

# MINUTES

## MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AND TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

**Tuesday, August 18, 2015, District Office 5:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** President Ken Durrant, Vice President Mark Farmer, Neil Carrigan, Ron Blunck

**Excused:** Board Member Ted Taylor

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

**Other Staff and Patrons:** Heidi Andreasen, Gina Stuart, Tim Wolff, Wade Murdock, Liz Davis, Diana Windley, Ron Litchfield, Deanne Winterton, Jennie Earl, Lydia Nuttall, Roland Haslam, Darlene Musselman, Terry Allen, and two other people that didn't sign in and one signature that wasn't legible

**Board Meeting:**

**Welcome/Pledge/Prayer:**

President Ken Durrant welcomed everyone. Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening prayer.

**Consent Agenda:**

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the agenda, minutes of the June 9, 2015 Budget Meeting and Board Meeting, personnel changes, accept the budget report, treasurer's report, payment of claims in the amount of \$3,344,943.43 and reconciliation reports.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Ron Blunck.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion 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

District Business Administrator D'Lynn Poll and District Payroll Secretary Lara Bartol were honored by Superintendent Jacobs as Employees of the Month.

### New Teachers

Superintendent Jacobs read the names of new teachers. Two of them graduated from Morgan High School. There is a teacher shortage and some districts are starting the school year with substitute teachers. He said Morgan is very fortunate to be fully staffed.

### Foreign Exchange Students

There are fourteen foreign exchange students enrolled at Morgan High School for the 2015-16 school year.

### MHS ACT and AP Results

Principal Murdock reported that 186 juniors took the ACT test. This number is up from last year. Last year 70% of students were college-ready. This year 72% are college-ready. The state average is 55%. Twenty-three percent of high school students tested college-ready in all four categories. The state average is 19%. He said this has been the third best year for AP testing that Morgan High School has had. Students earn college credit taking AP classes.

### Professional Development Plan

Superintendent Jacobs said the Professional Development Plan is based on The Utah State Professional Standards. Included in the Plan are monthly areas of focus. These topics will be reviewed in PLC and faculty meetings.

## **Business Administrator's Report**

### Update on Summer Capital Projects

D'Lynn Poll reported the track project has been completed.

Neil Carrigan asked about maintenance and monitoring use of the track.

Principal Murdock said a meeting is scheduled to discuss these concerns.

Mrs. Poll said the new bleachers should be installed and ready for the next home game.

One room in the old fifth grade building (auxiliary center) will be used as a middle school classroom.

She said principals have expressed interest to find another company to maintain the surveillance cameras in the schools. She has found a company that would be compatible with the old system.

Engineers are putting together plans for the mechanical upgrades for the heating system.

D'Lynn Poll said areas that were in need of asphalt are being repaired.

There are some desks that haven't arrived yet but temporary accommodations have been made.

A new school bus has been ordered and will arrive in October. The district is looking to purchase a cargo-type minivan for handicapped students that live in areas that busses can't access.

Superintendent Jacobs said schools have reported 177 new students for this year but that number will drop after the first 10 days of school.

### **Truth in Taxation Hearing**

#### Explanation of Certified Tax Rate

President Durrant said the board has to make a decision to either maintain the certified tax rate or lower it. He feels it should be maintained. The reason people have noticed an increase in their taxes is because their property value increased. The rate has not increased.

Ron Blunck said based on the number of new students it would not be responsible to let the rate float down.

Vice President Farmer feels the board should let the rate float down which would save taxpayers about \$17 on a home valued at \$200,000.

Neil Carrigan wants to give taxpayers a break before it becomes necessary to pass a bond.

#### Public Comment

Jennie Earl asked about the increase in revenue (approximately \$90,000) if the rate stayed the same. She supports the increase.

D'Lynn Poll said \$39,000 of that increase would stay in the Capital Fund and the remainder would go to the General Fund.

Roland Haslam said last year there were specific places the money was going and he wanted to know where that increase would be spent. He is concerned that board has spent money they don't have and are now counting on a tax increase to cover those costs.

Vice President Farmer said the fund balance has been dangerously low.

D'Lynn Poll said the district can't continue to spend down the fund balance. She said the district needs a healthy fund balance in order to weather a financial storm like the one the district went through a few years ago.

Darlene Musselman suggested charging bus fare for students that ride the bus.

Superintendent Jacobs said students already pay a fee for activities but state regulations won't allow the district to charge students a bus fare.

MOTION: Vice President Farmer made a motion to come out of the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

SECOND: Ron Blunck seconded the motion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion Items**

#### Teacher Effectiveness Policy

Superintendent Jacobs said two years ago the board adopted the teacher evaluation plan that the state was in the process of developing. It is now time to put a policy in place. The Policy/Teacher Effectiveness Committee met to gather feedback and give input. The policy was sent out to a diverse group for input. This discussion item will be brought to the board next month for approval.

Vice President Farmer questioned some of the wording in the proposed policy relating to a committee that consists of administrators, educators, and parent representatives. While the establishment of such a committee seems appropriate, Vice President Farmer was concerned that the committee had no readily apparent function. He will work with Superintendent Jacobs to suggest changes to the policy.

### **Approval Items**

#### Certified Tax Rate

MOTION: Vice President Farmer made a motion to set the tax rate at the level proposed by the state.

SECOND: Neil Carrigan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Neil Carrigan doesn't want to increase taxes now because in a few years taxpayers will be "hit hard" with an increase. He wants to give taxpayers a break.

Vice President Farmer agrees with Mr. Carrigan. Fund balances are not going to decrease because of the increase in growth.

MOTION: Ron Blunck made a motion to maintain the certified tax rate.

SECOND: President Durrant seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Ron Blunck feels because of the large number of new students it doesn't seem prudent to allow the rate to float down.

President Durrant said we don't know what is going to happen with students and class sizes are high. He said it is called a "tax increase" but it is really maintenance of the taxes.

Vice President Farmer and Neil Carrigan voted to set the tax rate at the level proposed by the state.

President Durrant and Ron Blunck voted to maintain the certified tax rate.

Both motions failed for lack of a majority.

President Durrant suggested that the meeting be reconvened when Ted Taylor can be present and another vote taken on the certified tax rate.

#### Textbook Adoptions for MMS

Superintendent Jacobs said the textbooks have been reviewed by the board.

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to adopt the textbooks for Morgan Middle School.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Vice President Farmer.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

#### Local Interagency Agreement

President Durrant said there is a local interagency agreement between the county, the city, and the board of education for the recreation program. The recreation board is making a change. They will be hiring a company to take care of the entity. There will be a one-year contract that will go out for bid. The only change in wording on the agreement is on page 2 #7 (D) which says, "The director may be an individual or an entity."

MOTION: Vice President Farmer made a motion to approve the Local Interagency Agreement.

MOTION: Ron Blunck seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Blunck said there have been concerns about how the recreation complex has been maintained. He wants to make sure there is a mechanism in place to make sure the complex is maintained properly.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

#### Home School Applications

MOTION: Neil Carrigan made a motion to approve the home school applications.

SECOND: Vice President Farmer seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

## Surplus Sale Items

Surplus sale items include analog TVs, projection screens, overhead projectors, media carts, world maps and miscellaneous computer equipment. The list of items will be posted in the newspaper and sealed bids will be accepted until September 8, 2015.

MOTION: Ron Blunck made a motion to approve the surplus sale items.

SECOND: Neil Carrigan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

## **Board Member Committee Reports for August**

President Durrant said the recreation program is growing. They are looking at including at major soccer and major little league program. The recreation program brings a lot of revenue into the community with all of their programs.

Vice President Farmer said at the last COG meeting the agenda item was the proposed sales tax increase to cover transportation. The city and county would prefer that people be able to decide at the ballot box if there should be an increase or not.

Neil Carrigan said the technology committee did not meet. The golf tournament was very successful. They raised \$8,700. The DATC board will meet in September.

The Morgan Education Foundation was awarded \$14,000 in teacher grants and has given \$33,000 to technology for the district. Diana Windley, president of the foundation, was acknowledged for her efforts.

Superintendent Jacobs said the transportation committee met and reviewed the transportation guidelines that the board approved in June.

Ron Blunck gave board members a copy of the USBA Legislative Priorities for August 2015. He said UVU has a lot of innovative ideas for the districts they service. They are advocates for public education.

## **Advanced Planning for Upcoming events**

Superintendent Jacobs reminded board members of their school visit assignments and also encouraged them to continue working on the Master Board Awards program.

Morgan High School trips and club approvals will be on the agenda for the September meeting. There will also be a transportation update and Morgan High School and Morgan Middle School counselors will present a comprehensive guidance report.

MOTION: Vice President Farmer made a motion to reconvene this meeting on Monday morning, August 24, at 7:00 a.m. The agenda item will be to vote on the certified tax rate.

SECOND: Ron Blunck seconded the motion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

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Business Administrator, D'Lynn Poll