

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at the 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 Jaren Johansen.

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

Other Staff and Patrons: Andy Jensen, Heidi Andreasen, Tyrel Mikesell, William Long, Renn Hoopes, Michelle Morrell, Crae Wilson, Gwen Romero, Linda Gale, Steve Gale, Cheryle Allen, Heather Kelly, Kevin Hall, Jennifer Lance, Drew Staples.

Welcome: President Ron Blunck opened the meeting.

Prayer/Pledge: Lars Birkeland

Consent Agenda:

President Blunck asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. Gaylene Adams asked that the ESSER III Grant be added to the agenda as a discussion item. President Blunck accepted the recommendation and reported that if there are no other additions, the consent agenda is adopted.

Public Comment:

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding their concerns:

Lilia Allen – Children’s Education
Kevin Hall – CRT & COVID

Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Jacobs introduced and welcomed the new student school board member, Jaren Johansen.

Employee Spotlight – District Office

- Audrey Peterson – Accounts Payable Secretary
- Andrew Staples – Maintenance Assistant

ESSER III Grant

Superintendent Jacobs reported that he and Scott McMillan have been working on the application for the ESSER III Grant. This grant is very specific in how it can be used and there are no strings attached. He stated that he sent a survey to all parents asking how they would like to see it used. He will discuss it more in the discussion section of the meeting.

Business Administrator Report:

Transportation Report

Scott McMillan reported that the bus drivers would like to thank the Board for approving the automated gate as it is added security for the drivers when they come back from activity trips late at night. The new Washbot has been a great solution to the bus driver concerns regarding washing the buses. Scott noted that this new machine uses considerably less water. He reported that 2 new buses were purchased primarily for extra curriculum activities. He also reported that the Transportation Department is in need of 2 route bus drivers. Scott informed the Board members that there is still talk in the state regarding seatbelts on buses. He noted that he will keep them updated on this matter.

Scott then reported that the purchase of the Peterson Dairy has closed and has been funded. The Peterson's are leasing the ground from the district until December of 2022.

Discussion Items:

COVID-19

Superintendent Jacobs reported that the number of Covid cases in our schools is low. He noted that if we have more than 30 positive cases at particular school, the district will meet with the health department and county officials to create a plan. He stated that the principals have been vigilant at sending students and staff members home when they are not feeling well. He reported that there haven't been any reports of students bullying other students for wearing masks or not. Gaylene Adams reminded the Board members that all the Covid safety protocols are still in place.

New Teacher Licensure Requirements

Superintendent Jacobs reported that the state has changed the licensure requirements for new teachers. He noted that we have a number of teachers who have a degree but are teaching subjects outside of their certification. These teachers are required to obtain their teaching endorsement within 3 years. The SPED teachers are no longer able to teach on an LEA specific license. Superintendent Jacobs indicated that the district currently has several of those teachers in the process. He noted that this may affect our funding a little. Michelle Morrell reported that the district currently has 19 teachers on an LEA specific license. She noted that the principals are working with their teachers to assure they complete the requirements to obtain their licenses.

Policies: ECH Human Sexuality, GBA Board Hotline, BA Licensure

Superintendent Jacobs reported that the Policy Committee reviewed these policies. He noted that the Human Sexuality Committee is in the process of reviewing the Human Sexuality curriculum. Their next meeting will be September 27, 2021. GBA Board Hotline policy states that the School Board must provide a hotline where individuals may submit a concern and/or complaint. He stated that we must have an outside auditor to review all the complaints. He noted that Duke Mossman from NUES has agreed to act as the auditor. He also reported that the Curriculum Committee will be reviewing all Social Studies curriculum this year to assure that there is no Critical Race Theory curriculum taught in the Morgan School District.

MHS Trip Requests

The Board reviewed trip requests for the following groups:

FFA – Colorado – January 18 – 22, 2022
Spirit Squad – Florida – February 10 – 14, 2022
Choir – California – April 5 – 9, 2022
Band – California – April 19 – 24, 2022

It was noted that the policy states that students may miss 2 days of school with a possibility of 3 days. The Board members noticed that several of these trips are longer than 3 days. Principal Wilson reported that the majority of parents are in favor of their students missing school for these trips. He asked the Board to revisit the Out-of-State Travel policy. President Blunck recommended that the policy be reviewed again.

Development of Morgan School District HR Department

President Blunck reported that the district is growing very fast causing the need for a Human Resources Department. Superintendent Jacobs stated that with him also acting as the HR Director, it causes a problem with the employees' due process. He reported that Scott McMillan is working with the district architects to draw up plans to extend the district office to include a few more offices that could house the HR Department. Adam Toone suggested that Superintendent draft a job description for the Board to review at the next meeting.

ESSER III Grant

Scott McMillan presented the ESSER III Grant application and discussed how the funds will be spent. The parents were surveyed and the following are their top picks for how this grant should be spent:

- Continue online school
- Air filtration systems at all schools
- Technology – backup at District Office and possibly each school
- Cleaning supplies

Superintendent Jacobs added that there are no strings attached with this grant. This will be placed on the next agenda as an approval item.

Action Items:

Teachers on LEA Site-Specific Licenses for 2021-22

MOTION: Kelly Preece moved to approve the Teachers on LEA Site-Specific Licenses for 2021-22.

SECOND: Gaylene Adams

DISCUSSION: Lars Birkeland raised a question about the teachers with 1 semester. Michelle Morrell reported that a teacher was hired to teach those courses; therefore, the teachers on the list will not have to teach those subjects. Gaylene Adams thanked Michelle for all her hard work on this matter.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Home School Application

MOTION: Gaylene Adams moved to approve the Home School Applications.

SECOND: Kelly Preece

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:

Superintendent Jacobs reminded the Board members of the USBA Regional Meeting on September 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. There was some confusion regarding where the meeting will be held. Superintendent Jacobs noted that he will find out and let them know where the meeting is. The next Board meeting & Public Hearing ECH Human Sexuality policy and curriculum will be Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Business Administrator, Scott McMillan