

Morgan County Board of Education

Work Session Notes

February 8, 2024

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

Absent: Board Chairman Paul Holmes.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent gave a report on the Alabama Association of School Board's (AASB) 2024 School System Snapshot for the Morgan County School system. This is an annual report from AASB provided to all Alabama school systems in January. This year's Snapshot comes from Fiscal Year 2022 data. Included in the Superintendent's report on the Snapshot:

- **The amount listed in our reserve fund is tied up with what we borrowed for the current new Priceville Junior High School building project. When you take away the amount we borrowed for the new PJHS project, the reserve fund amount looks very different. However, we are in excess of three month's reserve.**
- **Per pupil expenditure as listed in the Snapshot is \$11,428.00.**
- **Our funding comes from State, Federal and Local funds. Per the Snapshot, we receive 52 percent funding from the State and 14 percent funding from Federal government.**
- **We must have our remaining ESSER money spent by September 2024 with nothing coming from the Federal government to replace it. Upon expiration of the ESSER funds, all of our Federal funding ties back to our Title schools funding.**
- **The value of one mill for our school system is \$852,513.00. We are a little above average on the value of our mill versus other areas of the State.**
- **We did not receive the Advancement in Technology money in 2023.**
- **As we see the ESSER money used and dried up, we are going to see different kinds of budgets and have to be a little stricter with our money. The Superintendent has been working with our principals to assess needs, and we are getting ready for budget hearings with Mrs. Humphries to make a plan going forward that will best fit the needs of our students.**

The Superintendent invited Mr. Robert L. Elliott, Jr., New Construction Point of Contact for Morgan County Schools, to report on new construction projects currently underway. Included in Mr. Elliott's report:

- **We have wrapped up all of the financials for the new Danville High School Athletic Facility. We were over budget \$189,000.00 on the project, but \$172,000.00 of that was for the additional paving we did.**
- **Final roofing materials for the New Classroom Addition at Union Hill School is supposed to be in February 12th. FEMA windows are installed, but the bigger windows are not. Power is supposed to be turned on February 20th, and we hope to be in Phase I of the project May 1st. Mr. Holley said he knows it is construction, but the place is an absolute dump and he asks that Mr. Elliott stay on them about cleaning it up.**
- **Work on the new Priceville Junior High School is rolling. The main gym should be delivered March 25th. Vice Chairman Dobbs asked if there will be more parking for teachers around the building as the project wraps up, and if there will be more parking for**

students at the high school. Mrs. Turrentine said that half of the parking lot where the practice field is located is half rock and half paved; eventually this will all be paved and available for parking.

The Superintendent invited Mr. Matt Adams, Director of Secondary Education and Mental Health, to give a report on recently held data meetings with administrators. Included in Mr. Adams report:

- We did drop from an 86 to an 84 on the most recent State Report Card.
- Our biggest hit was our graduation rate; principals will be focusing on a plan to improve our graduation rate.
- We have 15% chronic absenteeism. Principals are working to address this issue, using methods such as actively tracking students when there is an absence pattern.
- Our Superintendent is focusing on our College and Career Readiness Indicator.
- Our principals are working together to develop best practices to address our needs related to student data. These best practices include academic boot camps, practice tests, parent access to online ACT practice tests, student lead conference and data presentations, tracking our dropout rate, one person at each school tracking CCR progress, focus on improved student attendance via phone calls, home visits, and incentive programs.
- We want to make sure our students own their data.

The Superintendent ended her report with two other comments:

- Our Legislation is in session again and the Superintendent will be attending three of those meetings over the next couple of months. We do want to keep talking to our Legislative members. The District 8 Superintendents will be pushing for fully funded transportation (currently around 82 percent funded) and additional funding for Special Education. Our SPE is not fully funded. The supplement given by the Legislature for SPE this year was only for elementary and secondary teachers. We are about 60 percent funded in SPE due to the number of students we are serving versus how much State funding we are getting. SPE Pre-K teachers were not funded by the State. We are watching what is going on with the School Choice conversation. The Superintendent will attend as many Legislative meetings in Montgomery with the District 8 Superintendents as she can.
- Our State Superintendent did excuse our weather days; we will not have to make those days up.

Announcement of Agenda Changes

- Added to the agenda in the form of recommendations from the Superintendent: action item 12A and personnel items 11 through 17. The Board members received a list of the changes and supporting documentation as it applies.

Board Member Comments

- AASB is looking to pilot an Equity Training program with Morgan County Schools being one of the systems looked at to pilot the program. The BOE, teachers and staff, students, and parents would all be part of the pilot. AASB is celebrating their 75th anniversary of providing Board training opportunities to Alabama School Boards.
- Would like our Superintendent to look at the academies Decatur City Schools are offering.
- Would like to look at offering incentives for marked increase in scores or reaching a certain level and challenge ourselves to recognize hard work being done.
- Research proposed legislation that could impact public schools and reach out to your Legislators.

- **Congratulations to the Morgan County Schools Basketball Tournament champions.**
- **Work to promote the success of our system.**