

Unofficial Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

February 9, 2015

These are minutes of the Morrow County School District Board of Directors regular meeting of Monday, February 9, 2015 held at Morrow Education Center in Irrigon, OR at 7:00 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thad Killingbeck, Brian Kollman, Bill Kuhn, Mark Pratt, Rhonda Hamby, Becky Kindle

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Barney Lindsay

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dirk Dirksen, George Mendoza, Cheryl Costello, Erin Stocker, Craig Bensen, Tina Joyce, Joel Chavez, Matt Matz, Mark Jones, Brandon Hammond, Matt Combe

OTHERS PRESENT:

as per roster

Call to Order:

Chairman Thad Killingbeck called the regular meeting to order in the Library at Morrow Education Center at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established. There was one correction to the agenda; adoption of policy DJC will not take place and will be moved to unfinished business in the March agenda for further discussion.

Delegations: MCEA – None; OSEA – Kathie Goad.

Presentations:

Mr. Olsen, Head Teacher of Morrow Education center welcomed everyone and introduced Elizabeth Gutierrez (educational Assistant), Mr. Jones (administrator); Susie Lemmon (educational assistant) was unable to attend. Mr. Olsen thanked the board for the opportunity to present information regarding the operations of Morrow Education Center. Mr. Olsen explained that 3 years ago Greenways was adopted, 2 years ago Acellus and now they are also utilizing Graduation Alliance. Students are having great success utilizing Acellus. There are 37 students (not all attend fulltime or at the same time) with 24 computers that can be monitored. Mr. Dirksen recently provided MEC with 10 Chromebooks so all students will have access to a computer when they are attending. Mr. Olsen explained that the programs used can be accessed anywhere; students are able to login from home and work on assignments and have even used their cellphones when power was out to continue working.

Mr. Olsen introduced Edgar Rodriguez; a student whom Mr. Olsen referred to as an MEC success story. Edgar was sent to MEC from Riverside Jr/Sr High School where he had fallen behind in credits and had he continued, might not be on track to graduate. Edgar spent semester 1 of this year at MEC, working hard and earning his way back to Riverside Jr/Sr High School for semester 2 and is on track for graduation in June of 2016. Mr. Olsen directed the boards attention to a bulletin board maintained at MEC which shows the successful track students are on; Edgar is a leader on that bulletin board.

Edgar logged into the Acellus program, demonstrating to the board the user friendly program. He also expressed to the board that at first he was not looking forward to attending alternative school, he thought it would not be good for him. In the beginning he did not want to be at MEC but as time passed it got better and soon was looking forward to coming to MEC. Edgar expressed that he knew he could have worked on school work at home, but he didn't. Edgar explained "at Riverside I was lazy, didn't do my work and spent time in the office, Mrs. Costello knows that. I am back at Riverside and I am a different person; I am respectful and do my work." Edgar thanked Mr. Olsen, Liz and Susie for all they did for him during his time at MEC.

Mr. Kuhn inquired as to the schedule at MEC and how long it took Edgar to get caught up. Mr. Olsen explained that the day is about 6.5 hours. Edgar started out with a small class load and worked up to more classes. In the first month he completed approximately 4 credits and it took about 12 weeks to complete all credits to get back on track. His behavior during his time at MEC was outstanding; he wanted to do what he needed to in order to get back to Riverside. All reports from Riverside since he has returned have been positive. Mr. Olsen is confident, Edgar has made a change. Edgar is our success story.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion: On a motion by Bill Kuhn, and a second by Becky Kindle, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

- A. Approved minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2015;
- B. Approved Financial Report, Enrollment Report, Spring Extra Duty and Employment Action for February 2015;
- C. 1st Reading of Rescinded, New or Revised Policies: IKF
- D. Adoption of Rescinded, New or Revised Policies: None
- E. Adoption of New, Revised or Rescinded AR's: None

Ayes: Killingbeck, Kindle, Pratt, Kollman, Hamby, Kuhn

Noes: n/a

Motion Passed

3. Reports & Presentations

Graduation Rates – A highlight for Morrow County School District is graduation rates. All schools have graduation rates above the state average. Heppner Jr/Sr High School has a graduation rate of 96%, Riverside Jr/Sr High School is at 83% and Irrigon Jr/Sr High School is at 79%. The district average was 83% and the state average is 71%. A detailed list of sub groups can be found on the district website. As a district we are above state average in all sub groups. These results speak highly of parents, administration and teachers working with our students.

Long Range Planning – There will be a board work session scheduled to move forward with plans for facilities, staffing and where we want to go. The work session is scheduled for February 17, 2015, at 6:00 pm at Heppner Elementary School.

Education Foundation Funds – There is a possibility of receiving Education Foundation funds at the next board meeting. We have moved forward with all Eastern Promise credits being paid for by the district. We are currently paying for classes taken through BMCC, TVCC, and EOU. If we have students taking classes out of area, we will have a discussion regarding payment for those classes. Some districts in our area are taking this approach and some are not. The number of college credits each school has been achieving is much higher than it was 5 years ago. There will also be technology grants awarded with teachers putting together information to apply for these grants as well as funds for educational field trips.

Lock-Out – Heppner Elementary School went into lock-out this morning. Five years ago, we would have gone into lock-down. We now use a lock-out procedure so that school can proceed. Mr. Combe shared the following details with the board: At approximately 8:05 a.m. a call was received from the Morrow County Sheriff's Department regarding an issue in the back parking lot at HES and asked the school to go into lock-out. An all clear call was received at approximately 8:40 am from the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Combe read the notice that was sent home to parents regarding the lock-out. Mr. Combe said “we did not miss a beat with normal activities” during the lock-out. Mr. Combe noted that they had just practiced this drill about a week ago. Mr. Dirksen shared that we have had two situations come up; we have practiced these drills and due to this staff and students were ready. Mr. Dirksen spoke to Chief Stokoe after the Boardman incident and he will visit with the Sheriff’s Department regarding this incident.

Enrollment – Mr. Dirksen pointed out that enrollment is still up. We started the year up 70-100 students and are up 67 students compared to this time last year. Enrollment remains consistent across the district.

IMESD – The IMESD Local Service Plan will be out in March. IMESD is currently working on what things will look like without Hermiston. The projection is that there will be no change to current services but we will not see the additional support we might have seen if Hermiston had stayed in.

Administration Reports – Mr. Kuhn thanked administration for their reports on college credits.

Unfinished Business:

Calendar Options for 2015-16: The majority of licensed employees polled voted for calendar option #1. Site councils, administrators, classified and confidential staff also voted for option #1. Of all who voted, 60% voted for option #1 and 20% with #2. This is the most common calendar we have had in the last 20 years. School starts before Labor Day with no school on Friday when there is a holiday on Monday.

2015-16 Calendar

Motion:	On a motion by Bill Kuhn, and a second by Mark Pratt, Calendar Option #1 was approved for the 2015-16 school year.
Ayes:	Killingbeck, Kindle, Pratt, Kollman, Hamby, Kuhn
Noes:	n/a
Motion Passed	

OSBA/COSA Legislative Day, Willamette University, February 23, 2015: The main topic is funding. ODE is recommending using 7.235 for budgeting but this is not the Governor’s number. The kinder number for the state keeps going up so this changes the numbers. We are already full day kindergarten so this is not an issue for us. There will be a presentation in the morning with time to visit with legislators in the afternoon. Bill, Thad and Dirk will be attending. If anyone else plans to attend, please let the district office know.

Superintendent Final Evaluation: Chairman Killingbeck reported that the superintendent evaluation is one of the most important endeavors that the board does. The process was discussed as far as the self-reflection that Mr. Dirksen provided the board in a work session. Overall, the board rated Mr. Dirksen as excellent or outstanding in all standards.

New Business:

Resolution 2014-15-05 Open Enrollment: The district will accept zero non-resident students in open enrollment but will accept students on a transfer request. This is a tracking mechanism from district to district.

Open Enrollment

Motion:	On a motion by Becky Kindle, and a second by Bill Kuhn, Resolution 2014-15-05 was approved for the 2015-16 school year.
Ayes:	Killingbeck, Kindle, Pratt, Kollman, Hamby, Kuhn
Noes:	n/a
Motion Passed	

Chairman Killingbeck read the announcements:

President's Day Holiday	Monday, February 16, 2015
Classified Employee Appreciation Week	March 2-6, 2015
Next Board Meeting – Irrigon Elementary	Monday, March 9, 2015

Chairman Thad Killingbeck thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the regular meeting at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheryl Costello, Board Secretary

Thad Killingbeck, Chairman

Date Approved: _____