

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the District Office at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members:

Board President Gaylene Adams – present
Kelly Preece - present
Mandy Wallace – present
Andrea Brooks – present
Angie Trease - present
Halle Titus - present

District Staff:

Superintendent Andy Jensen - present
Business Administrator Scott McMillan – present
Secretary Jana Brown - present

Other Staff and Patrons: Ramona Martin, Trina Wilkinson, Michelle Morrell, Luke Thomas, Josh Sargent, Steve Wood, Bill Long, Brittany Budd, Josh Sargent, Robert Kilmer, Crae Wilson, Destiny Field, Terry Allen, Holly Limb, Cheryle Allen, Jaque Johansen, Heather Nielsen, Katie Tilby, Gwen Romero, Heidi Carroll, Mylynn Felt, Ron Blunck, Ally Archibald, Caleb Perry, Adam Toone, Danielle Clayton, Alisha Evans, Megan Nelson, Marianna Norseth, Kendra McKenna.

Welcome: President Gaylene Adams opened the meeting.

Prayer/Pledge: President Adams

Consent Agenda:

President Adams asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. She stated that if there are no corrections, the consent agenda, including the following, is adopted:

- a. Public Notice
- b. Minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting
- c. Personnel Updates
- d. Budget Report
- e. Payment of claims for April in the amount of \$3,148,175.81
- f. April School Reconciliation Reports

Public Comment:

Caleb Perry, Adam Toone, David Evans, Mylynn Felt, Kendra McKenna discussed their concerns with the MHS graduation requirement change. Ron Blunck relayed his thoughts in favor of the change to the MHS graduation requirements.

Superintendent's Report:Shop Update

CTE Director Robert Kilmer gave an update on the construction of the new welding shop. He noted that the interior is being painted and is on schedule; however, the exterior is a little behind schedule due to weather.

Information Technology Report

IT Director Terry Allen gave his annual report for the IT Department. He reported that the IT technicians have been assigned to the schools now, and report directly to the school principals. He noted that the department has been working on the following:

- Key cards for exterior doors
- Cameras in every school
- Wearable panic buttons – MMS piloted the program this year
- New system that monitors how students are using the network
- Class Link system that will allow for a single sign on to the network

School Lunch Prices

Food Services Director Jan Holding reviewed the funding for the Food Services Department as well as the dietary requirements when creating menus. She reported that the cost of food has increased; therefore, the district is recommending a 6 – 7% increase in school lunch prices next year. She presented the proposed cost increases for each school. Jan then reported that there will be a new system next year that will make it easier for parents to apply for free and reduced lunch.

Student School Board Member Recognition

The Board recognized student school board member, Halle Titus and thanked her for her service on the School Board this past year. They presented her with a plaque and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Business Administrator Report:

Business Administrator Scott McMillan presented the budget report for April. He discussed the report as well as the capital projects that are currently underway and those that will begin in the future.

Discussion Items:

Budget Proposal

Business Administrator Scott McMillan presented the budget proposal for the 2025-2026 school year. He discussed the how the district receives revenue, and he noted that the revenue has declined as the district is no longer receiving equalization funds from the state. He reported that the budget will be finalized for the next meeting.

Morgan Education Foundation Trustee Recommendation

Board Member Wallace reported that the Morgan Education Foundation Chair Diana Windley has resigned. The foundation board is recommending Ron Blunck to replace Diana as the MEF chair. She stated that Ron has a wealth of knowledge and experience for this position.

Salary and Benefits Committee Recommendation

Board Member Wallace presented the following recommendation from the Salary and Benefits Committee:

- Utility Increases
- Supply Budgets
- 0% Increase to Health Insurance
- Certified Steps and Lanes
- ESP steps
- 2.5% COLA
- Reduction of 3 FTE's

Acceptable Usage Policy

Superintendent Jensen reported that this is a revision of the current policy because of a policy audit from the state. This policy has been reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Student Data Protection Policy

Superintendent Jensen reported that this policy was also revised because of the audit by the state. It has also been reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Time and Effort Policy

Superintendent Jensen reported that this policy was revised due to legislative rules to be compliant with Title I programs.

Action Items:

Graduation Requirements

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to approve the Graduation Requirements.

SECOND: President Adams

DISCUSSION: Board Member Trease reported that she feels that the MHS bell schedule and graduation requirements go hand in hand and should be discussed at the same meeting. She also feels that the classes should be equitable.

MOTION: Board Member Trease moved to amend the motion to adjust the graduation requirements to 29 credits for all high school students until the pilot program is complete.

SECOND: Board Member Brooks

DISCUSSION: President Adams reported that the next year seniors will be on the 29-credit plan. Superintendent Jensen reported that this is the plan for the 4-year graduation requirement plan. Board Member Trease clarified that she feels all the students should be at 29 credits until the pilot program is done. Board Member Wallace stated that next year's requirements are 29 and then transitions one less per year until we reach 26 graduation requirements. Business Administrator Scott McMillan stated that what Board Member Trease is trying to say is that the change to the graduation requirements should be a pilot program as well.

APPROVAL: All voted against. The amendment failed.

MOTION: Board Member Trease moved to amend the motion to approve the graduation requirements as stated on the transition timeline granting conditional approval of the proposed high school graduation requirements as a pilot study, contingent upon a follow-up report to the Board and the community in one year's time.

SECOND: Board Member Wallace

DISCUSSION: Board Member Brooks recommended that next year when the pilot program is complete, that the bell schedule and graduation requirements be reviewed together at the same meeting. President Adams reported that graduation requirements have been discussed several times, and she does not feel that they must be discussed together. Board Member Preece stated that he feels that the graduation requirements are separate from the bell schedule. Board Member Trease feels that after the pilot program, the bell schedule and graduation requirements should be on the same agenda.

APPROVAL: The amendment passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION (amended motion): Board Member Wallace reported that the community needs more time to gather feedback. President Adams reported that she has heard the positive. She feels that the year of evaluation is important. She encouraged anyone who has questions to please speak with administration and the counselors. Board Member Preece reported that 90% of the students in the high school have registered already and it has been a positive experience. He noted that there are positive things happening with this program. He encouraged those that have questions to visit with administration, the counselors, teachers, and the superintendent. He noted that part of transparency entails the parents to do their part to speak with those that can give them the correct answers. Board Member Trease asked if the Board needs to vote on assuring that the bell schedule and graduation requirements are on the same agenda. President Adams feels that this does not need a vote. Board Member Brooks reported that she appreciates the way the counselors have communicated with the parents regarding the five-period schedule.

APPROVAL: The amended motion passed unanimously.

Morgan Education Foundation Trustee Recommendation

MOTION: Board Member Brooks moved to approve the Morgan Education Foundation Trustee Recommendation.

SECOND: Board Member Wallace

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Trustland/TSSA Plans

MOTION: President Adams moved to approve the Trustland/TSSA Plans.

SECOND: Board Member Trease

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptable Usage Policy

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to approve the Acceptable Usage Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Brooks

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Participation in Online Education Policy

MOTION: Board Member Wallace moved to approve the Participation in Online Education Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Trease

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Student Data Protection Policy

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to approve the Student Data Protection Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Brooks

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Time and Effort Policy

MOTION: President Adams moved to approve the Time and Effort Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Preece

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Home School Affidavit(s)

MOTION: Board Member Trease moved to approve the home school affidavit(s).

SECOND: Board Member Wallace

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to go to Conference Room A for closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

SECOND: President Adams

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: A roll call vote was taken.

Gaylene Adams – yes

Kelly Preece – yes
Mandy Wallace – yes
Andrea Brooks – yes
Angie Trease - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board members met in closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

MOTION: Board Member Wallace moved to go from closed session and reconvene the regular Board meeting.

SECOND: Board Member Preece

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Committee/School Visit Reports:

The board member reports were tabled due to time constraints.

Advanced Planning for Upcoming Events:

- a. RISE Graduate Celebration May 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- b. MHS Graduation May 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m. @ Dee Events Center
- c. Next Meeting June 10, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Business Administrator, Scott McMillan