



678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA
September 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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

Members: Roosevelt Dean, Shirley Winzer, Pamela Merritt-Bennett, Lola Smith, Herschel Thompson, Shannon Wilcoxon, Nicole Carrasco, Meagan Collier, Charlie Bennett, Theresa Pulliam

Visitors: Shalayya Thompson, Taylor Thompson, Shawnta Adams, Jasmine Benson, Jayla Doxy

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Chair Dunn with prayer by Rev. Roosevelt Dean. 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 Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Annette Lee to “**accept the Agenda as presented.**” Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes: M/S by Richale Babbs and Meagan Collier to “**accept the August 14, 2025 minutes as presented.**” Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Chair Dunn reported expenses of: Website, \$29.00; Staples-copies, \$24.68; Parent Engagement-\$4,950.46; Donovan Owens-Scholarship, \$2,000.00; Estella Dunn-reimbursement for ink cartridge, \$51.95. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Shirley Winzer to “**accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented**”. Motion carried.

Board Meeting and Other Reports: There were no reports from the Chair and Vice-Chair, or MUHSD, Weaver or Atwater School Board meetings. Richale Babbs reported on Board meeting for MCSD.

Election of Officers: The slate of Officers and Executive Council for Merced Black Parallel School Board 2025-2027 are: Estella Dunn, Chair; Loretta Spence, Vice-Chair; Richale Babbs, Secretary; Annette Lee, Executive Council. The Office of Treasurer is vacant, and applications are being accepted by those interested in the position. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Rev. Roosevelt Dean to “**accept the Slate of Officers presented for the Executive Council for 2025-27.**” Motion carried.

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

SB 19 Update: No new information to report.

Goals for 2025-26 – SROs - Secretary Babbs will be meeting with Superintendent Stocking on October 3 at 10:00 a.m. regarding funding for the SROs. Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Annette Lee have agreed to attend with her.

Action Items

- [] Meet with Merced City School District administrators to discuss SROs and how they are being funded
- [] Explore partnering with Cal OES to address concerns around SROs and school safety
- [] Investigate how other districts are funding SROs, potentially from sources other than LCAP
- [] Develop questions to ask the district about how they identify marginalized students and what resources the SROs are providing
- [] Consider hosting a student town hall meeting to get direct feedback from students on school policies and experiences
- [] Explore setting up a parallel data collection system to track discipline disparities and suspension rates

Discussion on School Resource Officers (SROs)

- The board discusses the role and funding of SROs, with concerns about their impact on marginalized students and the use of LCAP funds.
- Richale Babbs highlights the need for trauma-informed officers and adequate parent advocacy.
- The board considers the potential negative impact of SROs on student-officer relationships and the importance of proper training and community involvement.

Parental Involvement and School Site Councils

- The board emphasizes the importance of parental involvement in school site councils and board meetings.
- Richale Babbs suggests that parents should be educated about available programs and advocacy opportunities.
- The board discusses the need for more parental representation in school site councils to influence budget decisions and improve student support.

Future Goals and Responsibilities

- The board reviews their current responsibilities and considers adding SROs to their agenda.
- Richale Babbs presents a document summarizing the board's responsibilities and suggests potential new goals, including data collection and community engagement.
- The board discusses the need for additional resources and support to handle new responsibilities effectively.

Community Input and Announcements

- The board opens the floor for community input, with various members sharing their thoughts on the meeting and the importance of their work.
- The board acknowledges the contributions of community members and expresses gratitude for their participation.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder of the importance of continued advocacy and community involvement in supporting educational initiatives.

Next meeting on October 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richale Babbs, Secretary