

*Message from Superintendent Jacobs – April 2018*

It is an exciting time in the Morgan School District. Our two building projects are on schedule for an August 2019 opening. It has been interesting to watch the groundwork progress and it will be exciting to see the structures begin to rise. The Board is committed to continuing improvements in all of our schools and buildings. Each principal is in the process of finalizing summer project requests for school site enhancement. The Board has also directed me to budget adequate funding for the staffing of the new *Mountain Green Middle School* (official name) when it opens. The Board will select a principal for the new MGMS in February of 2019 to allow enough time for the formation of a school community council. The council will give input into the hiring of teachers, staff, the development of a schedule, and selection of a mascot, not to mention all of the other important new school undertakings.

The Board has moved forward with plans to renovate the annex building behind Morgan Middle School into a district office and technology center. The current district office has been located in an old white house for many years. It is small, inadequate, inaccessible, and lacks privacy and security for district resources. It is also located in a high traffic area. The property will be needed in the future for additional parking because street parking will be eliminated when the high school addition is finished. The technology center will also be moved from its current location (in a temporary portable building) to the MMS Annex.

The remodel of the MMS annex will consist of non-structural changes including refurbishment of the restrooms, paint, new flooring, the creation of office space to house district employees, and a larger meeting space for the Morgan Board of Education. The repurposing of the annex is the most cost-effective solution to create a secure and accessible space for our growing district and technology needs and will be paid for with existing capital funds and not with money from the recent bond. Two of the classrooms in the annex will be used by the middle school for an additional year and then converted into office space and storage. The cooperation of Principal Hoopes and his staff at Morgan Middle School has been greatly appreciated in making these long-needed changes.

We will be relocating the portable classrooms behind the high school and relocating them to the fenced-in area adjacent to Morgan Elementary School during the summer months. We are also moving the brown 4-classroom pod next to the MES Preschool. Much needed parking will eventually be added to the areas previously occupied by the current district office and the 4-plex.

I am happy to report that equalization efforts of the Utah Legislature will increase funding for our district operations – including teacher salaries. The Board hopes to increase the beginning teacher salary next year and hopes to offer all employees a substantial increase in wages. The board also plans to provide funding for 8 new teaching positions next year to help reduce class sizes.

We appreciate and recognize your financial support and your patience as we make these improvements.