MINUTES
MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at District Office at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members: President Ron Blunck, Vice President Gaylene Adams, Kelly Preece, Adam Toone, Lars Birkeland, Student School Board Member Carson Ordyna.

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

Other Staff and Patrons: Andy Jensen, Tyrel Mikesell, Kade Morrell, Renn Hoopes, Michelle Morrell, Ron Wolff, Terry Allen, Kera Birkeland.

Welcome: President Ron Blunck opened the meeting. He thanked all the employees in the district for their hard work with providing a different educational experience for the students during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Pledge/Prayer: Vice President Gaylene Adams

Consent Agenda:

President Blunck reported that if there are no objections, the consent agenda is approved.

Public Comments/Fee Hearing

There were no public comments.

Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Jacobs welcomed House Representative, Kera Birkeland.

District Response to COVID-19

Superintendent Jacobs also thanked the district employees for making the COVID-19 pandemic a positive experience for the students. He noted that school in the fall may look very different and the district will follow all federal and state guidelines. He reported that we have learned a great deal during this time. He stated that the district has received approximately $65,000 of COVID relief funds that will be used to purchase masks, hand sanitizer, and other cleaning supplies to get the buildings ready for the start of school in the fall. President Blunck recommended that a COVID-19 Committee be created to discuss what we’ve learned and how to move forward in uncertain times.
Employee Retirement

Superintendent Jacobs reported that with the current restrictions, the employee retirement dinner has been cancelled. He noted that the district has ordered retirement bells and gift cards for these employees. He recommended that the Board members set up a time to deliver these to the employees and wish them well in their retirement. They will also be spotlighted on the district webpage.

MHS Graduation

Superintendent Jacobs commended the MHS administrators on their work with creating an acceptable graduation ceremony that will highlight the graduates within the COVID-19 guidelines. He noted that the graduates will attend the ceremony with their families in their own vehicles. A stage will be constructed in front of the Trojan Century Center where the speakers will address the graduates. The ceremony will be live-streamed and broadcast on the radio. A parade will follow so that community members may have the opportunity to congratulate the graduates. He noted that Operation Graduation will also follow COVID-19 guidelines with social distancing and masks.

Business Administrator Report:

Capital Improvements

Scott McMillan discussed the capital projects that are currently underway and those that will begin this summer. He noted that demolition on the MHS football bleachers will begin June 4th & 5th and the project will be completed by early July.

Proposed Budget

Scott McMillan presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021. He noted that all districts have been instructed from the state to prepare their budgets on funding from last year; therefore, the budget is tentative until final budget numbers are received from the state. Scott reported that the debt fund payment is due in August; however, the district does not receive funds from county taxes until December. He inquired whether the Board would like to float the payment amount from the general fund or apply for a tax anticipation note from Zion’s Corp. He noted that he has received a proposal from Zion’s that he will forward to the Board members for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Employee Salary and Benefit Projections

Scott McMillan reported that he emailed the proposed salary schedules to the Board members. He reminded them that these are tentative until final numbers are received from the state. Superintendent Jacobs added that the Negotiations Committee will meet on May 26th to review the proposed salary and benefit projections.
Fraud Risk Assessment

Scott McMillan reported that the state auditors require all districts to perform a fraud risk assessment. He presented the assessment and reported that the district’s potential risk for fraud is very low. He discussed the results and noted that this is for the Board’s information only and no action is necessary.

Discussion Items:

School Fees 2020-2021

President Blunck reported that the school fee schedules were discussed in the work meeting. Adam Toone added that these are a work in progress and will be reviewed on at least an annual basis.

Building Usage Policy – Annual Review

President Blunck reported that this policy remains unchanged from last year. Last year, the cost to rent the MHS tennis courts was changed because they were the only courts in the county. However, that is not the case anymore. There are other tennis courts now in the city and county. He raised the question of whether this rate should be increased. Adam Toone suggested that the rate be increased to be consistent with all other facilities. Superintendent Jacobs noted that he will make this change for approval at the next meeting.

Inter-local Agreement – County Recreation

Kelly Preece reported that the Inter-local Agreement has been updated and now reflects the Board’s requests.

School Bell Schedules for 2020-2021

Superintendent Jacobs reported that the only changes to the bell schedules for next year are that MMS will release 5 minutes later every day and MGMS will start school 15 minutes later every day. The lunch times at all schools have been adjusted so that they are later in the day on early release Fridays. President Blunck reported that the school schedules are really dictated by bussing schedules. Superintendent Jacobs reminded the Board members that the 5th grade does not follow the middle bell schedules; they have 3 block periods per day. He also reported that the legislators are still discussing later start times. He noted that he has encouraged the Community Councils for each school to discuss this matter.

Action Items:

Home School Applications

MOTION: Lars Birkeland moved to approve the Home School Applications.
SECOND: Gaylene Adams
DISCUSSION: Gaylene Adams reported that she feels that parents have the right to homeschool their children. She reminded the Board members that they were elected to be advocates for
public education and that they should be following the guidelines to let parents know about the advantages of public education.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

School Fees for 2020-2021

MOTION: President Blunck moved to approve the School Fees for 2020-2021.
SECOND: Kelly Preece
DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Human Sexuality Committee Members for 2020-2021

MOTION: Gaylene Adams moved to approve the Human Sexuality Committee Members for 2020-2021 as attached in the packet.
SECOND: Lars Birkeland
DISCUSSION: Adam Toone inquired about whether the committee members change from year to year. He feels that the school community council should be more involved and he suggested adding another community council member from each school. President Blunck also suggested that the school nurses be added and that the elementary principals be removed.

Gaylene Adams rescinded her previous motion.

MOTION: Gaylene Adams moved to approve the following individuals as the Human Sexuality Committee Members for 2020-2021:

- Gaylene Adams
- Crae Wilson
- Michelle Morrell
- Tyrel Mikesell
- Kelly Toomer
- Heidi Miller
- Leslie Christiansen
- Jiselle Garner
- 2 Community Council members from the high school and each middle school

SECOND: Adam Toone
DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Inter-local Agreement – County Recreation

MOTION: Kelly Preece moved to approve the Inter-local Agreement – County Recreation.
SECOND: President Ron Blunck
DISCUSSION: Adam Toone inquired about the length of this agreement. President Blunck noted that the agreement is an annual agreement.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.
School Bell Schedules for 2020-2021

MOTION: Adam Toone moved to approve the School Bell Schedules for 2020-2021.
SECOND: Gaylene Adams
DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Committee/School Visit Reports:

Carson Ordyna thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as their Student School Board member. The Board, in turn, thanked Carson for his invaluable service and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

Gaylene Adams reported that the Morgan Education Foundation Board of Trustees held their first meeting. She noted that the district is now their financial steward and all financial information is being transitioned into ALIO by Scott McMillan. She noted that they approved the awarding of local scholarships in the amount of $112,700. The students will be informed of their scholarship through a PowerPoint presentation. The cash awards for the sterling scholars was adjusted to $100 for each sterling scholar. $4,601 was donated to the MHS Liberty Wall. The golf tournament will now be sponsored by the MHS Scholarship Committee and the color fun run will be sponsored by the MHS Track team. Gaylene also reported that she visited MGMS and Principal Mikesell. She reported that they had just received a shipment of chrome books prior to the COVID-19 closure which made it possible to provide chrome books for those students that needed them. She noted that Principal Mikesell has been able to provide his staff with professional development on Canvas. She indicated that the pandemic has provided an opportunity for the teachers to increase their personal technology skills. Many of the aides have been assigned to work with students that are struggling. She reported that MGMS is providing 100 – 150 lunches per day. She congratulated Principal Mikesell on making MGMS a positive environment.

Kelly Preece reported that both COG and Recreation Board will be meeting next Monday. He noted that the county is now maintaining the baseball and softball fields. He asked the Board members to direct any questions and/or concerns with the fields to him so that he may address them in those meetings. Kelly also reported that he attended the USBA Zoom meeting. He noted that he now serves on the USBA Finance Committee and will attend several meetings in the next few weeks to finalize the budgets for next year. He encouraged the Board members to get involved and share their feelings with their state representatives regarding public education. Kelly also reported that the Recreation Board is hoping to open up recreation sports on June 1st. He then reported that he was able to visit with the MHS Cooks and they relayed their experiences in overcoming their fears to meet the needs of the students in the district. He stated that they feel this pandemic has been a growing experience for them.

Adam Toone reported that the Technology Committee did not meet. He noted that he attended the DTC meeting through Zoom. He stated that they are experiencing the same hurdles that we have been during this pandemic. He reported that many of the essential occupations are those that are taught at the DTC.
Advanced Planning for Upcoming Events:

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. with the Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled when budget numbers have been received from the state.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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Business Administrator, Scott McMillan