Morton School District #214
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Pat Saldaña called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, board members present are Ms. Pat Saldaña, Mr. Josh Austin, Mr. Warren Dunlap, Mr. Chase Buffington, and Mrs. Betty Hutchison.

The flag salute was given.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Chase Buffington made motion to adopt the agenda with the removal of 4.1 section E-4 Contributing Citizens, Mr. Josh Austin seconded. The motion carried with all in favor. The vote carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Derrek Berkompas thanked the board for their time and service. Mr. Berkompas went over teacher compensation. Washington rates 49 out of 51 states for teacher compensation. Mr. Berkompas asked how does Morton rank with compensation. How do we keep new teachers and how do we keep teachers ready to retire? Morton has received several awards of distinction the last 5 years. How are the teachers being compensated at Morton for those awards vs other schools that are not receiving awards?

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Josh Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Warren Dunlap seconded. Ms. Pat Saldaña asked about the towing bill and wondered if everyone was okay. Mr. Hannah explained everyone and the bus were just fine. The bus ended up getting stuck on a piece of ice when the bus tried to turn around at the designated turn around spot on Bear Canyon and we needed the bus moved off the ice. Ms. Pat Saldaña asked about repair to the boiler and was wondering where it was. Mr. Hannah said he will get back to the board with the location. Ms. Pat Saladaña asked about Policy 3515. Mr. Hannah said it is just a policy we need so students can purchase gifts for seniors, proms, etc. We did not have a policy in place to allow this. Mr. Josh Austin asked about Resolution No. 2016-17/08 and 2016-17/08 reduction of staffing. Mr. Hannah said we do this yearly and it is only if needed. Mrs. Betty Hutchison asked about the account code structure for payroll. Mrs. April Kaech explained the coding. The vote carried with all in favor. The vote carried 5-0.

Resignations Approved: Leona Justus, Special Education Paraprofessional

Volunteer Coaches Approved: Joe Fenbert – High School Track, Cassandra Carlson – High School Track, Josh Brooks – High School Softball, Chantel Merriman – High School Softball, and Keith Coleman – High School Softball.

LINKAGE:

Jordan Austin put together a presentation to the board regarding different district assessments. There were four different stations representing different testing types demonstrated by staff and students.

MONITORING OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE:

Mr. Josh Stoney went over the strategic goals for reading and math for Morton Jr/Sr High. He went over how our RTI Model and progress monitoring works. He said this helps target areas that students are specifically struggling in. This helps close achievement gaps.

He went over where test scores were in the fall and where students ended up this winter. The winter math test shows an increase in students meeting the benchmarks in Math and ELA. There will be another test in the spring to continue tracking their growth.

Mr. Josh Austin asked about the size of the groups for student under two years. He said, is this a couple of kids and how does this affect the data? Mr. Josh Stoney said yes, you could be talking about 4 students. Three students may be doing very well and one may be struggling. It is the staff's job to dive into the data and see where the areas are that the student are struggling.

Ms. Pat Saldaña asked how many years have we been using STAR 360. Mr. Hannah said two years.

Mr. John Hannah gave a presentation on the elementary schools growth in math and ELA. The elementary also uses DIBELS and STAR 360 and the students are showing consistent growth. The sixth graders have grown over a grade in a half of a school year in math.

Mr. Hannah pointed out a fall in 1st grade on DIBELS testing. Mr. Hannah said this is a yearly trend due to a new type of testing being placed on the test. He said history shows that the scores will flip in the spring.

Ms. Pat Saldaña said if we know that there is a section that the students have not been tested on before is there a way to prepare them ahead of time for the change?

Mr. Hannah said no, because it is just not something that the students are ready for until it is shown to them. Mr. Berkompas agreed that the testing is a push for them already and to throw something more at them before they are ready is just not a good idea.

Mr. Hannah said that the data shows that students that are in the district for more than two years are seeing larger progress. Also, there is a new math RTI program being introduced at the elementary titled Bridges.

Ms. Pat Saldaña asked if she remembered correctly we have a hired lady coming in to do math RTI with the elementary.

Mr. Hannah said yes and she is the one that suggested we get new RTI math materials.

Ms. Pat Saldaña said you can see real progress and she would like to thank the staff for that. She said have we looked at a way to have more parental involvement in the buildings. She said students need support at home in order for them to truly succeed.

Mr. Chase Buffington said some kids get to go home to parents that are there and helping their children and the kids have meals and are doing well. But then you have other students who go home to houses that are full of people and there is no food, etc. I don't think this would be at the top of the list for all parents to get involved. It would be hard to get those parents to jump on board.

Ms. Pat Saldaña said I have seen a larger group of families participating in donuts and books. She said I do not know if the donuts are what is bringing them in, but something is drawing more families in.

Mr. Hannah said that Mr. Brooks is currently at a high poverty training. But he feels the staff does a great job making relationships with students and parents. He said we are always up for suggestions and ways that we can bring more parents in to be involved.

Mr. Chase Buffington said that he was talking to Ms. Austin early about all of the testing and how private and charter schools are held to a different standard then public schools. They are not held to the same state testing standards. He said some of these kids have never even tested and then they come back to public schools and we are responsible for their test scores.

Mrs. Betty Hutchison said some charter schools in larger areas offer more opportunities to students.

Mr. Josh Austin said Ms. Austin had mentioned that there are different testing done for special education kids and he was wondering if their scores are included in this data.

Mr. Hannah said they are our kids and they are included in this data.

Mr. Josh Austin said that is something to watch then for a class trend. If that class has a high number of special education students it could bring the percentage down.

Mr. Hannah said that is true. But the staff breaks these scores down to the student level. The goal is to see growth at any level they are at.

Mr. Chase Buffington made a motion to accept EL1, Mr. Josh Austin seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. The vote carried 5-0.

REVIEW OF POLICY:

Mr. Josh Austin made a motion to approve Governance Process 9, Mr. Warren Dunlap seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. The vote carried 5-0.

OTHER ITEMS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Pat Saldaña said May 10th WASDA Regional meeting at Rainier High School from 6:00 to 8:30.

Ms. Pat Saldaña told the board that she asked Mr. John Hannah to give the board an over view of what the levy cliff means.

Mr. John Hannah gave the board an overview of what the levy cliff is and what it would mean to Morton School District if it is not extended.

Mrs. Betty Hutchison asked if when the Lions Van comes to town do the volunteers need to have back ground checks?

Mr. Hannah said not if they are always supervised by an employee that has a background check.

March 25th is the 2nd annual Spelling Bee. Any 5th through 8th graders that are interested can sign up. Mrs. Fagin will be a judge. It will start at 10:30 at the Roxy. Hampton Lumber donated 2 ipads for prizes and the winner of each group will receive one of the ipads.

Mr. Warren Dunlap said that the 2B State Basketball tournament information. Is in the Chronicle on how the tournament is set up. There will be 12 teams playing at least 1 game in Spokane and ends up with a final of 8 teams in double elimination.

Ms. Pat Saldaña said that we will move the work session to discuss the Twin Star building to March 20th at 5:10 pm. The meeting will start at the Twin Star building. We will then come back to discuss the use of the building.

Rosemary said that the Powerful Examples of Excellence is March 22nd at 6:00 pm at Mossyrock High School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJORNMENT: Mr. Josh Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Mr. Chase Buffington seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. The vote 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Chairman

Attest: Board Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member