

Morgan County Board of Education

Work Session Notes

October 12, 2023

Present: Chairman John Holley, Board Members Billy Rhodes, Mike Tarpley, Jimmy Dobbs, Chris Humphries, and Superintendent Tracie R. Turrentine.

Absent: Vice Chairman Paul Holmes and Board Member Adam Glenn.

Update on Technology in Morgan County Schools-Mr. Trey Chowning, Morgan County Schools Technology Supervisor/Coordinator

Per an earlier request from the Board (Mr. Holmes), Mr. Chowning provided an update on technology in Morgan County Schools. Included in Mr. Chowning's report are updates concerning:

- **Infrastructure and network upgrades**
- **Classroom technology advancements**
- **Security and filtering enhancements**
- **Streamlining operations**
- **Team expansion and collaboration**
- **Grants and future endeavors**
- **The Technology Department's response to work order tickets**
- **Student work based learning in the Technology Department**
- **Submission of a Technology Department Handbook to the Superintendent for recommendation to the Board**
- **Improving security posture**

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Robert L. Elliott, Jr., New Construction Point of Contact for Morgan County Schools, provided an update on new construction projects. Included in Mr. Elliott's report:

- **We have three new construction projects going on right now. Those projects are: The Danville High School Athletic Facility project; The Union Hill School Classroom Addition; The New Priceville Junior High School project.**
- **The Danville High School Athletic Facility project reached substantial completion on September 28, 2023 with five items left on the punch list. Mr. Elliott hopes to have a final report on the financials from this project to the Board during his November 9, 2023 report. Danville High School Principal Dr. Brian Ellis plans to utilize the facility for students on Monday of next week. We are over budget on this project, but this is due to our own additions to the project.**
- **The revised completion date for Phases I and II of the Union Hill School Classroom Addition is May 22, 2024. This project is six weeks behind schedule. The new superintendent overseeing the project is working to improve this delay.**
- **The projected completion date for the new Priceville Junior High School project is July 23, 2025. This project is progressing well and is currently running ahead of schedule.**

Per a request from the Board (Mr. Rhodes) at their last work session, Mrs. Turrentine provided a report on current student enrollment compared to student enrollment at this time last school year.

- Last year's total student enrollment at this time: 7595 students.
- This year's total student enrollment (currently): 7619 students.
- We see an increase of 24 students currently enrolled versus this same time last year. A breakdown of current student enrollment at each school shows gains and losses as follow:

- Albert P. Brewer High School: + 47 students
- Cotaco School: -38 students
- Danville High School: +12 students
- Danville Middle School: +13 students
- Danville Neel Elementary School: -35 students
- Eva School: -14 students
- Falkville Elementary School: +44 students
- Falkville High School: +34 students
- Lacey's Spring School: -15 students
- Priceville Elementary School: +26 students
- Priceville High School: -5 students
- Priceville Junior High School: -27 students
- Union Hill School: +2 students
- West Morgan Elementary School: -94 students (impacted by the 4th grade students moving to the Middle School)
- West Morgan High School: +58 students
- West Morgan Middle School: +109 students (impacted by the 4th grade students relocating from the Elementary School)

We have submitted our Annual Assurance of Compliance Report to the Alabama State Department of Education. This report allows us to verify our system is up to date on items such as our safety plans, Title IX requirements, FERPA requirements, and staff training on suicide prevention and appropriate use of social media.

Our schools have submitted their Emergency Action Plans for fall, winter, and spring sports to the Superintendent's office. Our coaches review these plans with our student athletes to make sure the students are aware of emergency procedures during athletic events.

The automated external defibrillators we ordered for the five high schools are in. Our Maintenance Department staff worked to place these devices at the schools last week. Our parents and stakeholders are providing positive feedback to our recently implemented safety procedures for athletic events.

The Board will take action on an Application for Registration as a Charter Authorizer tonight. If approved, the Board would have to reapply every five years, and training would be required.

The Board will take action on school calendars for the next three school years tonight. The Calendar Committee, composed of Central Office and local school administrators, our Teachers of the Year, along with input from our finance department, worked to develop the calendar options recommended tonight. We will always keep three calendars current moving forward.

Announcement of Agenda Changes

Added to tonight's business meeting agenda (with supporting documentation as applicable):

- **Action Items Number 11A and 11B**
- **Personnel Items 12 through 22**
- **Item 13A**

Board Member Comments

Mr. Jimmy Dobbs gave a report on the recently attended Alabama Association of School Board's 2023 Fall Conference.