

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WORK MEETING AND BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 2, 2014, District Office 5:00 P.M.

Present:

Board Members: President Bruce Galbraith, Vice President Ken Durrant, Neil Carrigan, Jody Hipwell, Mark Farmer, Student Board Members Chandler Hipwell and Dietrich Streuber

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

Other Staff and Patrons: Heidi Andreasen, Gina Stuart, Kathy Nelson, Tim Wolff, Bruce Giles, Terry Allen, Shana Croft, Jadee Warner, Wade Warner, Jodi Warner, Representative Mel Brown, District 1 USBE Board Member Terryl Warner

Work Meeting:

President Bruce Galbraith welcomed everyone.

Board Review of Utah Core Math Standards for Fourth Grade

Jody Hipwell said a teacher from Mountain Green Elementary told her they would like more training on the math common core and a Morgan Elementary teacher would like additional resources.

Courtney Dougall, MGES teacher, said the core standards are going well. She is excited and encouraged because the test scores were higher than expected. She has had positive feedback from parents.

Superintendent Jacobs said the vocabulary in the math common core seems to be a higher level.

Morgan Elementary Principal Tim Wolff said there will be a step up in expectations of higher level thinking.

Review of Policies FGE, FHAЕ, FJ

Changes were made to the 4th paragraph of Policy FGE (Student Complaints.) It now reads: *The student may be represented by the parent or guardian or someone designated by the parent or guardian at any level of the complaint. If the student is age 18 the student may be represented by an adult of their choosing.*

After a short discussion board members agreed with the language change.

Superintendent Jacobs said #4 *The person is properly identified as an officer of the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS),* and #5 *The person is properly identified by the parent or guardian on the school admission form as an emergency contact,* were added to Policy FJ (Visitation on Campus: Students Leaving with Adult During School Hours.)

An employee of Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), by law, can go to a school and talk to a child without parental permission. They do bring a case paper when they visit a school to identify which student they will be talking with.

Superintendent Jacobs will include the state code in Policy FJ. He said the policy committee will discuss this in their next meeting.

Update on Building and Growth Plan

Mark Farmer said the Growth Task Force Committee is being encouraged to move faster. They are getting firm cost projections and comparing them with growth projections. The trigger points will be enrollment numbers not dates.

Superintendent Jacobs said it is safer to use a lower enrollment number than the projection given by the state.

Mark Farmer said there will be a meeting next week and the possibility of a report summarizing their findings will be available in January or February.

Preliminary 2014-2015 School Calendar Options

Superintendent Jacobs said the two calendar options are very preliminary. The calendars will be given to employees for feedback. The option chosen will be brought back to the board for discussion in January and approval in February.

One comment was that people would like spring break scheduled over Easter.

Kathy Nelson said she talked with teachers that prefer spring break the end of March or the first part of April so it doesn't interfere with year-end testing.

Vice President Ken Durrant showed a box full of notes received by the transportation department over the past two months. The notes were from parents requesting special bus privileges for their children. The buses are at capacity and this puts a heavy burden on bus drivers. He would like a work meeting to discuss this issue.

Transportation Director Ron Litchfield said there are some busses that are well over capacity. In other districts notes to ride a different bus are not accepted – no exceptions. Students have to ride their designated bus to and from school. He said assigning seats drastically reduces problems. He has left the decision of having assigned seats up to the individual drivers. Those that have seat assignments have liked it.

Vice President Durrant said there is a possibility of more students riding buses when winter comes.

Superintendent Jacobs reminded him there is a transportation committee that meets quarterly and they are working on solutions to problems. They have talked about different options and setting a timeline to start implementing the change. The committee will meet in January and expedite their recommendation for a solution. The committee may have to meet more often than quarterly.

Vice President Durrant said the massive number of notes made him more aware of the problem. He is also concerned about retired bus drivers not getting paid the salary they were making at the time they were employees. He said this needs to be addressed.

Superintendent Jacobs said all substitutes in the district are paid the sub rate whether they have previously worked for the district or not.

Superintendent Jacobs said the Transportation Committee will provide board members with information addressing the problem of students riding busses who are not eligible or who are asking to ride other buses.

MHS Drama Trip (tabled from last meeting)

Principal Murdock said the drama teacher has decided to shorten the length of the drama trip to only one day to attend a conference at BYU. Board approval is not needed for a one-day trip.

He also told board members that the trip to Denver for the FFA students has been cancelled. That trip was approved by the board at the last meeting.

The work meeting concluded at 5:55 P.M.

President Bruce Galbraith welcomed everyone to the board meeting. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the prayer.

Consent Agenda

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the November 11, 2014 board meeting and the financial expenditures for November. The motion was seconded by Vice President Durrant and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No one signed up to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Morgan Elementary Principal Tim Wolff honored Debbie Carter, fourth grade teacher at Morgan Elementary School and Lori Bice, head custodian for Morgan Elementary School as Employees of the Month. Amanda Hadlock was also honored as Volunteer of the Month.

Superintendent Jacobs paid tribute to outgoing board member Bruce Galbraith. He has been a board member for the past eight years and has served as board president since January 2013. President Galbraith was presented with a bell and received a standing ovation in appreciation for his outstanding service to Morgan School District.

Student Board Members Report

Dietrich Streuber reported on activities at the high school. The National Honor Society students will be helping with Festival of Trees as a service project. Reality Town will be December 11. Board members were encouraged to attend. The band concert will be the evening of December 11 and the choir concert is scheduled for December 15. There will be a wrestling tournament in the Trojan Century Center December 12 and 13. December 5 and 6 will be the winter classic for the girls' basketball team.

Business Administrator's Report

D'Lynn Poll said a new bus has been ordered. Transportation Director Ron Litchfield felt the greatest need was a bus to accommodate wheelchairs. The bus will be equipped with cameras and radios and have an extended warranty for ten years. It should be ready to pick up in about three months.

She said the district received an additional \$170,000 of WPU allocation because of more growth than was projected. The current enrollment is up about 12 students from the October 1, 2014 count.

Discussion Items

Open Discussion with Legislative and State School Board Guests

Superintendent Jacobs introduced Representative Mel Brown and Terryl Warner who represents District 1 on the USBE board.

Vice President Ken Durrant said, “Representative Brown has been the best supporter of education and we are lucky to have him.”

Terryl Warner was named Person of the Year for Cache County.

Representative Mel Brown said he is optimistic about revenue projections. They budget conservatively so there is always revenue left at the end of the year. He said in 1896 the issues were education, transportation and infrastructure and in 1996 the issues were education, transportation and infrastructure. He said in 100 years the challenges haven’t changed. Utah is faced with some very unique situations as far as education. There are more children in families and that creates funding problems. He said legislators need to realize districts need to decide how their money is spent. He said the estimate is about \$350 million state-wide for public education this coming year. He also talked about the basic rate and said it is time to change it.

Terryl Warner said there is some funding that comes through grants but smaller district don’t have enough employees to have an individual designated to write grants. She wants more professional development funding for reading aides, math teachers, high school counselor, etc. She wants to set up some type of professional development for this coming summer. She has talked to a number of teachers and has had supportive responses. Teachers would be able to earn licensure points but there wouldn’t be money to pay them. She said it is a huge project that is in the beginning stages.

Jody Hipwell said the curriculum committee members are concerned about training. More is needed.

Approval Items

Home School Applications

A motion was made by Mark Farmer to approve the home school applications. The motion was seconded by Jody Hipwell and it passed unanimously.

Policies FGE, FHAЕ, FJ

Mark Farmer made a motion to approve Policy FGE (Student Complaints), and Policy FHAЕ (Disruptive Student Behavior). Jody Hipwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Utah Code pertaining to DSFS will be added to Policy FJ (Visitation on Campus: Students Leaving with Adult during School Hours) and it will be brought to the board for approval at the January 13, 2015 board meeting.

Personnel items

Vice President Durrant made a motion to approve the resignation of Michelle Russell (special education teacher at the high school); the resignation of Kim Cox as an employee of the district. She will continue working with the same Morgan Elementary students but she will be an employee of the Deaf and Blind School; the transfer of Wendy Drummond (from elementary aide to temporary high school registrar); Maggee Stapley (special education aide at MMS to an intern special education teacher at the high school for the remainder of the year) and the hiring of Lacie'D Hansen as the night, part-time custodian at the high school. Jody Hipwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Utah Consolidated Application

Superintendent Jacobs said each year school districts in the State of Utah are required to complete the Utah Consolidated Application (UCA) and submit an LEA Compliance and Assurance checklist. The UCA is a unified grant application and verification system that consists of two parts: the Planning Tool and the Funding Application. The Planning Tool contains the goals, strategies, action steps and district goal amounts for all grants in the UCA.

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the Utah Consolidated Application. The motion was seconded by Mark Farmer. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member School Visit and Committee Reports

Vice President Ken Durrant gave his report during the work session.

Neil Carrigan said there was no COG meeting this month. Work is being done on the ball fields. Some lights have been added. Mr. Carrigan visited the high school and was very impressed with Stan Mackay the new business teacher and Joyce Staley the new Family and Consumer Science teacher.

Jody Hipwell said the DATC board will meet Thursday. The scholarship board didn't have a meeting. She visited the middle school and talked with Principal Allen about the gap in the math program between sixth and seventh grades. They talked about having sixth and seventh grade teachers meet together in their PLC meetings to coordinate.

Mark Farmer said the Morgan Education Foundation formed a subcommittee to review the bylaws. There were no major changes. The Foundation is recruiting new members. The technology committee has collected \$30,000 through fundraising projects.

Advanced Planning for Upcoming Meetings

Superintendent Jacobs reminded board members about the USB A Conference in January. He will have the dates of next year's board meeting schedule ready for the January meeting. Vice President Ken Durrant will conduct the meeting. Ted W. Taylor and Mark Farmer will be sworn in as members of the Morgan School District Board of Education.

Superintendent Jacobs, Neil Carrigan, and Mark Farmer volunteered to help with Reality Town at the high school.

A motion was made by Neil Carrigan and seconded by Jody Hipwell to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Business Administrator, D'Lynn Poll