

**MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

February 2, 2021, 6:00 PM
Closed Session, 5:30 PM
ZOOM

Attendance Taken at 5:30 PM:

Present:

Adam Escoto
Carol Gittens
John Horner
Ivan Montes
Heather Orosco
Mary Patterson
Wendy Sullivan

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION TOPICS

A.2. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

A.3. PUPIL PERSONNEL - Student discipline Education Code 48918 (c)(K-12)

A.4. LIABILITY CLAIMS - Governmental Code Section 54956.95

A.5. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case

A.6. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - Pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code 54956.9

A.6.a. EL 17/18-001 v. Morgan Hill Unified School District Case No. 17CV319128

A.6.b. EL 20/21-001 vs Morgan Hill Unified School District Case No 20CV369396

A.7. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Government Code 54957.6) Morgan Hill Classified Employees Association (MHCEA) and Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers (MHFT), Designated representative: Fawn Myers / Morgan Hill Educational Leaders Association (MHELA), Unrepresented employees, Designated representative: Steve Betando

A.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code 54956.8)

A.9. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE-DISCIPLINE / DISMISSAL / RELEASE / REASSIGNMENT / COMPLAINT (Government Code 54957 and 54957.1)

A.10. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Government Code 54957)

A.11. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

B. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and Trustee Escoto let the Pledge of Allegiance

C. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Board Members and Staff introduced themselves

D. RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS

D.1. Recognize Chamber of Commerce Student of the Year and Rising Star of the Year

The Board recognized the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce 2021 Celebrate Morgan Hill Youth Rising Star Award recipient, Ryder Kirk of Britton Middle School and the 2021 Student of the Year Award recipient, Catherine Lai, of Ann Sobrato High School.

E. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Adam Escoto and a second by Ivan Montes.

Yes Adam Escoto
Yes Carol Gittens
Yes John Horner
Yes Ivan Montes
Yes Heather Orosco
Yes Mary Patterson
Yes Wendy Sullivan

F. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Heather Orosco and a second by Adam Escoto.

Yes Adam Escoto
Yes Carol Gittens
Yes John Horner
Yes Ivan Montes
Yes Heather Orosco
Yes Mary Patterson
Yes Wendy Sullivan

G. PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

Kathleen King, Healthy Kids Foundation, addressed the Board regarding the screening programs offered. Ms. King spoke about her positive experience working with our District and a new mental health screening opportunity.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

H.1. Closed Session Action Report (Government Code 54957.1)

H.2. Report: Student Board Member

President Sullivan acknowledged Leilah Acevez, Central High School Student Representative for her contributions as the second trimester Student Board Member.

Leilah Acevez, Central High School Student Board Representative, reported Central is ending their fourth marking period with a result of ten students on track to graduate this month and announced Central Staff did home visits with special treats for passing students.

H.3. Reports: Superintendent / Staff

Superintendent Betando reported we have made it to the 100th day of school and acknowledged staff for their efforts to continue to engage students in creative ways.

Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Perez reported the Board took action to award the Jackson Academy of Math and Music project which came in under budget and acknowledged staff for their efforts during the bidding process.

Superintendent Betando reported the District continues to advocate for vaccine distribution at one of our school locations.

H.4. Reports: Employee Groups: Morgan Hill Classified Employee Association / Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers / Morgan Hill Educational Leaders Association

Gema Alvarez, Morgan Hill Classified Employees Association Treasurer, announced MHCEA will begin negotiations; reported staff is feeling a bit nervous but hopeful to return to in-person instruction and reassigned staff has enjoyed their alternate assignments. Ms. Alvarez announced that MHCEA will begin their scholarship application process, adding a new scholarship to their program this year.

Jim Levis, Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers President, congratulated the Chamber of Commerce Youth Rising Star and Student of the Year; spoke about the upcoming Superintendent Search and efforts to return to in-person return instruction, confirming MHFT and District Staff are working together to ensure all safety protocols are being addressed; updated on site virtual activities and reported on assessment and attendance efforts during the pandemic.

Patrick Buchser, Morgan Hill Educational Leaders Association President, reported administrators continue to participate in a professional book club; acknowledged all students, staff and families for reopening conversations and confirmed MHELA is working with stakeholders to meet community needs and lastly, thanked Trustee Patterson for sending a Martin Luther King, Jr post card ever year.

H.5. Reports: Board Members

Trustee Patterson, recognized Live Oak Principal, Tanya Calabretta for receiving an award from the National Guard; attended Jackson Academy of Math and Music Middle School Information Night, the Martin Murphy Middle School Awards Ceremony and a racial justice event.

Trustee Montes, attended a DLAC meeting discussing Naviance, Martin Murphy Awards Ceremony and a racial justice and equity session from Leadership for Society, Race and Power through Stanford University.

Trustee Horner, attended Board of Education Professional Development and Retreat, CSBA Legislative meeting discussing TK for all and updated on Broadband opportunities within our community.

Trustee Escoto, updated on the Superintendent Search as an Ad Hoc Committee member, reporting a firm was selected and next steps involved in the process; announced Annual Legislative Summit updates; attended the Martin Murphy Middle School Award Ceremony and will continue attending Master in Governance classes.

Trustee Sullivan, attended a Capital Advisor budget workshop, Jackson Academy of Math and Music Middle School Information Night; participated in the Chamber Education meeting; attended Martin Murphy Awards Ceremony and memorial service for former MHUSD employee, Gemma Abels

H.6. Calendar: Upcoming events

President Sullivan read aloud the calendar of upcoming events

I. CONSENT ITEMS

I.1. BUSINESS SERVICES

I.1.a. Ratification of contracts executed pursuant to Board Policy 3312 for the month of December 2020

I.1.b. Approve Fifth Amendment with City of Morgan Hill for Corporation Yard Lease

I.1.c. Adopt resolution to accept donations made to the Morgan Hill Unified School District and increase budgets

I.1.d. Award of Jackson Academy of Math and Music multi-use and classroom modernization project

I.1.e. Approve declaration of obsolete and disposal and sale of surplus equipment

I.2. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

I.2.a. School Site Safety Plans

I.2.b. Spring 2021 Open House Schedule

I.3. HUMAN RESOURCES

I.3.a. Approve personnel action to employ, re-employ, promote, reassign, accept resignation, accept retirement, and authorize related compensation

I.3.b. Certificated recruitment events for 2021

I.4. SUPERINTENDENT

I.4.a. Approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting of January 19, 2021

J. GENERAL BUSINESS - PUBLIC SESSION ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

J.1. Update on Re-Opening Plan

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Virginia Barrera Re: J.1

Krystal Price Re: J.1

Eileen Resnick Re: J.1

Ross Rutner Re: J.1

Cortney Brooks Re: J.1

Peter Mandel Re: J.1

Sarah McDonald, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board regarding concerns with comments made at a previous meeting about teachers needing to get back to work and students back in school. Ms. McDonald expressed teachers and students are working harder than ever and provided success stories of her students in her class.

Avery Unterreiner, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board regarding concerns with returning to in-person instruction, stating teachers have organized themselves to be successful in the current distance learning environment and changes would be detrimental to student learning.

Virginia Barrera, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board with concerns regarding comments made by Trustees at the January 19th meeting stating teachers need to get back to teaching and student back to learning.

Krystal Price, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board regarding concerns with returning to in-person instruction and stated they are uncomfortable with the return model presented.

Eileen Resnick, MHFT Employee, addressed the Board regarding concerns with re-opening and comments made by Trustees at the January 19th meeting stating students are not learning and teachers are not teaching.

Ross Rutner, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board regarding concerns with returning to in-person instruction, even with a vaccine.

Cortney Brooks, MHUSD Employee, addressed the Board requesting more information on returning to in-person instruction, including counselors, social/emotional support, services for IEP students, transportation and communication to families and the community.

Peter Mandel, Community Member, addressed the Board regarding learning growth, in-person instruction particularly in primary health and safety guidelines and re-opening logistics.

Superintendent Betando and Executive Staff presented and update on the reopening plan.

[210202 Program Plan Presentation](#)

Board discussions include family responses to in-person and distance learning percentages, comments made to speakers at last Board meeting, in-person schedules, teacher return options for return to in-person instruction, clarification on required return, Principal support and input, March 22nd date to return and its challenges and student mental health.

J.2. Public Hearing: Conduct public hearing and accept contract openers with Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers for negotiations

Assistant Superintendent Myers introduced MHFT President Levis who read aloud the MHFT contract openers.

Public Hearing Opened at 8:57 PM

There were no public comments

Public Hearing Closed at 8:58 PM

J.3. Governor's Budget 2021-22 report

Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Perez presented the Governor's January proposal providing direction to the District on what initial assumptions should be used in developing next year's budget.

[210202 Governor's Budget Proposal 2021-22 Presentation](#)

The Board paused discussion to extend the meeting.

Motion Passed: to extend the meeting until 11:30 PM Passed with a motion by Ivan Montes and a second by Adam Escoto.

Yes Adam Escoto
Yes Carol Gittens
Yes John Horner
Yes Ivan Montes
Yes Heather Orosco
Yes Mary Patterson
Yes Wendy Sullivan

Board discussions included suggestion to focus on weeks and months ahead, importance of reserves, and programs with one-time monies.

J.4. Approve 2020-21 second interim budget for the restricted non-general funds as reported in the Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) report

Victoria Knutson, Director Fiscal Services presented the summary description of each restricted non-general funds and a spreadsheet summarizing the budgeted amounts.

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by John Horner and a second by Carol Gittens.

Yes Adam Escoto
Yes Carol Gittens
Yes John Horner
Yes Ivan Montes
Yes Heather Orosco
Yes Mary Patterson
Yes Wendy Sullivan

J.5. First Semester Secondary Grade Data

Glen Webb, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment presented a report on Fall Semester secondary grades.

[210202 First Semester Secondary Grade Data](#)

Board discussions included student educational path planning, correlation between attendance and academic results, observation with middle school struggles, earliest state performance data, potential impacts in student grade data and possible retention.

J.6. Superintendent Search Process Discussion

The District began its search for a qualified candidate to become its new superintendent of schools to start on July 1, 2021. At its December 15, 2020 Meeting, the Governing Board authorized a proposed timeline for the search including contracting with an executive search firm to perform the search. A Superintendent Search webpage is now linked to the District's website and can be accessed here: <https://www.mhusd.org/superintendent-search-2021>. As the process continues, new information will be added to the webpage.

Superintendent Betando updated the Board on the Superintendent Search process. Next steps include Superintendent Search Input Sessions, a Community Forum and online survey.

J.7. Approve Contract for Superintendent Search Firm Services

At its January 28, 2021, Special Meeting, the Governing Board selected Leadership Associates as the firm to conduct the Superintendent Search for the District this Spring.

Motion Passed: Approve as submitted Passed with a motion by Ivan Montes and a second by Adam Escoto.

Yes Adam Escoto
Yes Carol Gittens

Yes John Horner
Yes Ivan Montes
Yes Heather Orosco
Yes Mary Patterson
Yes Wendy Sullivan

J.8. Accept annual review of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Assistant Superintendent Vazquez-Vialva presented the review of the district's 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedure Board Policy and Administrative Regulation. The current board policy and administrative regulation are attached with edits from CSBA to be reviewed with the Policy Subcommittee at a future Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Board discussions included clarification of review at a Board of Education meeting versus review at a Board Policy Subcommittee meeting and discussed moving this type of review to the consent calendar in the future.

J.9. New business: future agenda items / recognitions

Trustee Escoto requested a Board discussion regarding student learning loss and plan for learning recovery and proposed a work session on this issue.

Trustee Patterson recognized Assistant Superintendent Myers for her coordination with COVID testing and Human Resource matters and acknowledged Trustee Sullivan for retreat planning.

Superintendent Betando requested clarification of the proposed re-opening plan and date moving forward.

Trustees suggested to move forward with clarification on return date for teachers, stand behind re-opening date and are confident Staff will do everything we can to get kids back to in-person instruction safely.

Trustee Montes acknowledged Superintendent Betando for the re-opening presentation, leadership and communication during this time.

Trustee Patterson requested re-opening update between now and the next regular Board meeting.

Trustee Escoto suggested checking with the County on pulling teachers and administrators together to explore various instruction models.

K. PUPIL DISCIPLINE

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 PM

Steve Betando, Superintendent