

# MINUTES

## MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### WORK MEETING AND BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015, District Office 5:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** President Ken Durrant, Vice President Mark Farmer, Neil Carrigan, Jody Hipwell, Ted Taylor, 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, Tim Wolff, Terry Allen, Wade Murdock, Lydia Nuttall, Jennie Earl, Bruce Giles, Kathy Nelson, Shana Croft, Ron Litchfield

**Work Meeting:**

**Welcome:** Vice President Ken Durrant welcomed everyone.

**Board Review of Utah Core Math Standards for Grade 6**

MMS Principal Terry Allen said teachers Kovi Christiansen and Joel Bowler have been working together with the Sixth Grade Common Core. There were some strugglers in the beginning but they have made adjustments for next year. They have met with 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and discussed the concerns with students moving from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. They feel good about the progress that has been made. They also meet once a week with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Principal Allen said everyone is working together and are moving forward.

He said there was a concern with the textbook but they met with the publisher and gave input for changes. Principal Allen said the textbook is secondary. The teacher is the primary instructor. Different approaches are used to reach individual student needs.

Joel Bowler has a school after school math program for students that need extra help. Students are taking advantage of this program and it has proven to be beneficial.

Ted Taylor said some teachers are looking for resources to help with the common core. They prefer workbooks instead of textbooks because of the constant changes. He wants to make sure teachers are provided with what they need. He said some teachers like the Saxton method and they are talking about using some of those standards if they align with the common core.

Morgan Middle School Principal said the district is not locked into the order the standards are taught.

Morgan Elementary Principal Tim Wolff said teachers need to be part of the solution and try to solve some of the problems they are facing. Parents are invited to come to school and learn about the standards. Schools are open to helping parents.

Mountain Green Elementary Principal Heidi Andreasen talked about having opportunities during the summer to have professional development to work with the textbooks they have chosen. There are many options.

President Durrant would like the principals to report back on what their plans are for next year to coordinate the materials they will be using to teach the common core.

Superintendent Jacobs said there are school improvements plans in place that include goals based on individual school needs that are reported to the board in April as part of the Trust Land Plan and again in October..

### **Process for Purchase of Land**

Superintendent Jacobs asked board members for direction in the process acquiring land for future building. He said the board could act as their agent, use the bidding process or use a broker. He said in the past the board has made deals with local land owners to buy ground over a period of time while the land continues to be farmed. This is beneficial to the land owner and the district.

Ted Taylor is a member of the Growth Task Force Committee and he said building additions on to existing buildings seems to be the direction the committee is going and possibly building another school in the Mountain Green area. This is not the final decision of the committee. He agrees it is a good idea to start looking for land.

President Ken Durrant agreed.

Superintendent Jacobs said the committee is compiling a survey and will be putting together a summary of their findings.

Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll said approximately 50 acres would be needed to build a high school that included a football field.

A big share of the growth in the county is in the Mountain Green area.

President Durrant thinks building in the Milton area would be a good central location.

Vice President Farmer said articles in the paper, letters, and word of mouth could be ways of letting people know the board is looking for land.

Jody Hipwell suggested getting an agent to help.

Neil Carrigan would like the board to be their own agent.

President Durrant suggested board members start looking on their own and if in a year from now an agent is needed to secure a piece of land, the board could go that direction.

Superintendent Jacobs spoke to an agent about a particular parcel of land but he wanted exclusive selling rights.

The consensus of board members was to consciously be looking for land for future building needs but not to sign an exclusive agreement with an agent at this time.

Superintendent Jacobs will report at the next board meeting on the progress made so far.

### **Information requested by Morgan City Regarding Future Hotel**

President Ken Durrant said the city had a market study done and wanted input from the district as to how much a hotel might be used by the district to accommodate school functions, tournaments, etc. He said he doesn't think building a hotel is really a priority of the city at this time.

Superintendent Jacobs said the city can't count on activities at the high school to support a hotel.

President Durrant asked about the progress on the football stadium handicapped seating.

Superintendent Jacobs said they are waiting for bids from contractors but encouraged the board to consider the addition of new bleachers on the home side that are handicap accessible.

Ted Taylor, President Durrant, and Vice President Farmer said to move forward with revamping the bleachers on the home side of the football field to accommodate handicapped individuals.

Vice President Farmer suggested looking at using some athletic revenues to help with funding for additional seating.

Principal Murdock said gate receipts fund all of the other sports that are not self-sufficient but gate receipts are down because of region boundaries. He said more seating is needed at the football stadium.

This will be an agenda item for the March 10, 2015 board meeting.

## **Board of Education Meeting**

### **Welcome/Pledge/Prayer**

President Ken Durrant welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jody Hipwell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the prayer.

### **Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Jacobs said next month the personnel changes can be included with the consent agenda.

Vice President Mark Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 board meeting, the agenda, and to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Employees of the Month**

Transportation Supervisor Ron Litchfield honored Tucker Wixom and Tammy Crowther as employees of the month. Tucker Wixom is a mechanic and Tammy Crowther is a substitute bus driver.

### **Update on Current Legislative Session**

Superintendent Jacobs said there is strong support for an increase of 6.5% on the WPU. He said they are actively lobbying for Morgan. He will keep board members updated by email.

He will coordinate a day for student board members Dietrich Streuber and Chandler Hipwell to attend a legislative session.

## **Student Board Member Reports**

Chandler Hipwell said winter sports are going well. State basketball will be at the Maverick Center. The drama club is performing *Romero and Juliet*. There will be a band concert on February 19 and the cheerleaders took state! The junior class will be taking the ACT test March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the elementary school.

Dietrich Streuber said the National Honor Society did a fundraiser to help provide clean water and other necessities for children in Kenya. They raised almost \$6,000.

## **Business Administrator's Report**

### **Employee Health Insurance**

D'Lynn Poll said RFP's are due back to the district on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The insurance committee will meet and review the proposals and choose three or four to be interviewed and be ready to make a recommendation to the board in the March board meeting.

### **Refinance of Bonds**

Mrs. Poll gave board members the newest rate trend sheet from Zions Bank. Rates are still down. She said Zions Bank has worked hard to get everything put together to move quickly enough to capture a low interest rate.

She asked Zions Bank to put together methods to utilizing savings from the bonds. She said to go with the accelerated method the district would see the savings at the end. A level savings method would free up money for projects now and have less impact on taxpayers.

Board members decided to go with the level savings method.

She said the district is portrayed as financially strong and stable.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Process: Purchase of Land**

Superintendent Jacobs said he will move ahead with the direction the board gave him during the work meeting. He will put the word out that the district is looking for land and the district will deal with individual brokers on a land by land basis.

Superintendent Jacobs will put this item on the agenda for next month.

## **Policies**

Superintendent Jacobs gave board members an updated copy of Policy EAA, EBA, EBB, and EBC. The committee has reviewed this policy. Tonight was the first reading.

President Durrant asked board members to review the policy. It will be brought to the board next month to approve.

## **Approval Items**

### **2015-16 District Calendar**

A motion was made by Vice President Farmer to approve the 2015-16 district calendar. Neil Carrigan seconded the motion and called for discussion on the motion. He asked if employees and community councils had reviewed the calendar. Superintendent Jacobs said they have. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Resolution Authorizing Refinancing of District Bonds**

D'Lynn Poll introduced Brandon Johnson who represents the bond council for refinancing the bond. He came to answer any questions board members might have.

Mr. Johnson said this resolution gives the board the authority to delegate the final pricing authority to an officer in the district. It gives more flexibility in the pricing of the bond.

As long as the final terms of the bonds are within the parameters D'Lynn Poll can sign off and then go ahead and approve the final sell of the bonds. If interest rates go up, the board is not obligated to sell the bonds.

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing refinancing of district bonds and to include Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll as the officer for the district. The motion was seconded by Ted Taylor and it passed unanimously.

### **Home School**

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the home school applications. The motion was seconded by Jody Hipwell and it passed unanimously.

### **Policy DDA Child Abuse Reporting**

President Durrant said Policy DDS Child Abuse Reporting was brought to the board last month.

Superintendent Jacobs said there have been no changes since the last board meeting.

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve Policy DDA Child Abuse Reporting. Jody Hipwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Personnel**

Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the following personnel changes:

1. The resignation of Nancy Taylor, MES Aide, and Tammy Bullock, MHS Cheerleading Advisor
2. The hiring of McKell Adams, MES Special Education Aide
3. The retirement of Debbie Carter, MES Teacher

The motion was seconded by Vice President Farmer and passed unanimously.

President Durrant would like Cheerleading Advisor Tammy Bullock invited to the next board meeting to congratulate her and the cheerleaders on their state championship and to thank her for her service to Morgan School District.

## **Board Member School Visits and Committee Reports**

### President Ken Durrant

President Ken Durrant visited the transportation department this month and reported bus drivers have seen a positive difference since the board made a decision to stop accepting notes from parents asking for special bussing arrangements for their children. President Durrant asked Transportation Supervisor Ron Litchfield to bring statistics to the May board meeting for discussion to decide if students going to childcare can still use district transportation. A decision will be made in the June board meeting.

Vice President Farmer would like feedback from drivers before a decision is made by the board concerning childcare transportation. He said we need to consider the issue of subsidizing childcare businesses by transporting students.

Superintendent Jacobs said we will be as comprehensive as we can.

President Durrant said the recreation program is struggling. The directors have asked for an increase in funding. The district pays \$22,000 per year. He is in favor of the district increasing the amount they pay if the county and city do the same.

D'Lynn Poll asked if the city would take care of maintaining the facility.

Jody Hipwell asked if we really need a recreation program. She said is it worth keeping?

Ted Taylor said the recreation board wants to expand the program.

Superintendent Jacobs said a recreation program in a community is beneficial. He said it needs to be maintained.

Neil Carrigan said it is an advantage to have a recreation program here with the schools so facilities can be utilized.

President Durrant and Ted Taylor have a meeting on Monday and will clarify what the recreation board is asking of the district.

#### Vice President Mark Farmer

Vic President Farmer visited Morgan High School. He feels the option to opt out of testing is being handled well by the school. There is a great staff and students at the high school.

He attended a school board training and learned that other boards spend a lot of time talking about academic achievements and celebrating successes of the schools. He said our successes and achievements need to be shared.

The Growth Task Force committee is waiting for responses from surveys and then a report will be given to board members. There was a COG meeting and new officials were elected and they are moving forward.

#### Jody Hipwell

Jody Hipwell visited Morgan Middle School and gave her 6<sup>th</sup> grade math core report in the work session meeting. Vice Principal Renn Hoopes has developed a program to help students that are failing. They are seeing progress and Mr. Hoopes is doing a great job. One student has already worked their way through the program and raised their grade from an F to a C. This is an intervention program that is working for students.

There will be a USBA meeting next week. The DATC Career Path High School is still struggling. May 12<sup>th</sup> is scholarship night at the high school. Mrs. Hipwell encouraged board members to attend to see the accomplishments of students.

#### Neil Carrigan

He visited the computer lab set up in the old weight room at the middle school. He also visited two labs in the old 5<sup>th</sup> grade building. He suggested turning that building into a permanent computer lab. He said there are 34 students in Mr. Christiansen's math class which is too many! He talked to the cooks and they want to start a breakfast program at the middle school because they see a need. Principal Allen agrees. He did a survey that showed 85% of parents would like a breakfast program. D'Lynn Poll said the free and reduced rate at the middle school is low and it would be financially difficult to have a breakfast program.

Mr. Carrigan said there was a technology meeting and they are working through a few issues with the Aspire Computer program. The committee has identified three areas they want to work on for next year. Wireless in the district is running and the computer labs for testing are being used. The Morgan Education Foundation has planned three fundraisers for this year.

Vice President Farmer said the Love Utah Give Utah program is coming up in March and last year they raised approximately \$4,000.

### Ted Taylor

Ted Taylor visited Mountain Green Elementary School and spent time with Principal Andreasen and teachers to learn what their needs are. There are still issues with teachers knowing how to teach the common core to align with testing. Principal Andreasen said they are working to solve these issues so they are in place for next year. He looked at the layout of the building to see where an expansion could be built to accommodate growth. Classrooms are full and classes are large. He feels that is a huge concern and needs to be changed.

There was a transportation meeting. Hazardous stops were discussed. A form has been developed and is available for parents to complete if they are requesting different bus stops for their children that go to childcare.

D'Lynn Poll said this form will be entered into the Aspire Computer program to help track childcare students.

### **Advanced Planning**

Board packets were sent to members electronically for the first time. A book was also compiled and mailed. A decision was made that board packets will only be sent electronically beginning next month. Included in future packets will be a schedule of board assignments and school visits.

Board members have been invited to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> Community Leadership Lecture on Monday, March 16, at 7:00 P.M. at the Park City High School Lecture Hall. Denise Rich will contact board members to see if they plan to attend.

Neil Carrigan made a motion to adjourn. Vice President Mark Farmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Business Administrator, D'Lynn Poll

