

Morgan County Board of Education

Work Session Notes

May 11, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman Paul Holmes, Board Members Billy Rhodes, Mike Tarpley, Jimmy Dobbs, Adam Glenn, Chris Humphries, and Superintendent Tracie Turrentine

Absent: Chairman John Holley

Superintendent's Report

- **Mr. Robbie Elliott, Jr., New Construction Point of Contact for Morgan County Schools, provided an update on current projects. Included in the report:**
 1. **The new West Morgan High School project failed the last final inspection. We have not set a date for the next attempt at final inspection yet. The commissioning agent we have hired was on the site today and will be there tomorrow. We are waiting on their report to see if there are any more issues to take care. Nearan Construction Company will then contact the State to schedule a new final inspection date. We are retaining a little over \$400,000.00 on this project.**
 2. **Projected substantial completion date for the New Athletic Facility at Danville High School is May 26, 2023; there would be some punch list items left at that time, but that is not a problem. The project has made good progress.**
 3. **Projected substantial completion date for the New Administrative Addition to Albert P. Brewer High School is June 16, 2023. Work laying the bricks is taking place now. Installation of the windows will begin when the brickwork is finished.**
 4. **Projected substantial completion date for the New Classroom Addition at Union Hill School is May 6, 2024. We need some good weather conditions to continue progress on this project; they are working as weather conditions allow.**
 5. **Bids for the new Priceville Junior High School will open at 2:00 p.m. on June 6, 2023; a pre-bid meeting will take place May 23, 2023. Ten bidders have prequalified. A recommendation on the bid/contract is scheduled for the June 8, 2023 MCBOE business meeting. It usually takes the contractor 45 days to mobilize on the site. Work straightening the driveway at the existing PHS campus needs to be complete before the contractor mobilizes on site. Mr. Rhodes does not want to wait until June, July, and August to begin work on this project.**
- **Mrs. Turrentine provided the Superintendent's Report. Included in the report:**
 1. **Contract Change Order 01 related to the project Danville High School Athletic Facility recommended on tonight's business meeting agenda is to repair damage to the paving around the facility caused by excess water. Correcting the damage will make a safer surface around the area.**

2. There are other bids recommended for action tonight related to facility safety: the bid related to the HVAC improvements at Union Hill School, Albert P. Brewer High School, and Cotaco School; the bid related to the re-roof project at Albert P. Brewer High School; the elevator modernization for Union Hill School.
3. We plan to have SROs at all 2023 summer camps. These are not the SROs we usually have. These SROs are provided through the help of Trinity PD, Priceville PD, and the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. We are working towards all campuses being covered by SROs next school year.
4. We are installing new cameras on buses through Angel Trax; this is on a three-year rotation.
5. We are replacing three products currently used with LineWize, a real time digital threat assessment system. This product uses artificial intelligence to monitor our system's Google accounts for key words that indicate a possible threat or mental health situation. The system would notify the appropriate administrator if such a situation is detected. Our assistant principals and directors saw a presentation on the system arranged by Mr. Chowning, MCS Technology Supervisor/Coordinator.
6. We will also offer an employee assistance program which makes counseling services available to our staff.
7. Mrs. Turrentine talked to the Academy of Craft Training (ACT) people today. The ACT Academy is located in the Lurleen Wallace building in Hartselle. This is the third Academy in the State; other Academies are in Mobile and Birmingham. This would be the North Alabama Academy, and they hope to pull students from throughout North Alabama. Their focus is on CTE construction, and they have public and private sponsors. ACT talked to all of our high school students, and they received the biggest response from West Morgan and Danville students. ACT plans to put their focus on those students from within our system. We have a meeting with ACT set for May 15th to discuss transportation. ACT would like us to partner with them to transport students to the Academy, with the Academy providing 100 percent funding for transportation via our two buses. Mrs. Turrentine will update the Board after that meeting. ACT is only pulling the director and counselor from the schools; the other employees will come from the workforce.
8. A recommendation to the MCBOE will be made at the June 8, 2023 to move the Alternative School from Sparkman to Brewer High School. This recommendation is due to transportation (getting all of the buses headed in the same direction) and to keep from having to bus lunches.
9. We are looking to begin an Adaptive Classroom Environment (ACE) class to address behavioral issues. Our current Alternative School addresses grades 6-12; the ACE class would address grades K-12. The class would be a combination of academic and behavior, addressing the needs of children who are having problems academically because of their behavior. The class will have small groups, individualized instruction, and immediate rewards for positive behavior. The students' progress will be monitored, with the goal of eventually returning them to the regular classroom. Maximum class size is eight to ten students, with 9th-12th grade students served at

Brewer High School and West Morgan High School; 4th-8th grade students served at West Morgan Middle School; K-4th and 5th-8th grade students served at Cotaco; K-3rd students served at West Morgan Elementary School. The overall goal of the class is to control behavior and improve academics. There is a need for this type of class throughout the county. The two new job descriptions recommended on tonight's business meeting are associated with this class, and they are funded through grants.

10. As ESSER money begins to transition away, we need to begin looking for grant opportunities.

Announcement of Agenda Changes

- Deleted from the agenda: the MOA with the ALSDE under Section C of the Consent Agenda, Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements.
- Added to the Agenda in the form of recommendations from the Superintendent: Action items 14A through 14K and Personnel items 27 through 42.
- Added to the Agenda in the form of an item of the Board: Action item 16A.

Board Member Comments

- Board members thank our teachers for their hard work and wish them a happy Teacher Appreciation Week.