



678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA
October 9, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Executive Council: Estella Dunn, Loretta Spence, Richale Babbs, Annette Lee

Members: Pamela Merritt-Bennett

Parent Ambassador: Richale Babbs

Visitors: Uday Bali

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chair Dunn with prayer by Annette Lee. Secretary Babbs reminded membership that the meeting was being recorded.

Pledge: The pledge was led by Chair Dunn.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Adoption of Agenda: M/S by Annette Lee and Pamela Merritt-Bennett to “**accept the Agenda as presented.**” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes: M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Richale Babbs to “**accept the September 11, 2025 minutes with the addition of the worksheet handout of the MBPSB goals for 2025-26.**” Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Chair Dunn reported expenses of: Website, \$29.00; P.O. Box, \$210.00; Staples-copies, \$19.07; Staples-copies, \$5.41; Parking for Conference, 8.75; Fuel for Conference, \$58.95; Parking for Conference, \$7.50; Auntie’s-meeting meals for August, \$300.00; Auntie’s-meeting meals for September, \$375.00. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Richale Babbs to “**approve meals up to \$400 per month for 11 meetings**”. Motion carried. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Annette Lee to “**accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.**” Motion carried.

Presentation: Uday Bali of Bali Tutoring presented on how he got started and the goals he has for his tutoring business. He wants to create educational opportunities in Merced for the students. He trains his tutors to improve the academic skills of the students and to become good role models, also emphasizing the importance of academic rigor and basic skills in tutoring, citing improved grades and test scores as evidence. The center has grown to employ 75-100 tutors, tutoring over 25,000 students.

Board Meeting and Other Reports: The Chair reported she and Loretta Spence attended the Central Valley Movement Building Organizing Institute conference in Modesto in September. There were no reports from the Vice-Chair, MUHSD, or Atwater School Board meetings. Richale Babbs reported on Board meeting for MCSD. Chair Dunn attended the Weaver Board meeting but left the meeting early because of feeling ill.

MBPSB General Meeting

October 9, 2025

Page 2

Other discussions:

Unknown speaker discuss issues with signing in at meetings, including lack of volunteers and illegible email addresses.

- Speaker mentions specific individuals, including Mr. Herschel Thompson and Nicole, whose email addresses were difficult to read.
- Idea of creating a sign-in sheet for children at meetings is proposed.

Organizing career fair for high school students.

- Unknown Speaker discusses organizing a career fair for high school seniors and juniors.
 - Speaker mentions inviting representatives from various trades and industries to meet with students.
 - Speaker questions whether school counselors are doing their job effectively in informing students about scholarship opportunities.
 - Unknown speaker discusses scholarships for seniors, mentioning 47 available scholarships.
 - Parent and student advocate Brandy Ruiz is asked to inform students of available scholarships.
- Scholarships for African American students, including Delta and NAACP opportunities.
- Unknown speaker discusses scholarship opportunities for African American students.

Scholarships, career fairs, and outreach to African American organizations.

- The speaker is concerned about the lack of representation of scholarship providers at a local event.
- The speaker suggests involving African American tutoring programs and deltas to provide information about scholarships.
- The speaker wants to draft a letter to contact these groups and encourage them to participate in the event.

College scholarships, career fair, and application deadlines.

- Unknown speaker discusses reminding parents and students about upcoming events, including a career fair and scholarship opportunities.

College preparation and scholarship opportunities for African American students.

- The speaker discusses their daughter's potential college options, including Merced College and the armed forces.
- The speaker wants to contact African American groups, such as the NAACP and Deltas, to provide scholarship information to their youth.

Vocational training options for high school students.

- Unknown speaker discusses vocational training options for high school students in Merced, CA. Starting a scholarship and career program for pastors.
- Unknown Speaker discusses naming a scholarship and career event, deciding on a date (January 8) and considering a name.
- Unknown Speaker mentions contacting organizations for help with the event, including Armed Forces.

Career scholarships for high school students.

- The speaker discusses the need for vocational training and work experience for high school students.
- The speaker wants to know how the high school district is engaging with students and their career development.

Scholarships for high school students, including African American organizations.

- Unknown Speaker discusses scholarships for high school students, seeking information on organizations that provide them.

MBPSB General Meeting

October 9, 2025

Page 3

Contacting various groups for career scholarship event.

- Unknown Speaker plans to contact various groups for career scholarship day, including Deltas, Socialites, NAACP, and restorative justice.
- Unknown Speaker will also contact Miss Pam and Miss Loretta for assistance with contacting beauticians and other individuals.

School updates, town halls, and community engagement.

- Speaker considers holding a meet and greet session in December to introduce the Black Parallels program. After-school programs, and teachers.
- Parent discusses their child's experience in after-school programs and the importance of having a black teacher.

Police interaction with a black child in a school setting.

- Unknown speaker discusses past incident involving SRO and student in Merced.

Suspensions and special education assessments in a school district.

- Unknown Speaker discusses a student's suspensions and IEP, mentioning CDs and community day school.
- Speaker shares concerns about district's responsibility to assess suspected disabilities.

Website Update: No update as Vice Chair Spence is still collecting information.

SB 19 Update: No new information to report.

Aides to help with children: Annette Lee said her granddaughter has expressed interest in the position.

December Year-end Update/Listening session: It was decided to do this at the end of the school year.

Know Your Rights workshop – To be decided later.

Next meeting on November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richale Babbs, Secretary