

NORTH SANPETE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 19, 2024

Minutes for the Board of Education meeting held November 19, 2024, began at 6:00 p.m. at the district office. President Richard Brotherson conducted the meeting and led the pledge. Tammy Jorgensen offered the prayer. Board Members in attendance were President Richard Brotherson, Vice President Greg Bailey, Jeremy Madsen, Stacey Goble and Shalmarie Morley. Others in attendance were Superintendent O'Dee Hansen, Assistant Superintendent Rena Orton, Business Administrator Tammy Jorgensen, Secretary Melanie Lee, Principals Jeff Ericksen, Stacey Peterson, Natalie Stansfield and UEA Representatives Cindy Johansen and Chemayne Romero. Others in attendance were Chalyece Shelley, Scott and Lisa Collard, Nicole and Ron Lamb, Cherrie Green, Carmen Garcilazo, Xitlali Lara, Rhainey Lara, Fatima Lineires, Brenda Candia-Lara, Rachel Farnsworth, Amy Johnson, Scott Butler, Kaylee Prestwich, Taran Dyches, Tisha Young, Lena Macnab, Brittany Stubbs, Ashley and Dillon Grundy, Erika Briggs, Joseph Cook, Chelsea Bailey, Lacey Rosenlof, James Collard, Talia Casares, Patricia Zavala, Brook and Kolby Henrie, Tyler Lee, Katie Hopkins, Jodilyn Beck, and Matthew Mitchell. Principal Christy Straatman arrived at 6:37 p.m.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Madsen recognized the elementary school Veteran's Day programs. He attended the Fairview program and appreciated the students honoring our servicemen and women.

Mr. Bailey celebrated Fountain Green Elementary School's Veteran's Day program. Students interview veteran's and highlight them.

Mrs. Goble attended Mt. Pleasant Elementary Veteran's Day program. She also celebrated the Halloween parade and the great tradition it is for our community.

Mrs. Morley attended the Veteran's Day program at Moroni Elementary, which is her favorite program of the year.

Principal Ericksen recognized teachers and the difficult circumstances they deal with. He also recognized the student council and adviser Joann Christensen with the success of Red Ribbon Week, as well as the LIA students and Mr. Butler for their contribution with Red Ribbon Week. The Veteran's Day Program at the middle school was impressive.

Ms. Johansen acknowledged the students and their contributions to the Veteran's Day Program. She celebrated teachers throughout the district; no one understands what they deal with if they aren't in the classroom. Teachers plug along every day, every hour, every night. She loves the people she works with. Teachers have GRIT.

Mrs. Romero expressed gratitude to all the adults in the district who volunteer in our schools, helping to create a positive, safe, secure environment.

Business Administrator Jorgensen recognized that during the Duck Award presentations at Pleasant Creek last week, a student from Mr. Olmstead's class enthusiastically cheered in celebration for him, thrilled to see his teacher receive the award.

Assistant Superintendent Orton celebrated the eye clinic at Moroni Elementary. They saw 114 kids who were matched up with eyeglasses.

Superintendent Hansen celebrated the drama department at the high school. Two students went with Superintendent Hansen to the radio station to highlight their program and the musical. Mr. Barlow does a great job with that program.

Mr. Brotherson recognized Veteran's Day Programs, the kid's carnival at Mt. Pleasant Elementary and adults who volunteer in our schools.

SCHOOL REPORT

Chalyece Shelley gave a report on Special Education and Preschool.

Overview of Special Education

- Serve Pre-K (3-year-olds) up to post high school (age 22)
- Approximately 400 students are provided with special education services
- 14.7% of total student population

Students with learning disabilities, speech/language impairments, other health impairments and autism are found eligible most often.

Items of interest

- Focus this year:
 - Behavior/mental health support – adding 2 new staff members (BCBA level)
 - Transition – Department of Workforce Services Pre-ETS grant – Heather Hafen
 - Academics – collaborating with schools in CSI to support Sped students in making larger gains – meet state SpEd standards but not school improvement criteria. PCBL, UDL, specially designed instruction and inclusion training
 - Compliance – Libby Murphy reviews approximately 50 files and follows up on corrections per year
- 2 day, in-person, full state monitoring visit in March 2025 which includes:
 - Complete fiscal review
 - Compliance – file reviews

- Transition services
- Focus groups – teachers and staff, and student interviews at multiple sites

Overview of Pre-school

- 7 classrooms that provide 13 preschool sessions serving 201 students
- 5 sessions for 3yr old students
- 8 sessions for 4yr old students
- 1 session combining 3 & 4 yr old students

Preschool Tuition

- 77 full tuition students
- 26 reduced tuition students
- 86 free tuition students
- 38 free tuition students because of special education classification

Items of Interest

- Applying for HQSR grant to help support the costs of opening up more classrooms – specifically in Fairview next school year.
- Highest level of concern:
 - According to UPOD data, an increase in communication disorders, special education classification, and school readiness data, students are coming into preschool with significantly under-developed personal, social and communication skills.
 - We are participating in a state initiative to help us implement the Pyramid Model Framework which addresses social and emotional development.
 - USBE is funding materials and professional development costs for teachers to incorporate this model into their classrooms. Using USBE and internal instructional coaches, teachers are learning to structure their classrooms for Tier 1 or universal strategies to improve personal, social and emotional development in the classroom. Already have 1 classroom meeting the 80% implementation expectation at this level.
 - Improving parent engagement with Pyramid Model resources sent to parents.

Currently, there is only one student on the preschool waiting list.

- We have expanded capacity by adding 2.5 more classrooms, which has reduced the waitlist, but demand increases as more classrooms open.
- Tuition introduced two years ago has not reduced enrollment numbers.
- Preschool provides significant benefits, including:
 - Early identification of speech or developmental delays.
 - Improved personal and behavior skills, independence, and smoother separation from parents for students entering kindergarten.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Scott Collard discussed the Moroni Elementary Dual Immersion Program.

Concerns Raised by Mr. Collard

- Personal connection: Granddaughter in Moroni's program struggled, causing anxiety and disengagement.
- Broad issues:
 - Performance concerns: Moroni students are 13% lower in reading/literature proficiency.
 - Middle school educators note students are underprepared when transitioning from DLI.
 - Demographic intent of DLI isn't improving outcomes as expected—"evening out the bar, not raising it."
 - There is no alternative for Moroni students but DLI or busing to distant schools.
 - Program creates social and logistical challenges, worsening student anxiety.
- Parental choices:
 - Families moving between schools or towns (e.g., Nephi, Spring City, Mt. Pleasant) for alternatives.
 - Other schools outside Moroni are overwhelmed by DLI students transferring out.
- Outcome concerns:
 - Many students quit DLI by middle school, and few maintain Spanish proficiency.
 - The program focuses more on teaching a language rather than providing a holistic education.
- Questions posed:
 - Is the program being adequately evaluated yearly?
 - What support is available, and what is the program's future?
 - How many students are being homeschooled or bused to a different school?
 - Do the numbers include students transferring in who were not previously enrolled in the program?

Mr. Brotherson's Background Information

- Program began with 1st grade and expanded annually.
- Initially seen as beneficial, but challenges have emerged over time.
- Some students opt out, while others from different towns join the program.
- Seeks to determine what is best for the community overall.

Key Points of Discussion

- Lack of choice for Moroni students compared to other communities.
- The program has social implications for children, beyond academic learning.

DUAL IMMERSION

Enrollment Data and Test Scores:

- Test scores and enrollment figures provided; opt-in and opt-out numbers show a mixed response to the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program across grades 1–6.

Concerns Raised:

1. Lack of Choice for Moroni Students:
 - DLI is mandatory for Moroni Elementary, unlike other districts where it's optional.
 - Students struggling academically or socially are left with limited alternatives (either bus to another school or stay in the program).
 - Bussing creates logistical challenges, with some children spending hours on buses.
2. Academic and Social Impact:
 - Test scores of DLI and non-DLI students are reportedly similar, but Moroni scores remain low overall.
 - Parents struggle to help with homework in Spanish, causing further stress for families.
 - Some students quit DLI in middle school due to schedule constraints or lack of interest in the program, though attrition is relatively low (around 10%).
3. Program Effectiveness:
 - The program originally aimed to address segregation and has improved Hispanic community engagement (e.g., parent-teacher conference attendance up to 90%).
 - Concerns persist about whether DLI is improving education or merely fostering basic language skills (e.g., focus on present-tense Spanish).
 - Moroni families question the necessity of DLI now, given its mixed results.
4. Community Disruption:
 - Students frequently transfer between schools to avoid DLI, disrupting their education and social circles.
 - A lack of consistency harms children's experiences, particularly those with disabilities or anxiety.

Positive Outcomes of DLI:

- Improved cross-cultural interaction between Hispanic and Caucasian students.
- Some students achieve strong Spanish proficiency, as evidenced by classroom observations.
- Unique opportunities for students to build skills in both language and cultural understanding.

Suggestions and Requests:

- Explore ways to make the program optional for Moroni students.
- Provide Spanish or English homework options to involve parents better.
- Reevaluate the program's structure and effectiveness.
- Request detailed reports and evaluations of the DLI program's impact on academics and community integration.

- High school to include Dual Immersion discussion with their community council.

Overall, while DLI has fostered cultural bridging and engagement, its mandatory nature, limited alternatives, and mixed academic results are significant concerns for Moroni families and educators.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes for the October board meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Business Administrator Jorgensen presented:

1. Financial Reports.
2. October invoices that have been paid.
3. EMI to donate \$5,000 - can be used for anything we want
4. Zion's bond payment is due in December
5. Audit update – everything has been submitted – due November 30

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mrs. Morley to approve the consent calendar. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

RESIGNATIONS

Letters of resignation from Denisha Ivory, Felicia Gahley and Julio Tapia (Coach position only) were presented to the board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Morley and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the letters of resignation. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Employees Hired:

Carolyn Haglund	Spring City Elem	Teacher Assistant
Harlie Davis	Fairview Elem	Teacher Assistant
Paige Jacobson	Fountain Green Elem	SpEd Preschool TA
Jeff Grace	Transportation	Bus Driver
Bryan Sorensen	High School	Night Custodian
Landon Bailey	High School	Asst Boys BBall Coach
Samantha Westwood	All Schools	Substitute Teacher/TA
Pam Broadhead	All Schools	Substitute Teacher
Elizabeth Sartori	FVE, MPE, NSHS	Substitute Teacher
Jessica Ownby	All Schools	Substitute Teacher/TA
Diana Silva	All Schools	Substitute Teacher/TA
Brent Johnson	Transportation	Substitute Bus Driver
Tiffany Hammond	All Schools	Substitute Custodian
Tyana Freeman	All Schools	Substitute Teacher/TA
Brittany Walker	High School	Asst Girls BBall Coach
Aiyana Spencer	High School	Asst Girls Wrestling Coach

Logan Addis
Anna Bailey

High School
High School

Asst Boys Wrestling
Asst Girls BBall Coach

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- HS Track has been resurfaced. Waiting for some warmer (70+ degree days) to have it painted
- Wheelchair bus should be here in November
- The backup generator for the district office is up and operational
- AC for tech closets in various buildings are delivered...just need to be installed
- NSMS Roof is complete
- NSMS Xeriscaping completed around the building

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Teen Center

- There was a gap between the old tile and subflooring that needed to be addressed to maintain the warranty, requiring the old tile to be removed.
- Cost savings were achieved by not installing the ceiling in the boys' varsity locker room.
 - The issues with heat and noise have been resolved.
- The wrong tile color was used on the walls due to a communication breakdown between the architect and the construction team.
- Despite these challenges, the project remains on schedule for completion by December 13, 2024.

Fairview Elementary Classroom Addition

- The septic tank has been dug out and native soil is being added to fill in the hole
- Soil compaction inspections have been scheduled for this week

Fountain Green Elementary

- We did not receive the Small Schools Grant that would allow us to remodel

Pleasant Creek Auto Shop

- YIC funds will be coming to begin building the auto shop

SCHOOL CHOICE

Student #1 lives in Moroni and is in 4th grade. Parents want to opt student out of the Dual Immersion program and transfer to Fountain Green Elementary. Parent will provide transportation. Superintendent Hansen and Principal Cox approve this request. Students #2 and #3 are in preschool and 1st grade and live in Moroni. Parent would like students to attend Mt. Pleasant Elementary because babysitter lives in Mt. Pleasant and will provide transportation. Superintendent Hansen and Principal Stansfield approve these requests.

Student #4 is moving from California to live with Grandmother in Spring City. Student is a preschooler and has an IEP. Grandmother would like student to attend Mt. Pleasant Elementary preschool. Transportation will be provided by the district. Superintendent Hansen and Special Education Director, Mrs. Shelley, approve this request.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the school choice requests. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

NSHS TESTING DATES

ACT Test

- Tuesday, March 18, 2025
- Juniors only
 - grades 9, 10 and 12 will not attend school this day

ACT Prep

- Classes have started during flex
- Teachers have been asked to add ACT prep in their classes
- There will be a boot camp before the ACT test date

Utah Aspire

- Tuesday, April 22 & Wednesday April 23, 2025
- Grades 9 and 10
 - grades 11 and 12 will have a delayed start

Concurrent enrollment classes will still be in session at regular times.

2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR

The 2026-2027 district calendar was discussed.

Options for fall break were discussed

Overall majority chose Thursday and Friday, October 15-16, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mrs. Morley to approve the 2026-2027 district calendar by moving fall break to Thursday and Friday and having PD on Monday, October 19, 2026. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

Drill is requesting overnight travel to attend a competition at UVU, December 6-7, 2024. Check-ins begin at 5:30 am and performances start at 7:00 am.

Girls Wrestling is requesting overnight travel to attend the Rockwell Rumble in Herriman, January 10-11, 2025.

Cheer is requesting overnight travel for divisional competition in St. George, January 17-18, 2025.

Drill is requesting overnight travel for state semi-finals at UVU, January 30-31, 2025.

Superintendent Hansen is requesting out-of-state travel to attend the School Superintendent Association Conference in New Orleans, March 5-8, 2025. CUES will sponsor travel for all superintendents in the region to attend. CUES is asking for board approval for the daily per diem to be paid from district funds for this trip.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the above travel requests. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

POLICIES

The Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy was presented to the board in first read.

A motion was made by Mrs. Morley and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy in first read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Employee Grievance Policy, Student Grievance Policy and North Sanpete High School Athletic Grievance Policy were presented to the board in second read.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the Employee Grievance Policy and Student Grievance Policy in second read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The NSHS School Athletic Grievance Policy needs to have the last paragraph removed then brought back in second read for the December meeting.

USBA CONFERENCE

The USBA Conference will be held at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, January 9-11, 2025.

NSBA CONFERENCE

The NSBA National Conference will be held April 5-7, 2025, in Atlanta, GA.

MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

The State Office sent out a flyer regarding a 24/7 crisis response hotline for districts. We can reach out to them; they will provide professional learning and will conduct debriefs after the crisis.

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble to exit regular session and go to executive session to discuss character or competence of an individual and negotiations. Voting went as follows:

Mrs. Goble aye

Mrs. Morley aye

Mr. Madsen aye

Mr. Brotherson aye

Mr. Bailey aye

Meeting moved into executive session at 8:07 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Morley to exit executive session and return to regular session. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting moved back into regular session at 9:18 p.m.

Next board meeting will be held on December 3, 2024

- The district would like to provide a catered dinner for the board at 5 pm at the district office
- Mr. Bailey won't be here

Voted leeway money has been distributed to the middle school and high school to help offset fee waivers.

Board members would like to discuss Dual Immersion again in the December board meeting.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble to adjourn. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.