

Morgan County Board of Education

December 10, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Work Session Notes

Present: Chairman Jimmy Dobbs, Vice-Chairman Billy Rhodes, Board Members John Holley, Chris Humphries, Adam Glenn, Mike Tarpley, Paul Holmes, and Superintendent Robert L. Elliott, Jr.

Update on Whole Board Training for 2020-2021-Superintendent and Chairman

The External Training Application (for whole board training) submitted to the Alabama Association of School Boards by The Akribos Group has been approved by the Association. The Board will conduct their mandated whole board training session, facilitated by The Akribos Group, on January 14, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The topic of the training is the School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012. If any Board member is unable to participate in the training, they should submit a waiver request form to AASB. The waiver request form is available at the AASB website, or Mrs. Goode can provide you with a form. Board members should please put this date down on their calendars and try to attend this training. Following guidance from AASB's legal counsel, the MCBOE will begin posting notes from each of their work sessions to the system's website. This becomes effective with notes from the November 17, 2020 work session forward. Doing so ensures that the Board complies with the Open Meetings Act. Simbli, the new board packet management program used by the Board, has launched. Board members should contact Mrs. Goode if they need training on the Simbli program.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Elliott provided the Board members with copies of the Report on the Morgan County Board of Education for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019 issued by the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. The report made note of the staff of the Board discovering fraudulent purchases made by a bookkeeper, and that the matter has been turned over to the Morgan County District Attorney and the Alabama Ethics Commission. This matter is not considered an instance of noncompliance by the Board. The report further stated that tests performed during the examination did not disclose any significant instances of noncompliance with applicable state or local laws and regulations. We have received information concerning the number of remote versus on-campus students in our system. The first week of September 2020, we had around 35% of students remote and around 65% of students on-campus. The first week of December 2020, we have around 25% of students remote and around 75% of students on-campus. We are doing all we can to keep the school doors open for the students.

Agenda Changes

Personnel items 10, 11, 12, and 13 will be added to tonight's business meeting agenda in the form of recommendations from the Superintendent, along with all appropriate supporting documentation for each addition supplied to the Board.

Board Member Comments

Board members and the Superintendent were unified in their expressions of thanks to the staff of the MCSS for their hard work and efforts to keep the school doors opened for the students. Mr. Glenn spoke on the recently held AASB 2020 Winter Conference training sessions, mentioning the level of in-person versus virtual attendance and highlighting content from motivational speakers who presented at the conference.