

**Regular meeting of the Governing Council
Mission Valley Regional Occupational Center/ Program
Wednesday, April 22, 2009**

President Ray Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Present: Ray Rodriguez, President
Larry Sweeney, Clerk

All Board Members and staff present introduced themselves to the room. Member Rodriguez made mention that the board meeting would have to be shorter than normal due to Member Sweeney needing to attend an FUSD Board meeting that same night. Superintendent Brown suggested that the Consent Calendar be moved to the top of the agenda so that items could be reviewed and voted on.

Approval of Agenda:

Member Larry Sweeney made a motion to approve all items on the April agenda. Member Ray Rodriguez made a second to approve the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve all items on the April agenda.

Consent Calendar:

Member Sweeney commended staff on the business plan that was presented in the board packet. He felt it was very organized, comprehensive, and that it was not an easy task to keep such a detailed document updated and transparent.

Member Rodriguez requested to pull the minutes from the Consent Calendar and to push them to the May agenda since there was only one board member present from the March meeting.

Member Ray Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, excluding the March minutes. Member Sweeney made a second to approve the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the Consent Calendar, excluding the March minutes.

Board of Education #1

Approve CTE Plan

Ms. Shelley Adams presented the CTE Plan to the Board. The purpose of a local Career Technical Education Plan is to provide Mission Valley ROP with a comprehensive blueprint for improving the size, scope, quality, and delivery of its CTE programs during a five year planning period from 2008-2012. This plan is a living document that will be revisited regularly, and revised or updated as necessary to ensure its effectiveness as a directional instrument.

She explained that the CTE Plan had been approved by the Governing Council last May. Since then articulations from colleges such as Mission and Ohlone College have been added to the document. This is the final draft of the plan. This plan, once approved,

will be sent to the local Governing Boards of local colleges in the area, as well as all local school boards, in addition to the Alameda County Office of Education to meet the AB 2448 mandate.

Member Rodriguez stated that he would like to have Ms. Adams present the power point presentation she had prepared for today's meeting at the May meeting. Ms. Adams agreed to do so.

Member Larry Sweeney made a motion to approve the CTE Plan. Member Ray Rodriguez made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to approve the CTE Plan.

Communication:

b. Oral Communication:

Dr. Dhana Uppula, MVROP EKG Instructor, presented information about the EKG course to the Board. Dr. Uppula explained that the EKG course, offered at MVROP since 2006, is a two-quarter class with 24 hours of class instruction and 120 hours of on-the-job training at Kaiser Permanente. Through internships students acquire real world experience in patient care, improve competencies with on-the-job training, create opportunities for employment and promote the possibility of careers such as a Cardiovascular Technician and Technologist. The Fall 2008 EKG course fees were \$495 per quarter. Spring 2009 EKG course fees were \$895 per quarter. Even after the fee increase, the EKG course had a full course of students registered. MVROP anticipates the EKG course fees will increase to over \$1000 per quarter for the 2009-2010 school year. Class requirements include: possession of a high school diploma/ GED, mandatory immunizations, passing basic English & math skills tests, and interest to work in the health industry. Students in the course are training for an entry-level job position as an EKG Technician/ EKG Monitoring Technician. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to take an exam for certification as an EKG Technician by the National Health Career Association. Entry level pay can be \$20 to \$28 per hour, Technical level positions pay anywhere from \$28 to \$35 per hour, and professional level positions can earn \$35 to \$45 per hour.

Dr. Uppula then introduced Marcelo Ruiz, a graduate of the MVROP EKG program. Marcelo was a student in the EKG Program from 2006 to 2007. Marcelo had always known he wanted to work in the medical field, only he was uncertain about what area he would specialize in. Marcelo was adamant that the MVROP EKG course opened many doors for him and as a result changed the direction of his life. He is now an employee of Sutter Health in the Roseville Cardiology Program. He is the first Cardiovascular Sutter Health employee to travel between hospital sites. Marcelo is hoping to continue his medical education by pursuing anesthesiology.

d. Items from the Board:

None

e. Public Comment

Member Ray Rodriguez explained the public commenting procedures and conduct rules to the audience. He added that each speaker would be called by Ms. Aldinger and would have an opportunity to speak for 3 minutes total. Ms. Aldinger would give signals to help speakers understand how much time they would have remaining.

Speaker #1

Mr. Wendell Arnold, owner of Fremont Beauty School, addressed the Board by saying that Fremont Beauty School has maintained a great success record since 1968. He went on to say that many graduates from the school have gone on to be owners of their own businesses. He held up a paper in front of him to say that there are many students that will be affected by MVROP's decision to discontinue the Cosmetology Program. He stated that he understood that the economic downturn and the State's education cuts had hurt schools statewide. However, he stressed the fact that the high school students would be unjustly punished for MVROP's budgeting decisions. Mr. Arnold then urged the Board to please reconsider discontinuing the Cosmetology Program. He then said that he was available any time for questions and gave his contact information to the Board.

Speaker #2

Johanna Caêco, a Fremont Beauty College student, urged the Board to help her stay in school. She said that the increase in fees would be too expensive for her to pay. She requested for the MVROP Board to help her continue her education.

Speaker #3

Shanna Davis, mother of Savannah Davis, a senior high school student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, requested that the Board please consider how many hours students have put towards their schooling. Her daughter has given up all of her free time to study and complete the required hours. She did not understand how MVROP could validate their decision. She felt that MVROP should finish what they started and to reconsider their decision and instead lead by example.

Speaker #4

Cynthia Gillie, is a new student at Fremont Beauty School. When she attended the recent MVROP informational meeting, the audience was told about AB 2448. However, she added that the school has known about this legislation since 2006 and that the school has had ample time to meet the requirements of this legislation. She stated that a lot of students had enrolled in the program in 2009 under the premise that it would be paid by MVROP. She went on to say that the legislation's requirements to reduce

adult enrollment must be cut to 50%, then 30%, and by 2010 it must be reduced to 10%. Ms. Gillie stated that there is still time for currently enrolled students to graduate before MVROP cuts its adult population to the required 10%.

Speaker #5

Melissa Guzman, shared that she has a background in real estate. But due to the declining market she was forced to seek an alternative career. She currently is on unemployment and is enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program. Ms. Guzman was upset that MVROP has made the decision to eliminate the Cosmetology program when there are so many individuals that are experiencing financial difficulties. She expressed her shock that MVROP would think that this would be an easy program to discontinue in comparison to others. Ms. Guzman pointed out that each Board member and all MVROP staff present at the meeting had benefited from a Cosmetologist and that the trade is very much in demand even in a faltering economy. She also added that she signed up for the program under MVROP funding and that she feels that the contract should be honored. She felt that many students would not be able to pay the non-ROP prices for the program and that will result in people having to drop out of the program. She then requested that the Board reconsider their decision. Ms Guzman finished by stating she only desires to finish her training and get into the work field once again.

Speaker #6

Abdullah Majeed, an adult student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, expressed his concern about his present situation. Like most people, Mr. Majeed does not have an income or a job. The job market is very limited and he has had a very hard time finding employment. This is why he enrolled in this program. He wants to finish school and be able to find a job.

Speaker #7

Paige McCutcheon, a high school student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, expressed her objection to MVROP discontinuing funding for her course. Ms. McCutcheon shared that she had given up all of her spare time, holidays, nights, and weekends to complete the required course hours. She has worked very hard, harder than most of her fellow students at her home school, to finish the Cosmetology course. If MVROP does go ahead with the proposed cuts, she will lose all the time that she has put into this class. If she wanted to pursue this career she would have to start from scratch, from the very beginning. She put this mass amount of time into her studies so that she could be ready to go straight to work following high school graduation. MVROP is taking away this opportunity for her. Ms. McCutcheon pleaded for the Board to reconsider cutting the MVROP Cosmetology Program and help the current students finish.

Speaker #8

Alina Rodriguez, an adult student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, pleaded for the Board to not cut the Cosmetology Program. Ms. Rodriguez shared that she was collecting unemployment because she has been unable to find work. She is also taking night classes. She cannot afford to pay additional fees for school due to her financial situation. She requested that the Board help currently enrolled students finish the program so they can get into the work field.

Speaker #9

Jandice Stevenson, an adult student in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, shared that she is a single parent. She has a medical background, however, she chose to pursue cosmetology because her family has a strong background in cosmetology. She did her research and learned that Fremont Beauty School had a very reputable success record in the business. Ms. Stevenson's cousin also enrolled in the program with her on February 23, 2009. Their business plan was to start a shop once they had completed the course. Ms. Stevenson shared that she currently was working two jobs while attending school. She has dedicated a lot of time and hard work into her studies and can say the same for her fellow students. She felt that students like herself, who plan to open businesses, would help the economy recover and then requested for the Board to reconsider their decision.

Speaker #10

Rey Tostado, an adult student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, stated for MVROP to "not trip over a dollar to save a dime." He felt that students from this program would bring money back to Fremont and provide skilled employees. He stated that the students would unite and do anything to make sure the Cosmetology Program's funding would not be cut.

Member Rodriguez then stated that he had attended the MVROP Informational meeting that was held for Cosmetology students. He felt that there was a lot of accurate information that was provided at the meeting for students and their families regarding the budget cuts. He also shared that he had also met with the Superintendent and Mr. Arnold regarding the program's funding. Member Rodriguez stressed the fact that MVROP did not want to discontinue funding for any of their programs. These decisions are not easy to make and are not to be made light of. California is suffering from an extreme deficit and has made wide-spread cuts to education, as well as other areas, to help balance that deficit. The nation-wide economic downturn also has not helped matters. In addition to the information that we have today, we are waiting to hear more about the May 19th ballot initiatives. If these initiatives do not pass, education can expect even more cuts. Unfortunately, this is the reality for education funding. We are all waiting to see what will happen in May. Only then

will we have more answers and a clearer picture of what is to come. Member Rodriguez then asked for the next public comment speaker to come up.

Speaker #11

Nicole Correia, a junior high school student currently enrolled in the Cosmetology Program, expressed her concern about the announced funding discontinuation for Cosmetology. She shared that her family has been experiencing great financial hardships and that she would be forced to drop out of the program if funding was cut. As a junior she has no options and this is extremely frustrating since she has put so much into the course. Ms. Correia pleaded for the Board to reconsider discontinuing funding for the Cosmetology Program.

Speaker #12

Tania Kirm, a senior high school student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, shared that she had given up a lot during the course of this class. She had missed out on all of the fun senior activities because she had been working so hard to complete the course. She has also been attending night school to speed up the timeframe in which she could complete the hours required by the course. She has a passion for cosmetology and looks forward to pursuing her career in this field. Ms. Kirm shared that this is a career move for her and a great opportunity that she fully has been taking advantage of. She asked that the Board reconsider their decision to cut funding for the Cosmetology Program.

Member Rodriguez reiterated that during public comment speakers are allowed to speak once for a maximum time limit of three minutes. Although Ms. Gillie had already spoken once, member Rodriguez allowed her to add to her previous statement.

Speaker #4 continued

Cynthia Gillie, a new student at Fremont Beauty School, added to her previous commentary by thanking the Board for allowing students the opportunity to comment on the budget. She also thanked the Board for bringing back the budget to the May meeting. She also stated that she understood that there are budget cuts and that there are requirements by Assembly Bills. Her hope for future meetings is that more information will be available. She then closed by thanking the Board and staff for including students in the process.

Member Rodriguez then stated that staff and Board members are in communication with California legislators. The overall budget cuts to education have affected everyone from State Colleges, local community colleges like Ohlone College, down to local school districts. This unfortunately is a cycle and we must do everything we can to get through this part of the trend. He also stressed the fact that the issue of budget cuts

is not a “Board versus staff issue” and that the staff at MVROP are doing everything in their power to serve students in this challenging time. Member Rodriguez finished by saying that the MVROP staff is second to none and that they are a very dedicated group of individuals.

Speaker #13

Kathy Lau, a senior at James Logan High, is currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program. She shared that she has given up all of her time in order to complete this course. She has not been able to spend time with any of her friends or family since starting this course. She went on to say that she does not want to work at McDonalds for the rest of her life. Her family has been working in the Cosmetology business for many years and it is her goal to do the same. She pleaded for the Board to reconsider cutting funding for the Cosmetology Program.

Speaker #14

Ahjena Wieler, an adult student currently enrolled in the MVROP Cosmetology Program, stressed the fact that students who are in the program signed a contract. She stated that MVROP needs to honor this contract. The budget cuts are going to affect everyone. She followed this by questioning why Dublin ROP students are receiving funding for their Cosmetology Program and not MVROP students. She asked for MVROP to honor the contract.

Member Rodriguez addressed Mr. Arnold to return to the podium. He asked Mr. Arnold to share what he had just said to a student in the audience. Mr. Arnold responded that even if high school students were to win the lottery, Fremont Beauty College would not be able to take them into their program. This is because they are in high school. Fremont Beauty College can only admit adults outside the MVROP program. This will affect four juniors and twenty-one senior high school students. These students would not be able to come back until they are adults. This would be approximately one year later, and by then, all of the training and skills they had learned up to that point would be lost. So this decision really leaves no alternatives for high school students.

Member Rodriguez stated that there will be another Governing Council meeting on May 20th at 3:30pm at the same location as today’s meeting. The budgeting item from March will be brought back for discussion in the May meeting and possibly even the June meeting pending the results of the May election.

Member Sweeney commented that Board Members cannot hold business on items that are not properly agendized. He then complimented the audience on their decorum, behavior, and preparation for the day’s meeting. He expressed that these decisions are very difficult for all parties involved and that further discussion will take place in the May meeting.

He finished by saying he hopes for the same conduct and attitude for future meetings.

Member Rodriguez concurred with Member Sweeney's sentiments and added that funding decisions are never taken lightly. He then added that he enjoyed having everyone addressing the Board. Member Rodriguez then closed public comment.

Public comment was closed at 4:30pm.

Board Requests:

Member Rodriguez inquired about the possibility for MVROP staff to hold another public meeting for the Cosmetology students and their families. Superintendent Brown shared his concern surrounding the fact that MVROP would have no new information to present to the audience if another meeting was held. This factor may only cause students and their families more frustration and the meeting could hurt communication with the public rather than reinforce it.

Member Rodriguez requested a five minute recess.

The meeting was adjourned to Recess at 4:38pm.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 4:43pm.

Superintendent Brown then suggested a letter could be sent out to all high school Cosmetology students regarding any funding proposals before the next Governing Board meeting in an effort to keep everyone informed and up to date. This information would be part of the usual updates that would be given during Items from Staff at the May meeting. Member Sweeney responded that he felt this would be appropriate for the current scenario.

Member Rodriguez echoed that he felt it was important to keep students apprised of what staff was doing to try and resolve the situation. Superintendent Brown responded that he understood Member Rodriguez's concern. He then added that staff was presently working on any other schooling options for students affected by the cuts. This includes researching about local beauty schools that may accept PELL grants. Superintendent Brown informed the Board that this information could directly compete with the services that Fremont Beauty School presently offers. Member Rodriguez responded that he wanted students and their families to have all pertinent information in order to offer them as many options as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 4:45pm.

Member Rodriguez suggested that the June Governing Council meeting date be added as a Board of Education agenda item for the May meeting.

Member Larry Sweeney made a motion to agendize the June Governing Council meeting date for the May Governing Council meeting. Member Ray Rodriguez made a second to the motion. Members voted 2-0 to agendize the June Governing Council meeting date for the May Governing Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46pm.

Ray Rodriguez, President

Kevin Harper, Vice President

Larry Sweeney, Clerk