

Unofficial Minutes
Morrow County School District
Work Session – September 8, 2008

These are minutes of a work session of the Morrow County School District Board of Directors held on Monday, September 8th at 5:30 pm at Heppner High School in Heppner, OR

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Miles, Barney Lindsay, Daniel Daltoso, Nancy Vander Does, Bill Kuhn, and Berto Hernandez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nancy Vander Does & Pat McNamee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Burrows, Phyllis Danielson , Rhonda Lorenz, Julie Ashbeck, Daye Stone, Matt Combe, Jacque Johnson, Mark Jones, Dirk Dirksen, John Sebastian, Joel Chavez, Forrest McKinnis, Craig Bensen and Matt Matz.

OTHERS PRESENT:

n/a

Call to Order

The work session was called to order at 5:40 pm by Chairman Craig Miles. The purpose of the work session was to discuss: 1) to review ODE requirements and OAKS testing data; 2) to review the school improvement initiatives and define accountability strategies; and 3) to establish the 2008-09 board goals for MCSD.

Asst Superintendent Phyllis Danielson reported that the Department of Education heavily monitors all of the Title programs. This past year the district participated in an on-site audit. In subsequent years the district will be required to participate in a desk audit...which will require several notebooks of information being shipped off to ODE for them to review our compliance with specific programs. Mrs. Danielson reported that the district is in a continuous plan at all times. She further reported on the necessity to have 100% of our teachers HQ in core content areas. Some of our schools did not make AYP and as such will have to write an additional and/or different HQ plan.

Superintendent Burrows reported on the issues of: Time, Curriculum and Instruction. These are the three components that have the most direct impact on student learning. They must have enough time for the delivery of the instruction; the curriculum must be appropriate and the instruction must be delivered using a “best practices” approach. This is the only way to make progress on benchmark and RIT score gain.

Mr. Burrows then reported that each of the high schools have implemented their own version of accountability; however, the time has come for the K-6 grades to also be held accountable for making progress as well. He introduced the notion of a full scale K-12 accountability program not just targeting the higher grades. He asked for board approval to proceed with establishing a committee to work with getting this accountability program up and running in the very near future. Because the idea will require not only buy-in from the staff, parental support of the program is critical. Mr. Jones reiterated that as it stands right now...the high schools are bearing the burden and the lower grade schools have no responsibility with what they give to the high schools each year.

Board Goals: After reviewing the goals along with the test scores and what the new graduation requirements will be, the consensus of the board was that the present goals are good and are achievable, and that they should become the 2008-09 board goals.

Chairman Miles adjourned the work session at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Julie Ashbeck, Board Secretary

Craig Miles, Board Chairman

Date Approved _____