

MINUTES
VICTOR VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Board Room--Administration Building
Victorville, California

September 17, 2002

3 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of the Victor Valley Community College District met in special session on September 17, 2002, in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Dennis Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Debby Blanchard led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Henderson, President; Thomas M. Elder II, Clerk; Maxine Moore, Bettye Underhill, Jennifer Menser, ASB Representative.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dorothy Franke, Vice President

STAFF/GUESTS PRESENT: Fay Freeman, Linda Cera, Jack Thomas, Mitchell Greene, April Lexion, Robert Sewell.

AGENDA ADDITIONS,
REVISIONS:

Public Comments: Debby Blanchard distributed a packet containing a section of the Ralph M. Brown Act regarding closed session action, reports, and public records. She wanted to share it so that we can all see and understand what the board is voting on in closed session. She read the first paragraph with directions on how to report out action and said she is hoping to further educate the board and public on what needs to be done in closed session. Ms. Blanchard also distributed a Website where the entire Ralph M. Brown Act can be found. She disseminated a copy of an August 20 article where the Ventura Community College board discussed a pay raise for its chancellor in closed session and is now being pursued by a community group.

Maxine Moore arrived at 3:07 p.m.

Tom Elder said he wished to report that on September 10, 2002, in closed session an error was made by the board in relation to 54956.9 by not reporting on the vote after the board came out of closed session. A claim was reviewed in closed session and voted on by the board. The claim from Mrs. Henderson was received by the district. A motion to reject the claim was made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Underhill. The motion to reject the claim was rejected by a 2-2 vote, Elder and Franke voting not to reject the claim. Vice president Franke presided over the motion; Mr. Henderson had recused himself and left the room during the discussion.

BREAK

3:09 p.m.– 3: 15 p.m.

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CLOSED SESSION

The board moved to closed session to discuss public employee performance evaluation: interim superintendent/president.

BREAK 3:50 p.m. – 3:57 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened to open session at 3:57 p.m.

ACTION AS A RESULT
OF CLOSED SESSION

Dennis Henderson announced there was discussion of Section 54957, public employee performance evaluation, superintendent/president, interim, on a motion by Tom Elder and seconded by Maxine Moore, and after some discussion, it was decided that Dr. Freeman be returned to her regular position at the college, starting September 18, 2002, at 8 a.m. The vote was 4-0. We want to discuss a replacement.

Tom Elder said the board's plan is to "rent" an interim president; we don't have to go through a search. Dennis Henderson directed Ms. Peterson to call PPL and check as soon as possible to get ideas on how soon we can get an interim.

Presidential Search

Consultant After discussion it was MSC (Elder/Underhill, 4-0) to select PPL as the search consultant for both the temporary president and "real" president.

Mr. Henderson said his personal choices were PPL and Community College Search Services—whichever is cheapest.

Deborah Blanchard suggested further investigation to see how various colleges liked their choice after the search was done. Judy Peterson said that was already done. The colleges she talked with felt their results were good. Her choice would be PPL. Suggested the board may want to entertain using a search consultant for part of the search—the rest could be done internally by the HR Department. It would be beneficial for the board to consider hiring a liaison that would be used by the board, the search firm, and the interview committee.

Dennis Henderson suggested we hire an investigator to go back to the school before candidate's present school and get a full picture. According to the Brown Act, the board has to be able to rely on an administrator to tell it what is happening. We need someone above-board to tell what is going on. He would like to see the president on board in June to help forming his/her cabinet.

Debby Blanchard asked for clarification if the committee of constituents would still be involved in the selection process or if it would be done by the consultant. Dennis Henderson confirmed that was the function of the committee.

Mitch Greene asked if the search company could also get an HR director because two days a week is intolerable.

Dennis Henderson wanted to go on record, thanking Mrs. Freeman for her work in the last eight months and wish her the best in returning to her job.

Tom Elder reiterated the long hours and the work she's done for us but now we're ready for a different kind of move.

Betty Underhill said she feels for Fay, it's a hard thing to happen. But she just came in a little over her head. I couldn't do as well as she has done and I have all kinds of background.

Maxine Moore said she thought she has done well. There have been some things lacking in her experience that have handicapped her in this position. We do appreciate her for all that she has done.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Jones, Ed.D.
Secretary

APPROVED:

President

Clerk