



678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA  
August 14, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

**Attendees:** Richale Babbs, Roosevelt Dean, Shirley Winzer, Allie, Carolyn Smith, Randall Dunham, Pamela Merritt-Bennett, Annette Lee, Estella Dunn, Lola Smith, Loretta Spence, Herschel Thompson, Freda Allen, Aaliyah Smallwood, Joyce Dale

**Opening Prayer** by Rev. Roosevelt Dean.

**Pledge** was led by Estella Dunn

**Agenda:** M/S by Loretta Spence and Richale Babbs to “**adopt agenda as presented**”. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett to “**adopt the Minutes for June 12, 2025 as presented**”. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

June 2025 – Income: Donation, \$1 from E Dunn; Expenses: website, \$29; Action Computers \$25; Staples, \$83.19; FoodMaxx, \$109.68; Dollar Tree, \$21.75; Save Mart, \$61.98; Staples, \$37.24; WalMart, \$625; Derrell’s Mini Storage, \$646.45; Collette Farris, \$900.

July 2025 - Income: \$0; Expenses: website, \$29; Staples, \$41.14; WalMart, \$140.14; WalMart, \$75.68; Dollar Tree, \$37.99; Dollar Tree, \$10.83; Costco, \$135.26; Dollar Tree, \$115.59; WalMart, \$35.78; Walgreens, \$4.86; E Dunn, \$1,465.28.

### **Presentation:**

Joyce Dale, Merced’s Poet Laureate, presented an anti-bullying initiative focusing on parental impact on children’s behavior, sharing personal experiences and requesting collaboration with MBPSB.

Ms. Dale emphasized the connection between negative home environments and later incarceration, citing prison visits and speaking engagements

Board members acknowledged the message's importance for changing perspectives on bullying origins

## Board Meeting & Other Reports

### School District Reports

- Merced City School District: Two African American organizations (Restorative Justice and HPEC) received funding after lengthy approval process
- SYR Summer program at Tenaya served 50 students (goal was 200) with music production and DJ training, including professional producers
- Transportation and safety measures provided for participants with positive community feedback

### Parent Listening Session Results

- 51 children attended MBPSB back-to-school event with comprehensive parent feedback collected
- Major concerns identified: drug sales at schools, teachers not recognizing struggling students, racial tensions between Latino and Black students, biased suspension policies
- Additional issues: inadequate IEP implementation, need for more Black teachers/mentors, N-word usage on campuses, demanding football coaches
- Problems with perfect attendance recognition, lack of proper disciplinary notifications to parents, need for social building on campus

### Legislative Alert - SB19

- Critical warning about Senate Bill 19 making threats a misdemeanor offense, potentially criminalizing children's playground disputes
- MBPSB submitted opposition letter citing disproportionate impact on African American students
- Bill expected to reach the governor's desk October-November timeframe, with schools reportedly unaware of legislation
- Valley Continuation School now accepts students as young as fifth grade, representing concerning trend in school-to-prison pipeline

### Goals and Strategic Planning

- Elections scheduled for next meeting (September) with nominations due by August 28th for chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and executive council positions

- Goal for 2025-26: Focus on high suspension rates affecting African American students, who represent 13% of district but suspended at 3.5 times the rate of peers
- Proposal for quarterly community events to provide positive reinforcement and reduce suspension rates
- Success story shared about focused Black students in eighth-grade geometry class demonstrating positive role model impact

#### Website and Future Initiatives

- Website development ongoing with Ms. Loretta taking over coordination responsibilities
- Discussion of expanding restorative justice programs from middle schools to K-8 grade levels
- Concern raised about potential elimination of Department of Education and impact on special education funding

#### Action Items

##### Ms. Loretta

- Contact website developer to resolve outstanding questions and move forward with website launch

##### MBPSB Executive Council

- Develop specific action plans for addressing high suspension rates rather than just discussing the issue
- Create quarterly community events to provide positive reinforcement for students

##### All Members

- Submit nominations for board positions (chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, executive council) by August 28th
- Attend upcoming SB19 meetings to stay informed about legislative developments

##### Unassigned

- Investigate and research Valley Continuation School accepting fifth-grade students

#### Next MBPSB Meeting

September 11, 2025, 6:00 PM

Adjournment at 7:40 pm

Minutes recorded by Richale Babbs, Secretary