

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2015, District Office 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members: President Ken Durrant, Vice President Mark Farmer, Neil Carrigan, Ted Taylor, Ron Blunck, Student Board Member Jacob Rice

District Staff: Superintendent Doug Jacobs, Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll, Secretary Denise Rich

Other Staff and Patrons: Terry Allen, Tim Wolff, Quinn Fowers, Jaxon Fowers, Heidi Andreasen, Ron Litchfield, Lanelle Butterfield, Lydia Nuttall, Jennie Earl, Wade Murdock

Board Meeting:

Welcome: President Ken Durrant welcomed everyone. Ron Blunck led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the prayer.

Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Vice President Mark Farmer made a motion to approve the agenda, minutes of the September 8, 2015 Board Meeting, personnel changes, accept the budget report, treasurer's report, payment of claims for September in the amount of \$1,066,990.88 and the school reconciliation reports.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Nobody signed up to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Employees/Volunteer of the Month

Morgan High School Principal Wade Murdock honored Dallin Hardy, social studies teacher at MHS and Jana Brown, head secretary at MHS as employees of the month.

Enrollment

Superintendent Jacobs said there are approximately 65 new students in the district as of October 1, 2015.

District Data Report

MGES Principal Heidi Andreasen said Morgan School District scored above state averages in language arts (state 44% district 49%), math (state 45% district 53%) and science (state 47% district 58%).

Principal Data/Improvement Plan Presentations

MHS Principal Murdock said MHS English Language Arts students in grades nine and eleven scored slightly below state average. He said they will be spending time on the scope and sequencing of the curriculum to learn what areas are focused on within the core. Eleventh grade students will be taking English for a full year instead of only two trimesters.

MHS math students scored above state average in Secondary I Math and tied the state average in Secondary II Math. Secondary III math students scored slightly lower than state average but that particular math course work is designed for students who are on a college prep plan. Until this year, Principal Murdock said there were no options for students who were not on a college track.

MHS students scored higher in science than state average.

Vice President Farmer would like assessments from teachers.

MMS Principal Allen said students in grades seven and eight scored above state average in English Language Arts, math and science. Sixth grade students scored below state average in English Language Arts and math but higher than state average in science. Principal Allen said four sections of study skills classes have been added to the schedule to help students for general learning purposes. He said den time and study hall time are providing additional one-on-one help for students.

MES Principal Wolff said students in grades four and five scored higher than state average in English Language Arts and third graders scored the same as state average. Grades three, four, and five scored higher than state average in math. Science scores in grade five were higher than the state average and slightly lower than the state average in grade four. Principal Wolff pointed out specific areas to address such as increasing instructional support.

Mountain Green Elementary fourth and fifth grade students scored above state average in science. Third, fourth and fifth grade students scored above state average in math and English Language Arts. Principal Andreasen said enrollment growth is the problem not achievement.

Reading and English Language Arts classes have been divided giving students additional time in each subject. Help with math is available to both parents and students.

Business Administrator's Report:

Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll said the audit is finished. The financial reports are being prepared. The auditors will present their findings to the Finance Committee in November. She said Alio, the financial program the district is using, has improved.

Discussion Items:

Transportation – Additional Buses

Superintendent Jacobs is recommending the purchase of another new bus this school year because of increased enrollment and the addition of bus routes. The new bus purchased earlier this year has arrived and board members will have the opportunity to see it after the meeting.

Transportation Supervisor Ron Litchfield said the new bus will accommodate three students to one seat. It is equipped with seat belts and has a heavy duty lift to accommodate large wheelchairs. He said the fleet is old and because of high mileage on buses they are more costly to maintain. He anticipates adding an additional route next year because of the growth in the Mountain Green area.

Ron Blunck asked to have the purchase of an additional bus on the agenda for the November board meeting.

Vice President Mark Farmer would like Mr. Litchfield to provide information on the various options considered in making his recommendation.

Mr. Litchfield said it is a challenge when there is a bus that is not in running condition. Spring sports are very busy and there are also a lot of fieldtrips. More buses are needed.

He told board members the highway patrol inspection went very well.

Utah Core Standards – Language Arts Grades 3-4

MES Principal Tim Wolff said there is a significant difference in the third and fourth grade language arts. There is an instructional split in these standards.

Superintendent Jacobs said because of parent/teacher conferences being held tonight, he will invite third and fourth grade teachers to come and report at the November board meeting.

Policies DAC Background Checks, DACA Duty to Report

Superintendent Jacobs said the DAC Background Check Policy has been updated. It gives opportunity to background check someone once they have been selected for a position with the district. That individual is required to pay for the background check.

The policy says, “The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall require any prospective employee, or volunteer who will be given significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer’s assignment or, where reasonable cause exists, a current employee or volunteer must submit to a criminal background, and shall require the person to provide personal identifying information including: current name, former names, nicknames and aliases; date of birth; address; telephone number; driver license number or other government-issued identification number; Social Security number; and fingerprints for that purpose. That information has been put on the support staff application along with a new disclosure.

There were questions as to whether or not the application can ask a person’s age when applying for a district job.

Superintendent Jacobs said legislation for these changes doesn’t go into effect until 2018 and he will check to make sure the district can ask the applicant’s date of birth.

Vice President Farmer doesn’t feel it is right to ask employees to pay for their own background checks.

Superintendent Jacobs said Policy DACA deals with personal reporting of arrests and convictions. It is the employees’ responsibility to report to the district superintendent any matter involving arrests for alleged sex offenses, alleged drug-related offenses, or alleged offenses against the person found in Utah Code.

Both policies will be on the agenda for board approval next month.

Approval Items:

Policy ECH Human Sexuality

Ted Taylor said he talked to some individuals that had concerns with the content in the Supersize video and the Body Image video.

Student Board Member Jacob Rice said he watched the videos and thought they were good.

President Durrant said students have to opt-in to view this curriculum.

Vice President Farmer asked if parents know what they are agreeing to when they sign the opt-in form.

Superintendent Jacobs will make available to board members copies of those videos to view. He also reminded board members that there is a committee that reviews curriculum before students participate in it.

MOTION: President Durrant made a motion to table this item until next month.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ron Blunck.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

APPROVAL: The vote was unanimous to table the motion until next month.

Home School Applications

MOTION: Ron Blunck made a motion to approve the home school applications.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member School Visit and Committee Reports for September:

President Durrant visited the transportation department. He thanked Transportation Supervisor Ron Litchfield for everything he does for the district.

The recreation board has moved to a private entity with a one-year contract. Nobody has lost their job but they were rehired under a different heading. President Durrant is hoping the Board will function better. AYSO soccer and little league baseball will be under the umbrella of the recreation program.

Ted Taylor said the recreation program will improve and grow.

Vice President Mark Farmer met with MHS Assistant Principal Tyrel Mikesell. Responsibilities of the athletic director and assistant principal were discussed. Mr. Mikesell has delegated more athletic director responsibilities to the secretary and to the coaches. Teacher evaluations will begin very soon.

Mr. Farmer asked about the flip classes at the high school. Students attending flip classes would listen to the lecture online and then go to the classroom for labs and homework. Student Board Member Jacob Rice said flip classes work better for lower level classes than higher level classes such as AP Chemistry.

Mr. Farmer said the finance committee will be meeting with the auditors in the next few weeks.

Neil Carrigan said the Color Run activity was successful. A large number of participants came that hadn't registered ahead of time causing some confusion. The committee will meet to discuss ways to improve the activity for next year. Young Ford will be having a Trunk or Treat event on October 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Student Board Member Jacob Rice will provide volunteers from the National Honor Society to help with this event.

The DATC Career Path High School is doing better and placing students in the industry. The DATC Center in Morgan is also doing well.

He visited MES third grade and said enrollment is down to 26 students per class. The third grade teachers are doing a great job.

Ted Taylor attended training for new board members at the Zermatt Resort in Midway. He said the training was excellent.

He visited MGES and spent time with Principal Andreasen. The classrooms are overcrowded and there are a lot of homes under construction in that area. He feels the Board needs to expedite plans to remodel and/or build new buildings and stressed the importance of teacher input when these building projects begin. The Board needs to start now to look at new ideas and options that are not too costly.

Ron Blunck agrees. He said classrooms at the middle school are also overcrowded.

President Durrant likes the idea of involving teachers in the planning. He said they know what they need.

Vice President Farmer said it is not unrealistic to look at using portables.

Superintendent Jacobs said there is extra space in the old fifth grade building, four portables and space in the Trojan Center for additional classrooms. He will meet with principals and community council members to discuss options.

Ron Blunck visited MMS. He said Principal Allen is doing a good job with PLCs and remediation classes. He is impressed with the staff at the middle school. Overcrowded classrooms are the biggest concern. He said tables are being used in some classrooms because there is not enough space for individual desks.

Ron Blunck attended the USBA Academy. He said all board members would benefit from the training. There are tools for public involvement and he would like to organize a group of parents for the input process.

The curriculum committee did not meet this month.

Student Board Member Jacob Rice said students are requesting WIFI for their mobile devices.

Superintendent Jacobs said there is a concern over control and filtering. He invited Jacob to the next technology committee meeting to address this issue.

Jacob Rice said the counselors are too busy and suggested adding an additional counselor at the high school.

Superintendent Jacobs said funding is a big issue.

President Ken Durrant said board members are aware and are working to find a solution.

Advanced Planning for Upcoming Events:

Board member visits for November 10, 2015 board meeting

President Durrant – MHS, Vice President Farmer – MMS, Neil Carrigan – MGES, Ted Taylor – Transportation, Ron Blunck – MES

Closed Session:

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to move into a closed session to discuss personnel.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The roll call vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to move out of the closed session.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The roll call vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to go back into the open meeting.

SECOND: Vice President Farmer seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The roll call vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to adjourn.

SECOND: Vice President Farmer seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The roll call vote was unanimous to adjourn.