

**Regular meeting of the Governing Council  
Mission Valley Regional Occupation Center/ Program  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

**In President Ray Rodriguez's absence Vice President Jenn Stringer called the meeting to order at 4:25pm.**

Present: Jenn Stringer, Vice President  
Larry Sweeney, Clerk

**Approval of Agenda:**

*Vice President Jenn Stringer made a motion to approve all items on the March agenda. Member Larry Sweeney made a second to approve the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve all items on the agenda.*

**Communication:**

**a. Items from Staff:**

Superintendent Brown shared the ACOE letter received by MVROP. This letter is the response of ACOE review of MVROP's salary increase proposal.

Superintendent Brown informed the board that there was a State Allocation Board meeting to take place on March 26, 2008 to approve Prop 1D first round funding. It is likely that MVROP projects will be approved for funding. We have contracted with Underwood and Rosenbloom to complete a topographical survey. Superintendent Brown then announced that MVROP will go through a selection process for architect services. Since interviews for architect firms will not take place until April 17, 2008, there is a need to reschedule the April 16, 2008 meeting to April 23, 2008.

MVROP held an Open House on March 13, 2008. It was well attended by the community, with over 150 people in attendance. Some classrooms were heavily visited while others were not. There was a pre-recorded video presentation by Superintendent Brown that was broadcasted over the TV network so that it played in every classroom. Superintendent Brown was very proud of all the hard work that was dedicated towards the event by many staff members. He made special mention that the Video Production students who filmed his message were very talented and professional. At the end of the evening, a reception was held where visitors could visit with all instructors and administrators while enjoying refreshments. Vice President Stringer hoped that the outtakes for the filming of Superintendent Brown's talking head message were saved to be used for a future roasting.

Other events that have taken place include the Irvington High School/ Lam classroom dedication that took place today (March 19, 2008). Superintendent Brown was very impressed by the powerful partnership that took place between IHS, MVROP, Lam, and SEMI and thanked Larry Sweeney for attending the event. He hoped that there will be many more partnerships like this one to come. Another event that was very successful was the Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design Fashion Show that took place on March 9, 2008 at the Newark Hilton Hotel. Superintendent Brown boasted that the room was at full capacity for the event. Some of the clothing were original student designs. The event also had a band playing during intermission which helped to keep the audience entertained. This show was a collaboration between the Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design, Construction Technology, and Video Production classes. It took many people to make this event a success and Superintendent Brown claimed that this was one of the best shows he had seen so far. He believes that this show will only continue to get better in the years to come.

Jim Omlid presented the sheds that are currently for sale built by the Construction Technology classes. Two sheds have been sold and there are three more that are available. Vice President Stringer suggested that if those final sheds do not sell that an ad could be placed in the Pennysaver. Jim shared that local businesses are working with him if there is an issue of not being able to sell all of the sheds.

- b. Oral Communication:**  
None
- c. Written Communication:**  
No comments made
- d. Items from the Board:**  
None
- e. Public Comments:**  
None

**Consent Calendar:**

*Vice President Stringer motioned to approve all items included on the Consent Calendar of the March agenda. Clerk Sweeney made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve all items on the Consent Calendar.*

**Business and Finance # 1**

**Approve Certification of Second Interim  
Financial Report**

Superintendent Brown informed the board that AB 2448 reduces growth ADA for high participating ROPs, such as MVROP, while increasing growth to low participating ROPs. MVROP will lose one-fourth of the growth it would have had before AB 2448, as a result of this legislation.

According to Marie dela Cruz, expenditures are 3% lower than what the 1<sup>st</sup> interim stated. Due to the Governor's proposed budget cuts, MVROP implemented a budget freeze in January. The purpose of this was to increase reserves for this year to help alleviate the cuts for next year. The overall ending balance is \$3.9 million, which is more than what was originally projected. This consists of: \$1.7 million for the Prop 1D projects, 8% for economic uncertainties, and \$261,000 undesignated. Marie shared that regarding the criteria and standards review, MVROP did not meet requirements in a couple of areas. This was partly due to the implementation of the budget freeze causing less spending in one area therefore changing the ratio in others. Clerk Sweeney inquired about the Alameda County due date being March 16<sup>th</sup>. Page two of the county letter was confusing to Clerk Sweeney and he asked for further explanation regarding property taxes and whether MVROP would be in deficit spending. Marie dela Cruz then explained that MVROP has provided documentation that MVROP actually received far more property tax income than had originally been projected, and that property tax revenue projections for the next two years were more conservative. Clerk Sweeney then commended Marie dela Cruz for always providing transparent records and documentation. MVROP has never received a negative audit and this was comforting to Clerk Sweeney. Vice President Stringer then added that in this current state of budget cuts in education overall, it is only through MVROP's due diligence that she can attend meetings where we are in good shape instead of discussing cuts. It is very heartening for Vice President Stringer to hear.

*Clerk Sweeney made a motion to approve Certification of the Second Interim Financial Report. Vice President Stringer made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the financial report.*

## **Business and Finance #2**

## **Approve Plan to Balance 2008-09 Budget**

Superintendent Brown informed the board that the objective for the 2008-09 budget plan was to save money but not effect what was taking place in the classroom. The Budget Advisory Committee met on February 27, 2008 where all parts of the budget were reviewed and given a large amount of support. The impact of step and column salary increases were considered as well as the 3.5% increase to the MVROP Building Lease. The budget plan includes reductions in various areas including: certificated FTE's (3.0), books and supplies (50%), travel and conference (50%), equipment rentals, repairs and maintenance, printing services, transportation, and postage. Lottery reserves will be used to support books and supplies (25%). This saved a total of \$941,000. Marie dela Cruz thought that there may be room to make adjustments for the final budget in June depending on the May revise.

*Clerk Sweeney made a motion to approve the Plan to Balance 2008-09 Budget. Vice*

*President Stringer made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the 2008-09 budget.*

**Business and Finance #3**

**Approve Increases to Salaries 2007-08**

Marie dela Cruz shared with the board that there was a year when most districts received a 10% salary increase when MVROP had not. This put MVROP behind and has forced MVROP to play catch-up when it comes to wages. Therefore, MVROP is asking for approval to increase salaries by 5.53% (4.53% COLA +1) for all employees. MVROP is confident that this can be done and still be financially secure. Marie dela Cruz stated that MVROP has the dollars in the 2007-08 budget and in the future as well. The projected cost of the increase is \$289,000. This will be funded by the revenue limit and excess property tax. The 2008-09 budget plan and salary increase go hand-in-hand, therefore, one cannot take place without the other. There still will be an 8% reserve for economic uncertainties; which is well over the required 3% minimum.

Clerk Sweeney stated that he struggled with this at first, but after reviewing how MVROP compared versus other districts and ROP salaries, he came to the conclusion that we must do what we can when we can. He also indicated that the extra information that was provided to him by Superintendent Brown and Marie dela Cruz was especially helpful in making his final decision to support the salary increase.

*Clerk Sweeney made a motion to approve the Increases to Salaries for 2007-08. Vice President Stringer made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the 2007-08 salary increase.*

**Board of Education #1**

**Approve Salary Increase for Superintendent 2007-08**

The salary increase for the Superintendent would be 5.53% which is the same as other certificated staff.

*Clerk Sweeney made a motion to approve the Salary Increase for Superintendent 2007-08. Vice President Stringer made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the 2007-08 salary increase.*

**The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 5:16pm.**

**The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 5:45pm.**

*Clerk Sweeney made a motion to approve amendments to the Contract of the Superintendent. Vice President Stringer made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the amendments to the Superintendent's Contract.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.**

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Ray Rodriguez, President

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Jenn Stringer, Vice President

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Larry Sweeney, Clerk