

**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Minutes**

July 18 and 26, 2001

Duplicate Board of Education workshop meetings were held on Wednesday, July 18, 2001, and Thursday, July 26, 2001, from 5-6:30 PM in the Board Room of the District's Administrative Offices, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, California.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting of July 18, 2001, was called to order at 5:05 PM by President Tom Pratt. Members present were Brownley, Gottfried, Jordan, Leon-Vasquez. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jordan. There were no public comments.

The meeting of July 26, 2001, was called to order at 5:07 PM by Pam Brady. Members Brady and Escarce were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Escarce. There were no public comments.

Reflective writing prompt: Identify three (3) goals for the district and indicate how you would know they had been achieved. At each meeting the goals were shared; many Board members shared one or more goals; they included:

- A. Increased fiscal conservancy
- B. Improved student achievement
- C. Advanced leadership action through understanding, compassion and passion
- D. Sticking to our (Board's) guns/ goals
- E. Narrowing achievement gaps
- F. On-going growth based on core values
- G. Developing a cohesive district plan so everyone acknowledges and understanding the ramifications of critical issues
- H. Community-wide two-way communication

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Superintendent Deasy gave an overview of the American educational reform movement, from its roots in the country's agrarian society to today. He traced the following movement:

- A. from mass marketing to customerization
- B. from bureaucracy to customer service
- C. from "You come to me" to "I'll come to you and I'll deliver" and,
- D. (Relative to failure) from shame and blame toward no excuses, challenge-solving action

At each meeting, each Board member was given a Board Self-assessment form, *Climate for*

Teaching and Learning, with the request to indicate his/her personal viewpoint of in which quadrant the district currently ranked. Superintendent Deasy also completed the form. A copy of the form is attached hereto and made a part hereof of these original Minutes.

The ten (10) areas are:

1. We model the core values and beliefs of our shared vision in our work as a school board
2. We provide a policy framework that is built on trust and mutual respect between the board and the staff.
3. We survey parents and students regularly to determine client satisfaction with our school district.
4. We align staff authority and responsibility so that decisions are made the level closest to implementation.
5. We foster a culture that promotes the highest expectations for achievement in all students.
6. We create a climate that values and celebrates student achievement as the top priority of the district.
7. We encourage staff to risk failure as well as success as part of the continuing challenge to improve student achievement
8. We encourage student to take risks by enrolling in more challenging courses\
9. We have clear policies that establish safe schools and promote orderly, positive learning environments
10. We maintain school facilities that are designed and equipped to promote the highest student achievement for all students.

The areas of achievement are

1. Fully achieved
2. Mostly achieved
3. Partially achieved
4. Beginning to achieve

Generally, the greatest percentage of responses in both meetings were in the mid-range; the board members assessed themselves more harshly than did the Superintendent. It was generally agreed that the Board, as a role model for the district, can and will work diligently toward modeling those core values and shared beliefs that set the leadership tone for the district.

Questions that were determined to be always important to meaningful, on-going self-assessments include but are not limited to:

1. What culture does our community set for our classrooms?
2. How does the Board measure staff respect?
3. Is there evidence that we/SMMUSD/the Board regularly surveys for CLIENT satisfaction?
4. If the surveys are done, what happens to the findings? WHO is paying attention?
5. How do we develop and demonstrate a climate the recognizes all stakeholders?
6. How do we encourage everyone to "play with the margins?"

7. How do we create an environment in which risk-taking is acceptable if it's linked to improving student achievement?
8. How do we know how and what we know and if we know that's enough?

Mr. Deasy also distributed the following handouts, which are attached hereto and made apart hereof of these original Minutes:

- *Board Effectiveness Feedback* form - with the request that the Board perform regular self-assessments following upcoming Board meetings
- *Leadership for Student Learning: Restructuring School District Leadership*
Institute for Educational Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2001

IV. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting of July 18, 2001, was adjourned at 6:35 PM in a motion by Mrs. Leon-Vasquez, seconded by Mrs. Gottfried.

The meeting of July 26, 2001, was adjourned at 6:27 PM in a motion by Mrs. Brady, seconded by Dr. Escarce.

These meetings adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education which will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2001, at 7PM in the Board Room of the District's Administrative Offices, 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica.

Approved:

President: _____

Secretary: _____

Date: _____