MINUTES OF THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 12, 2019

The Morgan County Board of Education met in regular session at the Office of the Board on December 12, 2019 with an advertised start time of 6:00 p.m. A work session preceded the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Chairman John Holley, Vice-Chairman Billy Rhodes, Board Members Tom Earwood, Mike Tarpley, Paul Holmes, Adam Glenn, Jimmy Dobbs and Superintendent Bill W. Hopkins, Jr.

Chairman Holley called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Josh Lenox opened the meeting with prayer and Mr. Carter Smothers led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME

Chairman Holley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGENDA CHANGES

Chairman Holley asked for the announcement of agenda changes. Action items 15A, 15B, 15C, and 15D (a proposal from the Board) are added to the agenda, as are personnel items 17, 18, and 19. Board members received all applicable supporting documentation for each agenda addition.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Holley called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Mr. Tarpley moved and Mr. Earwood seconded the motion to adopt the agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP SHOWCASE-UNION HILL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL MRS. HONI SMITH

Students from Union Hill Junior High School presented information from their recent study of Alabama’s Bicentennial anniversary including a celebration of several famous Alabamians. Students ended their presentation by inviting everyone to join them in singing “Happy Birthday” to Alabama. Students participating in the presentation: Carter Smothers, Bryce Williams, Leah Bailey, Hunter Alldridge, Brynley Monday, Amberly Lenox, Bentlee Blocker, Alyssa Irving, Kynsley Padilla, Cale Smith, third-grade class members.

RECOGNITION OF MR. RUSSELL HAGGARD, WEST MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL, 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Mr. Russell Haggard of West Morgan High School was presented with an award in honor of being named a 2019 National Merit Semifinalist. This is the second consecutive year Mr. Haggard has achieved this honor.
PRESENTATION OF THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARD’S PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR 2019 TO THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION—MR. RONNIE OWENS, AASB DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR

Mr. Ronnie Owens, District 8 Director for the Alabama Association of School Boards, presented the Superintendent and members of the Board with AASB's 2019 President’s Award. AASB’s President’s Award recognizes school boards that have had 60 percent or more of their members attend at least three AASB conferences in an academic year and, in that same year, have had all members of their boards meet state-mandated training requirements.

PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

In order to present a matter to the Board, a written request must be submitted to the Superintendent’s office five (5) days prior to the scheduled Board meeting in order to be included on the agenda. No items will be discussed by the public or employees that are not on the agenda. (Morgan County Schools Policy 2.4 Board Meetings/2.4.5 Public Participation)

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

(The Board is furnished with background material for each item on the consent agenda. These items will be acted upon with one vote without discussion. If a Board member wants to discuss an item, the item will be pulled off the consent agenda and voted on separately.)

MINUTES

Approve as presented the minutes from the November 7, 2019 called meeting of the Morgan County Board of Education. (Copy attached)

Approve as presented the minutes from the November 12, 2019 annual meeting of the Morgan County Board of Education. (Copy attached)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approve as presented the check register accountability report (expenses) for the month of October 1-31, 2019. (Copy attached)

Approve as presented the bank reconciliation reports for the depository and CNP accounts for the statement ending date of October 31, 2019. (Copies attached)

Approve as presented the local school bank reconciliation reports for the statement ending date of October 31, 2019. (Copies attached)

OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Approve as presented a request for out of state travel effective March 12-15, 2020 from Brewer High School (control #708). Approximately thirty-eight (38) band members and their chaperones will travel to Chicago, Illinois to perform in the Chicago St. Patrick’s Day parade. (Request form attached)

Approve as presented a request for out of state travel effective May 15, 2020 from Eva Junior High School (control #750). Approximately thirty-eight (38) students and their chaperones will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the park’s Education Day. (Request form attached)
Approve as presented a request for out of state travel effective February 24-28, 2020 from Danville High School (control #751). Approximately seven (7) students and their chaperones will travel to New York City, New York to participate in a theater-focused tour of the city designed to provide students with the opportunity to grow their own performing skills. (Request form attached)

Approve as presented a request for out of state travel effective May 6, 2020 from Cotaco Junior High School (control #752). Approximately twenty-five (25) students and their chaperones will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in a tour of city attractions designed to expose them to various STEM activities. (Request for attached)

CONTRACTS

Approve as presented a contract for services with Jennifer Wray to provide intervention/tutoring services for K-4 students as needed and effective December 13, 2019 through May 21, 2020. (See attachments)

Mr. Holmes moved and Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED 2019-20 MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Mr. Dobbs moved and Mr. Glenn seconded the motion to approve as presented the 2019-20 Morgan County Schools Technology Plan.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 2-AGREEMENT WITH VOLKERT, INC.

Mr. Dobbs moved and Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion to approve as presented Amendment No. 2 to the agreement between the Morgan County Board of Education and Volkert, Inc.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022 MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDARS

Mr. Holmes moved and Mr. Tarpley seconded the motion to approve as presented the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Morgan County School Calendars as selected by majority vote of the MCSS staff members.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED SUPERINTENDENT TO ACT AS AGENT OF THE BOARD-TOWN OF PRICEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Tarpley moved and Mr. Earwood seconded the motion to approve authorization of Morgan County Schools Superintendent Bill W. Hopkins, Jr. to act as an agent for the Board in all matters related to a Certificate to Subdivide application form submitted to the Town of Priceville Planning Commission.

The motion was unanimously approved.
APPROVED LOW BID FROM CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES AND ASSOCIATES-RE-ROOF OF DANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Glenn moved and Mr. Holmes seconded the motion to accept the low bid of $111,900.00 from Construction Specialties and Associates for the re-roof of Danville Middle School.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED AGREEMENT WITH MCKEE AND ASSOCIATES-NEW WEST MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Rhodes moved and Mr. Dobbs seconded the motion to approve as presented the Agreement Between the Owner and Architect (Morgan County Board of Education and McKee and Associates Architecture and Interior Design) for the project New West Morgan High School for 600 students.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED FINAL SALES AGREEMENT FOR BOND ISSUE

Mr. Holmes moved and Mr. Dobbs seconded the motion to approve as presented the final sales agreement for Morgan County Board of Education School Tax Warrants, Series 2019-B.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVED RESOLUTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (PROPOSAL FROM THE BOARD)

Mr. Dobbs moved and Mr. Earwood seconded the motion to approve and adopt as presented the attached resolution by the Morgan County Board of Education supporting legislation requiring the appointment of local school superintendents and urging its local legislative delegation to support statewide legislation and to introduce a local bill to transition the Morgan County Schools superintendent office to an appointed position upon the expiration of the term of office or vacancy of the office of the current county superintendent.

The motion was unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL

(The employment of any individual listed below will be on a temporary-emergency basis pending background clearance.)

The Superintendent recommends the following personnel items number one through nineteen be approved as written:

1. Approve the employment of Thomas Vance Kinney as a bus driver, countywide (Union Hill School) effective November 13, 2019. Mr. Kinney will be replacing Randy Pestona who resigned. This will be Mr. Kinney’s second job with the Morgan County Board of Education; he is currently employed by the Board as a certified teacher. (See attachments)

2. Approve the employment of Sarah Herring as a custodian at Priceville High School effective December 13, 2019. Ms. Herring will be replacing April Langham who resigned. (See attachments)
3. Accept notice of retirement effective December 31, 2019 from Michael Drinkard, World History and Environmental Science teacher at Brewer High School. (See attachment)

4. Approve as presented a request for paid or unpaid leave of absence of 30 consecutive days or more (maternity) effective January 15, 2020 through February 3, 2020 from Lindsey Davis Crumpton, science teacher at Danville High School. (See attachment)

5. Approve as presented an employee supplemental contract with Michael Lee Walker to serve as 7th grade boys’ basketball coach at Priceville Junior High School effective for the contract year 2019-2020. (See attachments)

6. Approve as presented an application for continued salary in lieu of sick leave from Robert Bryson, Auto Technology teacher at the MCS Technology Park, effective for a total of five (5) days (11.7.19 and 11.13-11.18.19). Mr. Bryson was injured while on the job. (See attachments)

7. Accept notice of retirement effective January 1, 2020 from Gedale Taylor, bookkeeper at Priceville High School. (See attachment)

8. Accept notice of retirement effective December 31, 2019 from James Childers, bus driver at Cotaco School. (See attachment)

9. Approve the employment of Monte Leashelle Livingston as inventory control clerk at the Central Office Bus Shop effective December 13, 2019. Ms. Livingston will be replacing Angie Sheppard Whitt who resigned. (See attachments)

10. Approve the employment of Connie K. Morris as bus driver aide at Sparkman School (countywide) effective December 13, 2019. Ms. Morris will be replacing Dawn Landry who resigned. (See attachments)

11. Accept notice of retirement effective December 31, 2019 from Sandra McMinemom, custodian (nine months) at Brewer High School. (See attachment)

12. Accept notice of retirement effective January 1, 2020 from Lynne Alexander, counselor at Eva Junior High School. (See attachment)

13. Approve the employment of Anthony Gailes as custodian (12 months) at Lacey’s Spring School effective December 13, 2019. Mr. Gailes will be replacing Morris Norton who resigned. (See attachments)

14. Approve the employment of Rachel Patterson as a bus driver aide at Danville Middle School (countywide) effective January 6, 2020. Ms. Patterson will be replacing Diana White who resigned. (See attachments)

15. Approve the school to another school transfer of Laura Johnson from bus driver at Danville Middle School to bus driver at Brewer High School effective December 13, 2019. Ms. Johnson will be replacing Michael Trosper who resigned. (See attachments)

16. Approve the employment of Lisa L. Dunn as a bus driver, countywide-Danville Middle School effective December 13, 2019. Ms. Dunn will be replacing Laura Johnson who is being recommended for a school to another school transfer. (See attachments)

17. Approve the employment of Brandon Russell Johnson as maintenance worker at Morgan County Schools-countywide effective December 13, 2019. Mr. Johnson will be replacing Tom Johnson who retired. (See attachments)

18. Approve the employment of Roger D. Niles as bookkeeper at Priceville High School effective January 3, 2020. Mr. Niles will be replacing Gedale Taylor who is retiring. (See attachments)

19. Approve the employment of Joseph R. Reid as maintenance worker at Morgan County Schools effective January 3, 2020. Mr. Reid will be replacing Rickey Nails who retired. (See attachments)
Mr. Dobbs moved and Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion to approve personnel items one through nineteen as written.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Rhodes moved and Mr. Earwood seconded the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Signed this the ____________________ day of ________________________, 2019.

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Mr. John Holley, Chairman, Morgan County Board of Education

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Mr. Bill W. Hopkins, Jr., Superintendent, Morgan County Schools

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Recorder of Minutes
Urging the Appointment of the School Superintendent

WHEREAS, the appointment of the school superintendent provides the opportunity to expand the talent pool to attract qualified candidates to apply and be eligible for the position;

WHEREAS, the appointment of a superintendent promotes professional qualifications, proven experience and demonstrated leadership skills to guide the selection process;

WHEREAS, the appointment of a superintendent removes the need for an elected superintendent to fundraise and campaign every four years and diverting focus from leading the school system;

WHEREAS, the appointment of a superintendent replaces election-year focus on popular politics with a process focused on the most effective chief school officer;

WHEREAS, the election of a local school superintendent is an outdated mode of selection for the chief officer of a school system;

WHEREAS, the appointed superintendent is accountable to the Board of Education and accountable to the standards and goals set by local leaders selected by the school community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Morgan County Board of Education supports legislation requiring the appointment of local school superintendents and urges its local legislative delegation to support statewide legislation and to introduce a local bill to transition the Morgan County Schools superintendent office to an appointed position upon the expiration of the term of office or vacancy of the office of the current county superintendent.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we direct a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the local legislative delegation.

Read, Approved and Adopted on this date:

[Signature]

Mr. John Holley, Chairman of the Morgan County Board of Education

DATE: 12-12-19