-2008 – State Preschool
7. Approval of Kern County Substance Abuse Prevention Education Consortium/Partnership Participation 2007-2008
8. Approval of Technology Training for Teachers in August
9. Approval of 2007-2008 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs – Part I
10. Approval of Annual Food Services Agreement with Kern Avenue State Pre-School for the 2007-2008 school year.
11. Approval of Agreement Renewal with Total School Solutions – 2007-2008
12. Approval of Agreement with Advanced Micro Research 2007-2008
13. Approval of KCSOS Technology Services Agreement - 2007-2008
14. Approval of Replacement of Three (3) Maintenance Vehicles - \$44,342
15. Approval of School Services of California Fiscal Reports Renewal Contract - \$2,100
16. Approval of FRC Auditor for 2006-2007 – Darrell Harris - CPA
17. Approval of Agreement for Verification of Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and School Attendance
18. Approval to contract with Interquest Detection Canines of Central Valley
19. Approval of Job Description – McFarland Learning Center Vice Principal

### **Information and Proposals**

#### **A. Community Input**

None

The Oath of Office was administered by Board President to Student Board Member Ivan Marquez.

B. Superintendent's Report – Mr. McCurtis gave his report. He thanked the board. He stated he had been out of the country. He spent two weeks in Africa visiting Kenya and Uganda. He visited their school systems there and found that even though they are in the bush they have the same expectations, the high expectations for their children as we have here. In a future board meeting he will share a DVD that he put together regarding the trip. Upon his return he met with the school board in a Study Session. They came up with the district's Mission and Goals. He gave the District Goals for 2007-2008 and read the Mission statement. "The mission of the McFarland Unified School District is to accelerate student performance through great teaching and great learning. In order to provide a quality education to the students of McFarland, this school district adopts the following goals: \*Accelerate gains in student

achievement, \*Recruit, hire and retain highly qualified teachers, \*provide quality staff development opportunities with an emphasis on great teaching and great learning, \*strengthen partnerships with parents and community, \*provide safe, secure and well maintained schools, \*maintain a balanced and fiscally responsible budget with emphasis on student achievement. These are the goals, the 2007-2008 goals from the school board along with the Supt. in consultation with our consultants that worked with us. These will be placed in every school. We'll make sure that the goals and objectives are placed there. The teachers are going to get a smaller version for their classrooms. On Friday when we meet with our teachers they will also be given a copy of our goals. Our Strategic Plan, although as the board we set the goals, the Strategic Plan will come from the community, which will include parents, teachers, and other people that provide input; the stakeholders of the district. So, as we're working on this Strategic Plan there's going to be a lot of discussions with those that are impacted by the Strategic Plan. That is what we did in terms of our goals." The Supt. also wrote a letter to the staff and community members which he read. "Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year. I am excited to serve as the new Superintendent of the McFarland Unified School District. In December of 2006 McFarland Unified School District embraced a new beginning by electing two new school board members. The new Board of Trustees and I are excited about the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead for the students of McFarland Unified School District. The School Board and I have a primary focus of accelerating the academic performance of all students. In a recent board study session, the board of trustees and I met to establish the goals for the 2007-2008 school year." He stated that the mission and goals were previously read. He continued, "During the summer months the district has hired many new highly qualified employees. McFarland High School and Middle School both have new principals that have years of experience which enable them to provide quality instructional leadership for our students. Many of our veteran teachers and new teachers attended trainings over the summer that will help to accelerate student performance through great teaching and great learning. District Level Directors have been hired to oversee Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction. With the experience that they bring to the district, I am sure that student achievement will be enhanced. We now have a Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation that comes with 27 years of experience. Also, a former MOT Director Rolando Perales has acted as a consultant for our district in many areas of Maintenance and Operations. Through their leadership four new portables at Kern Avenue School are in place, new basketball courts at Kern Avenue and Browning Road Elementary schools are being prepared for our students to enjoy and our classrooms are being prepared to receive the most important people of McFarland; our students. As I have told you in past correspondences I believe that teamwork is necessary if we are to accomplish the goal of moving McFarland from being a good school district to becoming a great school district. It is my belief that it takes teamwork to make a dream work. Some of the issues that we have facing us this school year are listed as follows: \*Negotiating a fair and fiscally responsible contract with both the teacher's union and the classified union, \*Increase student scores district-wide in order to exit our year three program improvement status, \*Planning for the new elementary school to alleviate the over crowded conditions at Kern Avenue School, \*To develop a district wide strategic plan with the input of teachers and community members of McFarland. As we enter the 2007-2008 school year, the school district is committed to working with all stake holders and community members in an open and collaborative manner. We have implemented interest-based bargaining in the collective bargaining process so that we can work toward win-win solutions as we negotiate. We welcome community input as we make decisions on behalf of the students of McFarland Unified School District. You are encouraged to participate in your child's education by attending all school related functions. You are also invited to attend board meetings in order to be better informed about the exciting things that your child will be experiencing in the upcoming school year Sincerely, Gabriel McCurtis Superintendent. This letter is going along with this brochure that every child will receive the first day of school. It will go home and it's letting the community know we are interested in the welfare and well-being of all the

children of McFarland. Also, Mr. Board President and Board members, we have some new administrators that I would like to present and hopefully get all these names straight. Also, we have some teachers that attended a conference that would like to report on it. First all district administrators, please stand. They are Kim McManaman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction 6-12; Maria Salgado, Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-5; David Lopez, Director of Information Systems; Mary Williams, Director of Special Education; Roberta Burgh, Principal of MMS; Margie Perez, Interim Director of FRC; Sandra Espinoza, Director of Migrant Education; Martin Schmidt, Principal of MHS; Louie Gomez, Vice Principal of KA; Ty Bryson, Principal of KA, Smith Efada, Director of Ed. Options and Child Welfare/Attendance; Dr. Mario Torres, Principal of BRS; Michelle Rubio, Vice Principal of BRS. These are our new people. Also, we have an Interim Director, Sean McGinn, he is our Consultant, but he is a certified CBO and he's pinch hitting for us till we fill that position. So these are our people helping us this year. Also, during the summer we had teachers and administrators go to a Differentiated Instruction Seminar in Las Vegas." He had Mrs. Salgado present the teachers to come up and make a presentation.

2. Differentiated Instruction – Alma Davis a Teacher at Browning Road School thanked the board for allowing them to attend the conference. She commented that it was an exciting conference and two to four sessions filled their day. They learned so many things. The main thing they learned is that children learn in different ways and so they must teach in different ways. If they can make this happen as a school district you will see the difference in the classrooms. One of the most exciting things she and Lynn Campbell (also a teacher at Browning Road School) attended was a session on Singapore Math. They are the best in Math in the whole world. Two teachers go there each summer and they came back and put together an eight method way for them to teach the children word problems. They are excited about this and think this will be a great supplemental program to work with all children but especially the English Learners, all getting a handle on word problems. Lynn Campbell also thanked the board for allowing them to attend the conference. She stated that she learned so much and would be using it in her classroom. She also commended Teresa Arvizu on the three trainings they attended this summer. They were fantastic and so impressive. She thanked the board for being so supportive of their professional development and added that they will see results in the classroom. Juan Ramon Gonzalez also thanked the board for the opportunity to attend. He attended several sessions on websites to use with staff and students using different technology tools in reading, math and language to use in the classroom. Again he thanked the board. Ty Bryson Principal of Kern Avenue added that from the administrator's standpoint he wanted to reiterate how valuable it was and the variety of things they talked about and the variety of things available to them. They had things for administrators and for teachers. He did want to emphasize that regarding a power point presentation they have been working on at Kern Avenue and will be presenting it on Wednesday at the staff training. He invited the board to come and see it. They have worked very hard on it and it is very impressive. Louie Gomez Vice Principal of Kern Avenue also spoke regarding the conference and that when he signed up to attend he was a teacher and it was very interesting to be involved in this and learn different ways to teach our kids. Now standing in a different position as administrator to be able to share this with teachers and to have them be able to use this in their classrooms. He thanked the board for the opportunity to attend.

Superintendent McCurtis continued: "So you see Mr. President and Board Members, our goal is to accelerate student performance by great teaching and great learning. Differentiated Instruction is one of the methods that will be used in order to accelerate learning. We don't want to just increase learning this year we want to accelerate learning. We know we're a year three program improvement district. In McFarland Middle School we're year 5. We have to make accelerated gains. We have to put our money where our mouth is. At the end of this year if we don't produce, there is a possibility that the State or County Supt. of Schools can come in and take this district over. We are being proactive not

reactive. We don't want that to happen. You see the people that we've got here now. We have highly qualified, highly trained professionals and we are working. If you'd seen us last week, I had all the

principals all the district administrators set goals and objectives in a Management Advance not retreat because we're moving forward. We set goals and objectives for each area that I presented. Accelerated gains in student achievement, what does that look like at the school site? One of the goals at the high school, that the high school principal gave me is, he wants to begin to have a culture where teaching begins at the bell and ends at the bell. A lot of lag time, we can't have that. Every minute counts. We talked about highly effective staff development when we're dealing with student data to make decisions. We had a person come from the International Group and say we don't just need to make movements in between the bands we have to have our students, many of our students jump from band to band, put our emphasis behind all students. We have to make movement and we will make movement and when in dealing with my administrators I don't ever want to hear, "we might" I'm saying we can do it and it will be done. Our inservices; its important that we come in on time, we present good model teaching and instruction and we want to see that in the classroom. And I believe when this year ends; when we take our STAR test and all the political things are done, you're going to find out that we've made some movement. We never said that McFarland was not a good district. McFarland is a good district. We're saying that we're moving from good to great. Mr. Sparks invited the Superintendent and many of the district administrators, we had our new teachers and our veteran teachers that came and met us here in the spirit of camaraderie. Interest Based Bargaining is part of the spirit of camaraderie and all the other things, you see the teachers here, the administrators here. We have to work together hand in hand with open lines of communication because we're all interested in our children here. And so with the spirit I see that's going on today coupled with; we want to get the teachers the best, nicest collective bargaining agreement that they can possibly get because highly paid, well paid, good teachers is the foundation of what takes place. It takes teachers in the classroom to teach our students and when people are paid and when they're appreciated and when their basic needs are taken care of, you will find out it will transfer into the classroom to learning. Even though you might see that we say, provide, recruit, hire and retain highly qualified teachers. The reason why we say teachers is because it's in the classroom that counts. But we're not just looking at teachers, it's district-wide and we talked about everything that goes on in this district is the support for student achievement. We talked to the MOT director, we said if a child gets on a clean bus with a nice bus driver, that's the beginning and gets to school in a timely manner and when you meet a friendly crossguard, secretary, nurse, etc. to get the kids up to the classroom, that's the beginnings of learning. When they get in the classroom, the night custodian should have cleaned that classroom with excellence. And when that teacher comes in that classroom is clean and the students are ready to learn. When these things are happening everyday and in the cafeteria they're getting a well-balanced meal everyday all these support student achievement. Thank you Mr. President.

### C. Board Member Reports

David Arguello – None

Rey DeLeon – None

Ramon Melendez – Thanked the staff members for attending the conference and for their reports. That's what they like to see. That the information that they learn at the seminars and conferences is brought back to share with other staff that maybe couldn't attend and hopefully they can use this valuable information and spread it out to the whole district. It's going to take a team effort to get back to the level that we should be. This is a good district so let's get back to it. You are all team players and that's what it's going to take so we can educate our students.

## D. Reports

1. MTA – Rick Sparks gave the report for the McFarland Teacher's Association. He stated that he was in Philadelphia this summer and had heard many of the same things. As educators we should all be on the same page. He wanted to thank all who came out to the luncheon and he was so excited at the turnout of teachers and it's the second year they've tried to include everybody. They do it for staff and new teachers and had tremendous success. The smiles on people's faces and the good feelings that were in the room today reverberated as he brought in the food. He just wanted to say thank you very much. He is here in an extremely positive attitude about the new year and what they can do together despite all the things and all the misgivings and whatever you may call them. His goal is to continue to make this the best school district possible and to work together with everybody. He stated, "With that being said that is our report. We're looking forward to getting started with negotiations next week." They want to get together with Nitasha before she goes surfing in Australia and so they're looking forward to that. He continued, "I spoke to Sean regarding money things and that's not quite ready yet but that's ok, we've got a lot of things we can work on and deal with on our contract. I look forward to a great year and a great relationship.

## 2. CSEA – None

3. Summer School – Sandra Espinoza gave a report on the Elementary and Migrant Summer School. She gave a power point presentation on the District Summer School in which she stated that it consisted of Kindergarten thru Fifth Grades. They had a total of 13 regular classes (K-5<sup>th</sup>), 1 class of Special Education, 2 classes of GATE. Extreme Learning had 5 classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Migrant Summer School consisted of 14 classes (Pre-K -8<sup>th</sup> grade). Attendance for District Summer School was 300 students and for Migrant Summer School was 240 students. Extreme Learning had a total of 50 students. Total count for all was 590 students. Summer School Curriculum consisted of Reading – Great Source and Lit Art, Math – Excel, and Writing – Step Up to Writing and Thinking Maps. The Reading Goal for Migrant and District Summer School was that by August 1, 2007, the far below basic, below basic and basic K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students who attended summer school with a minimum attendance rate of 17 days would show an overall growth of 10% in reading skills as measured by the reading pre-post assessment that is aligned to the California content standards. The results showed an increase average of +17% overall. The Math Goal for Migrant and District Summer School was that by August 1, 2007, the far below basic, below basic and basic K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students who attend summer school with a minimum attendance rate of 17 days will show an overall growth of 10% in basic math skills as measured by the Math Excel pre/post assessment that is aligned to the California content standards. The results showed an increase average of +18% overall. Reading results for Extreme Learning for grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grades showed an average increase of +16%. Math results for Extreme Learning for grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grades showed an average increase of +12%. Summer Activities included Attendance Incentives: weekly perfect attendance recognition, Perfect Attendance Awards & Raffles. Student of the Week awards were given one per class each week and those students received an award and ice cream. There were 25-30 students recognized weekly. Also included in the Summer Activities were Author Matthew Gollub who gave a presentation to students, Kern County Art's Council, GEMS activities, and Mini Corp Puppeteers. The Support Staff included 2 Summer School Secretaries (1 district 1 migrant), 3 Intern Counselors (2 full time and 1 part time), 4 Instructional Aides (2 pre-school, 1 kinder, 1 special ed.), 2 Crosswalk Guards, Custodial and Cafeteria staff along with numerous volunteers. She thanked the board.

**Presentations (no action)**

1. Eminence Counseling Service was unable to attend and was tabled to the September Board Meeting.

**Action Items (cont'd)**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Public Hearing**

- A. Public Hearing on the McFarland Unified School District's Initial Proposal to the McFarland Teacher's Association was opened at 8:07 for input from the community.

Public Hearing closed at 8:09 with no public input.

- B. Adopt McFarland School District's Initial Proposal to the McFarland Teacher's Association

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Rey DeLeon to approve the Proposal. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

- C. Public Hearing on the McFarland Unified School District's Initial Proposal to CSEA, Chapter #186 was opened at 8:11 for input from the community.

Public Hearing closed at 8:12 with no public input..

- D. Adopt McFarland Unified School District's Initial Proposal to CSEA, Chapter #186

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the Proposal. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

- E. Approval of Personnel Register

This item was pulled from the Agenda

- F. Approval of Agreement with Pinetop Presentations – Steve Knagg - Speaker

Motion made by David Arguello, seconded by Ramon Melendez to approve the Agreement with Pinetop Presentations – Steve Knagg - Speaker. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

- G. Approval of Course of Study and Textbook Adoption for Pre-Algebra Grades 7 & 8

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello to approve the Course of Study and Textbook Adoption for Pre-algebra Grades 7 & 8. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.



H. Approval of Shade Structure for Browning Road

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello for approval of shade structure for Browning Road. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

**Advance Planning**

A. Future Meeting Dates

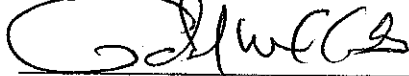
Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello. to approve the next regular meeting date of September 11, 2007. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Rey DeLeon, seconded by David Arguello., to approve adjournment of meeting. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

Board President adjourned meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gabriel McCurtis, Interim Superintendent

*Absent*

Ramon Melendez, Board President

ABSENT

Marin Ortega, Jr., Vice President



Rey DeLeon, Clerk



David Arguello, Member

ABSENT

Jim Kasiner, Member