

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at District Office at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members: President Ron Blunck, Vice President Gaylene Adams, Adam Toone, Lars Birkeland, and Student School Board member Kaylee Wardell.

District Staff: Superintendent Doug Jacobs, Business Administrator Scott McMillan, Secretary Jana Brown.

Other Staff and Patrons: Crae Wilson, Andy Jensen, Diana Windley, Ryan Windley, Amber Gordon, Mindy Savage, Jonene Johansen, Jenn Hatt, Lance Palmer, Lilia Allen, Pam Stephens, Kristene Nelson, Emily Childs.

Welcome: President Ron Blunck opened the meeting.

Pledge/Prayer: Gaylene Adams

Consent Agenda:

President Blunck asked if there are any changes to the consent agenda. Adam Toone raised a question regarding the Class of 2019's left over funds. Principal Wilson noted that those funds are given to the Student Body Officers and they can use it as they see fit to benefit the students at MHS. He reported that if there are no other objections, the consent agenda is adopted.

Public Comments

The following individuals were in attendance to address the Board regarding their concerns and to offer their gratitude:

Jonene Johansen - 1619 curriculum

Mindy Savage - school closure & testing

Lance Palmer - school closure & masks

Lilia Allen - school closure

Jennifer Hatt - school closure

Diana Windley - thanked the Board for their hard decisions on behalf of the students

Superintendent's Report:

Employee Spotlights – Morgan Elementary School

1. Kathy DeWitt – MES Kindergarten Teacher

2. Amber Gordon - MES Instructional Aide
3. Pam Stephens - MES Instructional Aide

Covid-19 Response Update

Superintendent Jacobs reported that the Board's goal is to keep schools open while following the guidelines from the state. He discussed the new guidelines from the state as well as the CDC. He reported that the district starting testing the winter sports student athletes and coaches as well as the drama students involved in the play on November 30, 2020. Of the 270 tested, 6 students and 1 coach were positive. He noted that testing will be performed for these individuals every other week for the entire season. He also reported that the Covid vaccine is likely to be ready for administration in January or February.

Business Administrator Report:

Capital Improvements

Scott McMillan discussed the capital projects that are currently underway. He reported that the principals' capital project wish lists will be reviewed in the January meeting.

Budget, CARES Update

Scott McMillan presented the Budget Report and the Capital Outlay Report for the month of November.

Scott then discussed what was purchased with the CARES funds. He noted that these funds must be spent by the end of December.

Discussion Items:

Covid-19 Monthly Review

Adam Toone raised a concern regarding whether or not there is mask shaming happening in our schools. President Blunck indicated that the Board's stand remains the same and is that students will not be shamed for not wearing masks but will be gently reminded. He indicated that he has witnessed the faculty and staff reminding students and there has not been any shaming or bullying on the issue. Adam also noted that he feels there could have been better communication regarding the soft closure of the high school.

Contractual Agreement with Local Realtor

President Blunck indicated that the Board is looking for land to purchase and it has become necessary to contract with a realtor to represent the School Board. Scott McMillan inquired as to whether the Board would like to open it up for bids from various local realtors or to use the one that we have used in the past. It was felt that all realtors should be given the opportunity to submit a bid. The Board directed Scott to formulate a committee to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board.

District 3-year Calendar

Superintendent Jacobs presented the proposed district calendars for the next 3 years. He noted that the calendar for the 2023-24 school year has an end date after Memorial Day in order to accommodate the later start date. The Board felt that the majority of parents and staff members prefer an end date before Memorial Day. Therefore, the 2023-24 calendar will be revised to reflect that change.

Board Compensation

Superintendent Jacobs presented the proposed changes in the board compensation policy to reflect that the board members who take district insurance will be required to pay the difference of the insurance premium up front for the entire year. Adam Toone reported that the last time the board's compensation was raised was 1996. He recommended that the Board increase this now so that future Board members don't have to give themselves a 100% increase. President Blunck reported that the Board has been vigilant in assuring that the staff wages increase with inflation and he feels that the Board compensation should be the same.

MOTION: Gaylene Adams moved to open the public hearing regarding board member compensation.

SECOND: Adam Toone

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Kristene Nelson reminded the Board members of when the County Council had to give themselves a 100% increase a few years ago because it had not been done for several years. She recommended that the Board increase their compensation and not have any remorse in doing so. There were no additional public comments.

MOTION: Adam Toone moved to close the public hearing and reconvene the School Board meeting.

SECOND: Gaylene Adams

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

Board Compensation

MOTION: President Blunck moved to increase Board compensation to \$425 a month based on inflation since it was last discussed in 1995 from \$250 with the effective date of July, 2021.

SECOND: Adam Toone

DISCUSSION: Adam Toone noted that it was actually 1996 since the compensation rate was changed, which would result in a 60% inflation rate. President Blunck reported that Adam's point is well taken and he feels it is necessary to take action on it. Lars recommended pushing the effective rate off until later. Gaylene Adams expressed her feeling that it should be tied to the fiscal year.

APPROVAL: All Board members voted nay. The motion fails.

MOTION: President Blunck moved to increase Board compensation to \$5,100 per year effective July 1, 2021, and add “and must pay the difference in board compensation and health insurance premium each year by September 1st for enrollment and renewal” in the Health Insurance Benefit portion of Policy BBC.

SECOND: Gaylene Adams

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Policy FHAB – Title IX Sexual Harassment Reporting

MOTION: Gaylene Adams moved to approve Policy FHAB – Title IX Sexual Harassment Reporting.

SECOND: President Blunck

DISCUSSION: Gaylene Adams noted that the policy indicates that the district website will have the Title IX Coordinator’s contact information available. Superintendent Jacobs indicated that this will be addressed.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Home School Applications

MOTION: Lars Birkeland moved to approve the Home School Applications.

SECOND: Gaylene Adams

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Committee/School Visit Reports:

The Board members gave updates on their visits and committee assignments.

Advanced Planning for Upcoming Events:

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The District Policy, Safety, and Transportation Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The USBA Annual Convention will online this year on January 7-9, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Business Administrator, Scott McMillan