



## Merced Black Parallel School Board

### Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8, 2025

Location: Merced Civic Center Sam Pipes Room

Recorder: Richale Babbs

### Meeting Opening

The meeting commenced with a heartfelt prayer for unity and divine guidance. Special emphasis was placed on welcoming the youth and fostering a collaborative, community-centered atmosphere.

### Pledge & Introductions

Members recited an oath committing to advocate for quality education for African American students. Founding members and community representatives introduced themselves, including: Estella Dunn, Loretta Spence, Pamela Merritt-Bennett, Charlie Bennett, Carolyne Smith, Richale Babbs, Tonjinae Walker, Shirley Winzer, R Herschel Thompson, Roosevelt Dean, Thereasa Pulliam, Louis Smith, Budina Smith, Annette Lee, Lavelle Winzer.

### Agenda Review & Approval

Agenda was adopted with the inclusion of:

- LCAP Update
- Voucher Standing Rule Proposal

The minutes from the previous meeting of April 10, 2025, were reviewed, with a correction to remove a name from a sentence. After a lengthy discussion regarding the verbiage, the Minutes were tabled for further corrections.

### Treasurer's Report

Reported by: Estella Dunn

Summary of Expenditures (Feb–Apr 2025):

**Feb Expenses:** #1367 \$50, LFH Space Rental; \$29, Website; #1368 \$322.33 Estella Dunn, MLK expenses; Staples \$39.49, 1&3 hole punch; #1364 \$180.23 Ed Lacey, Mileage; #1369 \$1,000 Myson Dean, Scholarship; #1371 \$75.05 Annette Lee, Food for Allensworth Trip; #1370 \$700 Loretta Spence, Space Rental; **Mar Expenses:** \$29, Website; \$100 Walmart gift cards; \$159.90 Zoom; \$154.73 Sam Pipes Rental, Deposit & Service Fee; **Apr Expenses:** \$29, Website; \$21.85 Dollartree, Items for dinner; \$45.65 SaveMart, Items for dinner; \$33.84 Smart & Final, Items for Dinner; \$61.98 SaveMart, Dinner meal; \$116.81 Custom Teez, T-shirts for Parent Ambassadors; \$51.52 Fuel, Trip to CVMB conference; \$20.01 Staples, Vouchers; #1372 \$350, Sam Pipes Rental.

Concerns Noted:

- Clarity and timing of certain reimbursements
- Website project delays
- Members requested printed financials at future meetings

## School & Educational Reports

### Rivera Elementary Data:

- African American Suspension Rate: 6.7%

- Chronic Absenteeism: 34%

Board discussed discriminatory discipline concerns and emphasized the need for stronger parent participation in School Site Councils.

### Parent Engagement:

- Parent ambassadors praised for supporting tutoring, diversity, and academic interventions.

## Committee and Program Updates

### Bullying Committee:

- Committee formed to address student bullying and disciplinary equity

- Members to submit contact info for scheduling (proposed meeting dates: May 12, 13, or 15)

### LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan):

- Ongoing efforts to recruit African American teachers, including:

- Outreach to HBCUs in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Georgia

- Hiring a liaison to cultivate relationships

- Partnerships with CASA and other statewide recruitment networks

- Barriers noted: salary disparities and cost-of-living concerns

## Legislative & Policy Matters

### SB 19 Opposition:

- Board strongly opposed SB 19, which criminalizes minor student threats and disproportionately impacts African American youth

- Similar concerns raised over AB 68 related to police presence in schools

- Action to be taken: formal opposition letters sent to legislative offices

## Administrative Business

### Secretary Appointment:

- Richale Babbs appointed as Acting Secretary effective immediately through September's formal election

### Voucher Standing Rule:

- Approved and adopted

- Key Guidelines:

- Submission deadline: within 4 months

- Required info: event type, date, hours, members involved, purpose

- Goal: improved financial accountability and transparency

### Action Items

Item	Responsible Party	Deadline / Notes
Assume Secretary duties	Richale Babbs	Immediate
Website/Google Calendar Update	Estella Dunn	Status report due next meeting
Bullying Committee Coordination	Interested Members	Submit availability (May 12, 13, or 15)
Scholarship Process Review	[Designated Committee]	Present report at next board meeting
Back-to-School Event Planning	Ms. Annette + Parent Ambassadors	Draft plan: resources, schedule, activities
Voucher Rule Implementation	All Members	Begin using new process; enforce 4-month rule
LCAP & HBCU Recruitment Strategy	Full Board	Share progress next meeting
SB 19 Legislative Opposition	[Legislative Liaison or Chair]	Distribute official position to state reps

### Community Events Planning

- Juneteenth Participation: Tentative date – June 21, 2025; aims to increase visibility and share resources
- Back-to-School Drive: Provide backpacks, school supplies, and restorative justice workshops

### Closing Remarks

Reminder to sign in and submit updated contact information  
Acknowledgment to all participants for their commitment and collaboration  
Emphasis on accountability for unresolved action items

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm