

**Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Minutes
Special Board Meeting (Closed Session)**

March 10, 2003

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in special session at 6:05 p.m., on the above date at the District Office Board Room, 700 Pacific Street, Monterey, California and via telephone conference at Maui Kamaole, 2777 S. Kihei Road, Kihei, Hawaii.

The meeting was called to order by President Troutman.

Board Members Present: Robert Eggers
 Resa Foss
 Regena Lauterbach
 Shanda LeBoeuf
 Carlos E. Noriega (via telephone conference)
 Marjorie Troutman
 Daniel Villa

Staff Members Present: Jim Burnis
 Daniel Callahan

The President declared that a quorum was present and the Board proceeded with the order of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maria Buell, representing the Monterey League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council, said it was her understanding that the Board was about to decide on a major decision that will impact and affect the entire school district. She questioned the impropriety of not having announced the meeting to the public in a timely manner. Ms. Buell felt the community should be able to provide input when it comes to major decisions. She reminded the Board that they had voted and approved paying off the state loan in open session and she questioned any actions that might be taken in closed session. Ms. Buell said the bottom line is what's best for the students as a whole, and urged the Board to keep her comments in mind as they proceed in whatever efforts they are about to undertake.

In response to President Troutman's question regarding when the special meeting announcement was posted and the purpose of the meeting, Dr. Callahan said the meeting announcement was posted on the District website and intranet e-mail system, and faxed to the local newspaper and television stations well beyond the 24-hour notice requirement. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss anticipated litigation with the District's attorneys.

Carlos Ramos, Monterey LULAC chapter member, expressed support for the efforts of the Board, Superintendent, and staff and said the confidence level in the community is building through their hard work. He referred to the special Board meeting and said from a public relations point of view, it caught him and other people by surprise and that many wanted to attend the meeting. He said there is a mechanism that allows public input and acknowledgement of some of the issues, and there is a perception that calling the special meeting may portray a lack of cohesiveness among the Board members or that there is a gap between the Board and administration. Mr. Ramos spoke about the importance of community involvement, internal team building, and the consistency of communicating with the public. He urged the Board to consider these factors and to be aware that the public is watching and looking forward to rebuilding the school district for the betterment of its students.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:10 p.m. to conference with and/or receive advice from legal council regarding anticipated litigation, and reconvened at 8:45 p.m. to take the following action:

No reportable actions were taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Callahan
Executive Secretary

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