



P.O. Box 241  
Merced, CA 95341  
March 13, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Estella Dunn, Pam M. Bennett, Charlie Bennett, Annette Lee, Richale Babbs,

**Visitors:** Jason Cincotta, Rocio Canchari, students at Merced College

**Opening/Prayer:** Meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:07 p.m. by Estella Dunn, Chair and prayer was led by Annette Lee.

**Introduction:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**Adoption of Agenda:** M/S by Richale Babbs and Annette Lee to “accept the agenda as presented with addition of the introduction of the Ambassadors and their parents.” Motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes:** M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Charlie Bennett to “accept the minutes as presented for February 13, 2025.” Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Lacey was absent. No report.

**Presentation:** None

### **BOARD MEETING REPORTS:**

#### **CHAIR REPORT - Chair Dunn reported on her activities for February 2025.**

- 2/4/2025 Attended UDW AA Affinity Group & Community Meeting
- 2/13/2025 Attended MBPSB General membership Meeting via Zoom
- 2/20/2025 Attended E-Council meeting via Zoom, then met with the parent about a complaint
- 2/25/2025 Met with MBPSB Team regarding LCAP
- 2/28/2025 Team and I met w/Mandy Ballenger of MUHSD regarding LCAP

**MUHSD – No Report.**

**MCSB –** Annette Lee and Richale Babbs attended the meeting. Richale reported they spoke about a Bond oversight committee. Priya mentioned that the committee needed diversity, but they approved of the members. Report – demographic data for pupil services. 3 social workers district wide. The African American Chronic absenteeism has increased.

**AESD -** No report.

**WUSD –** No Report.

## MBPSB General Meeting

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**Website Update** – The website is coming along. **In-person meetings** – We hope to start meeting in April. **Economic Blackout** – Economic Blackout: League of Women Voters, NAACP sponsored. Discussion – Agreement. Ms. Pam to write up what we are sending members and dates. We are in support of this as it relates to our goal of diversity, equity and inclusion. **Bullying Policy** – Pamela M Bennett asked those interested in drafting a Bullying Policy to sign up. Richale Babbs and Kahri Boykins are interested. SB 19 Safe schools and places of worships act (big push to get people to write in about). Oppose. This bill will Prosecute anyone who makes a threat on a school campus. Will result in disproportionate accusations and consequences criminalizing youth who don't really mean threats. **Sacramento BPSB Trainings** – The Sacramento BPSB are having trainings on various topics to help our parents and children. Shared with attendees to attend if they can. **LCAP meetings** – Ms. Pam announced the dates of the upcoming LCAP meetings for Merced City and Merced High districts. **Introduction of Parent Ambassadors** – Richale Babbs was the only attendee as a Parent Ambassador. Annette reported she, Mrs. Bedina Smith, along with the PTC of Don Stowell Elementary School put together a Black History Program. They had a Raffle, food sales, the Board of Trustees – McCutcheon, Lakireddy, and Delgado attended. There were also Praise dancers, a play, a swim team standout gave inspirational talk and Chair Dunn did "Merced Black History Trivia" and gave out \$5 gift cards to the winners. It was a very diverse group. On February 21, 4 E. Council and 4 Parent Ambassadors attended Dr. Slaton's book signing. **Bylaws** – The Bylaws was presented, reviewed and voted upon for approval of the changes. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Annette Lee to **"adopt the changes in the Bylaws of Article 1, Section 3 as shown in document displayed."** Question was put to members if we should vote by an individual count to accept changes. The count was as follows Dunn-Yes; Pam-Yes; Charlie-Yes; Richale-Yes; Annette-Yes; Aaliyah-Yes. Motion carried. M/S by Pamela Merritt-Bennett and Charlie Bennett to **"adopt the changes in the Bylaws of Article 3, Section 1 as shown in the document displayed."** Question since we have all voted in the affirmative to approve changes there is no need to do individual votes. It was a consensus, and the Motion carried. M/S by Annette Lee and Charlie Bennett to **"make the changes in the Bylaws of Article IV, Section 1 as shown in the document displayed."** Motion carried. M/S by Charlie Bennett and Annette Lee to **"adopt the changes in the Bylaws to Article IV, Section 3 as shown in the document displayed."** Motion carried. M/S by Richale Babbs and Annette Lee to **"adopt the changes in the Bylaws of Article IV, Section 7 as shown in the document displayed."** Motion carried. M/S by Charlie Bennett and Aaliyah Smallwood to **"adopt the changes in the Bylaws of Article IV, Section 9 as shown in the document displayed."** Motion carried. Chair Dunn dated each changed article and section 3/13/2025 and dated the end of the bylaws with 3/13/25.

### Community Input:

Jason, Merced College – **Q.** They are doing a class project at Merced College. How can students, parents and educators get involved with MBPSB? **A.** Come to meetings. We do advocacy work around IEPs and 504s.

Rocio, Merced College - **Q.** What are some of the challenges that you face and how are you overcoming them? How do you stay motivated and engaged in the work. **A.** You must be passionate about the work.

Kahri – Parent involvement is a systemic problem that all educational facilities are struggling with.

Aaliyah Smallwood still wants to see video footage of the incidents that she doesn't remember the principal telling her about. Her kids said that they didn't do whatever it was. Ms. Smallwood wants some of the suspensions removed. Most of all she wants to thank the MBPSB for helping her get her children moved to her school of choice.

M/S by Richale Babbs and Annette Lee to adjourn at 8:18 PM

Next MBPSB Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Estella Dunn, Chair