



**Moapa Valley High
School Organizational Team
MEETING 12/2/2020 MINUTES**



CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present:

Korey Johnson	Louise Culler	Annalyn James	Dallas Larsen
Chad Leavitt	Mark Cottle	Terry Holzer	Kenna Higgins
Ryan Andersen	Ron Lustig	Duane McMinn	Greg Thompson
Marquessa Aikele	Lindsey Dalley	Hal Mortensen	Donna Swanson

(Others on Zoom)

II. REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES from 11/4/2020 Meeting

Motion to approve: Chad Leavitt

Second: Annalyn James

Passed Unanimously

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (3 min. ea.)

Dallas: Sports Update.

Found out that Moapa Valley HS will be the only school allowed to play winter sports. All others in CCSD were canceled. Flag Football is the only sport allowed – medium risk. Basketball is not allowed to start – high risk. Dallas and Duane have a meeting about opponents, schedule, etc. As of now, fall and spring sports are a go. The news media found out before the Athletic Director and Admin did - it was very frustrating. A meeting will be held tomorrow (Thursday, Dec 3) morning for details. The only reason we get to play is because we are the only high school in hybrid model. As far as we know fall and spring sports are still moving forward. As of right now Fall will be a six week season, starting Feb 20 through April 10. Spring sports start April 3 through May. Spring sports are still on the table. All depends on whether or not the school board votes to move to hybrid. NIAA rules state that schools cannot have sports unless they are in a hybrid model.

It was mentioned that there is an opportunity to participate in club flag football. With yesterday’s news we are allowed to have flag football. We just do not know who we are allowed to play. Five or six charter schools/private schools that might have teams, that should give us a season.

Basketball is listed as medium risk, but the governor changed that status to high risks; therefore, at this time, basketball will not be played. Reasoning, basketball is indoors. If we can get the governor to change his designation to match what the NFHS (National Federation of High School Sports) designation – we can play. If people are willing, they may write a letter to the governor to persuade him to change the designation to match the NFHS designation.

Lindsey: Comment on the fact that we pushed to have the hybrid in place – did that have an impact that we got to play. Give kudos to previous SOT team. A lot of work to get the hybrid. Even that little incremental gain allowed us to have this opportunity to play sports at this time. Sometimes you don’t know what that little bit of movement down the road.

Some discussion about whether or not only allowing girls’ flag football was in alignment with Title IX standards. As for Title IX, schools do not have to have the same

number of sports per season. Title IX guidelines are dependent on the number of athletes, as opposed to the number of sports. People have asked if they can't play football (because football is designated "high risk"), can we take it to a seven on seven and do flag football for the boys? This is something Dallas and Duane will learn more about at the Thursday meeting.

Wrestling is high risk. Talking with Coach Ryan Andersen. It will be a hard sell getting wrestling this year.

After their meeting Dallas and Duane will update the school community about sports.

IV. MVHS LIVE INSTRUCTION UPDATE (H. Mortensen; Team)

A. Quarantined Students/Teachers Update

Hal: Since the last meeting we had, a third case and a fourth case. Small group of students and one teacher, the fourth round included five different teachers and 33 students. They will be coming back to school next week.

We are still operating. Had a meeting with SNHD Doctor and several others. They are looking to change the quarantine requirement, but this is contingent on CCSD acceptance. Currently, the full classroom is being quarantined if a student or teacher tests positive. This doesn't make any sense if students are social distancing in the classroom already. SNHD is looking to change the standard, but, again, this is contingent upon CCSD accepting that requirement.

B. Status Full Time Live Instruction in January 2021

Hal: Ken Paul and Hal sent a letter to Dr. Jara requesting that we get a waiver from the state to reduce the social distancing spacing in classrooms from six feet down to three feet. Ron did some homework and inquired about what White Pine did to get the six feet waiver from the State Board of Education to go from six feet to three feet. In that request to Dr. Jara, Ron mirrored a lot of the verbiage in the letter sent to White Pine.

There has not been a response yet. If we do not get a response, maybe the SOT or community gets involved. If we get that three feet rule, MVHS can open up more classes. We need the three feet to happen. Some discussion about the chances of us going back full-time without this waiver. It does not look good. Hal indicated that we will not be able to go back full time without the waiver.

Some discussion about the CDC coming out with new standards that will hopefully help SNHD and CCSD make those changes. The CDC changes include the number of days a student is quarantined. Right now if a quarantined student tests negative for COVID, students can come back to school.

Part of the hybrid plan presented to the school board in November included going back full time for rural schools. No one is sure if that included social distancing for six feet or three feet.

Lindsey: If we get the waiver can we just go through the administration, or do we have to go through the board?

Hal: Does not know. I don't think we can go through the state board of education unless it comes from CCSD.

Lindsey: If we can avoid the board, I recommend that we do that.

Hal: Jara has been trying to do that. Trying to make those decisions, but the board of trustees doesn't want to make the decisions.

Terry: Do we know how long it took to get that waiver?

Ron: Do not know. But White Pine went through their superintendent. As far as the state, with the superintendent behind something, that would work. Everyone is passing the buck up the food chain. Some take our area seriously.

Terry: Do we need to do something as a team to support what Ken and Hal did, to get Jara to support us.

Hal: Will make some calls for an answer. Respond via an email to the team.

Terry: Need to be positive. We are helping others. Need to keep our valley safe too. New York has reopened. There were experts from the CDC that said the best place for students is in school.

Terry: Does anyone know the status in our community?

Hal: SNHD bases their numbers on the number of people who tested. We think it needs to be done by population. Even though our numbers are on the rise, we are still very low.

Lindsey: The seven-day trend line is going down. Doing the calculations, we are at 1.6% transmission rate. SNHD has a screwy way of calculating the numbers, because it is calculated based on the number of tests. Even though there are more people who have tested positive, we are still in that low population number. Unless there is a reason we shouldn't or if it would hurt us, I don't know why we wouldn't ask Jara for a waiver. Why not do it? Let's just make our case and ask him.

Kenna: Concerned about the effect of going back "full time" will have on teachers' workload if Cohort C is still an option. Teachers will have to prep for their regular "in-person" classes, but also prep lessons for Cohort C. It theoretically could double the workload for teachers. Some discussion about possibly having dedicated teachers to teach Cohort C, but this is not possible at MVHS because we have so many singleton classes. Other discussion about how the hybrid is impacting CTE courses. Typically hands-on and performance-based courses, CTE courses in a distance (Cohort C) education model are at a disadvantage because of the hands-on curriculum. For example, a student in Cohort C is going to have a hard time learning welding and construction tech without the tools and materials which are available at school.

Hal: Even though the larger classes, e.g. band, orchestra, etc. would still be in a distance learning model, the school day would not increase and teachers would still have Wednesday to prep. Because we are still in the pandemic we still have to offer Cohort C. I agree 100% with what Kenna is saying. We should look at those other options. Some of that is a Geniel question.

Some discussion about the number of students who will not opt for Cohort C if we go back "full-time." There is a concern about the workload for teachers, but the immediate issue is to get the waiver to change the distancing from six feet to three feet. Then we can get into the nitty gritty details of what opening will look like. A big concern is the amount of singleton courses offered. Some suggestions included re-examining CTE Courses, and offering options for more synchronous virtual classes. The bottom line is that we must offer Cohort C until CCSD directs otherwise. Majority of teachers are all in favor of getting students back in classrooms. Most teachers are in support of that. The consensus is get the waiver and then go back to figure out from there.

Chad: Did we send that request to the state board? Or did we send that request to Jara to ask for that waiver.

Hal: Sent the request for a waiver to Dr. Jara.

Chad: We've done everything we can. We've asked for the waiver. I think we're in the standby mode.

Lindsey: I agree with what Chad said. Does the SOT need to go on record making a request? Or are you comfortable making that request on your own? If I were to read the minutes of this

conversation it would read something like this: “Hal already made the request.” But do you want that back up saying that it was a formal request. Saying that this is what SOT wanted you to do.

Hal: I can go back saying this is what the SOT wanted. My question is: Is everyone on board that we are proceeding with the six foot waiver? If we are good with that...

Terry: Sounds like the majority of the team supports what you are doing.

Hal: Tomorrow (Thursday) will ask for a response.

Terry: Communicate further on it.

C. CSN Spring Registration/Tuition/Courses

Some discussion about when students should register for Spring CSN dual credit courses. Some courses, such as Biology 101 and Theatre 100 do not have a back up course for the second semester. Students in these courses will get a schedule change for second semester. Student in English 101 can take English 102 second semester. Something will be posted and circulated.

V. BUDGET (H. Mortensen; Team)

A. Attrition & Carry-Over Funds

Hal: Sent an email with an adjusted way to spend carryover money. Included were suggestions from the last SOT to reserve money for supplies sufficient for this year and next year. Paper, ink, toner, etc. Dollars were set aside for athletics. This brings the total down to \$198,000. It's been recommended to spend down that carryover line item, because Dr. Jara will go after those dollars. Hal's recommendation is that we pursue the Culinary Arts – we finally have it all approved. Hal went back and asked to split it into three ways, three phases. The most important is to get kitchen health certified. Determined that the first phase will cost around \$103,000. Recommendation is to do the Culinary Arts Kitchen and hopefully get someone local.

Other items: \$7,000 for long-term sub if we do reopen. Talking to Geniel we might get by.

\$103,000 Culinary

\$82,000 – Quad. SOT has been adamant that this should not come out of our budget. We've gone to the school board and have not been successful. We are one of three schools that do not have a secured campus. CCSD claims the other schools paid for their own. It was recommended that we use some of those Attrition dollars.

There are other ideas on this list. Some include replacing the LCD projectors with interactive TV Screens in classrooms; power washing the outside of the school to restore our building and remove the hard water stains from the sprinklers. We also need a home for carts, Gators, small vehicles often used, etc. Recommendation is 1. Long-term sub. 2. Culinary Arts Phase 1. 3. Security Quad Area.

Some discussion about being able to use the long-term sub money, whether we go back full time or not. This is an option.

Aikele: Question. Happy that these things look like they might be a possibility. Walked past the tennis courts and there were some cracks that were supposed to be repaired, but have not been. That isn't something we use for our personal school funds.

Ron: That has been going on for a long time. There are some real safety deficiencies. The timing has been perfect, and it was sent as a safety liability to CCSD Facility. It's a transfer of liability. They are going to get that repaired. I will give them another week or two.

Aikele: Appreciate that this is getting addressed.

Donna: Currently drafting an email to Ron about this. In my opinion, the courts cannot be repaired, they need to be redone. When Boulder City redid theirs they redid their lights. Currently, the inadequacy of lights is a problem. We as coaches are discussing how to redo the scoring, which would kick it into the evening.

Some discussion about where money came from for Boulder City. The tennis courts getting redone was all provided by the district. Ron will keep everyone posted.

Lindsey: With regard to the carryover budget, would we be asking to spend that money if the school didn't feel like we were in jeopardy of losing it? If the district wasn't sweeping the accounts. Or is this just putting the district on notice that these are earmarked for projects? Would have Hal proposed this, or would anything have changed?

Hal: This is our effort to make sure they do not touch our General Line item budget. We tried to carry over some money the last couple of years for a rainy day fund. CCSD has mismanaged the money then blamed us.

Dallas: Teachers understand cuts are coming. A lot of concerns that we are going to be spending a lot of this money, but then we have budget cuts. Is there no way to keep staff on board with this money?

Lindsey: Yes, that would be one of the ramifications from this year.

Terry: Our budget is out for next year. The cuts, won't that be for the next school year.

Hal: We will get our budget in January for next year. My fear is that Jara will try to insert something in the legislation to somehow to capture those dollars back. The other reason he wants the money is the State gives us money for however many students we have, minus whatever is in our budget. But the state only gives the district the dollars minus whatever is in our carryover budget. Really think they will find a way to do it, but 8469 (current legislation) has protected us.

Lindsey: I don't object to the proposed budget. I just want to know – what I'm hearing is the context is there's rumor that if you don't spend it, you will lose it. There's a different perspective when you feel like you are going to lose money. I want to know, okay they are talking about taking it back, and maybe this Legislative Session we need to lobby. If the State is doing that, they are double-dealing on the Re-Org.

Hal: CCEA says schools should not be carrying this money. Investigations about why are we carrying this money and what are we using this money for? It is being fully investigated right now. We need to spend some dollars down.

Chad: We came really close last year to get the district to pay for the fencing. I don't want to use our school budget to do something the district should do for us. Part of me thinks that giving 3-400,000 dollars for a specific discipline is unfair. My preference is to hire another teacher. I would recommend hiring a teacher, and get the district pay for the fencing.

Dallas: Teachers want to make sure we keep staffing. It would be nice to have enough staff. The majority liked the idea of cleaning up the brick wall. But we also need to do some things to keep it from recurring. With regard to tv screens instead of projectors/smart boards, it would be nice not having to calibrate – there's a lot of things that happen technology-wise with the screen. Teachers could use those and replace their old projectors. The kitchen seems like a lot of money. The security issue – there were some pretty passionate "Nos" on the fencing. One person felt it would be inadequate for all the security reasons.

Some discussion about hiring a new teacher. This money is for this year's budget, we need to spend the money now.

Hal: We are talking about hiring and funding for this year. If we hire another teacher, where would that teacher go?

Annalyn: My vote is to put the money into some sort of education for benefiting the kids. All for getting the screens. It sounds like it would help teachers and benefit the kids. Just as a priority item. Dollars that benefit students.

Hal: Reason Culinary Arts is included is that we had decided as a SOT. Our Concession stand has to have a Health Certified Kitchen. If not, we cannot do concessions. Our kitchen is not health certified, which down the road we will not have concessions. With regards to the Quad Security area, we've had parents walk into classrooms which they can get into anytime. SLAs are money we didn't use for utilities. That became a work around. I hate to see that we don't do the culinary, and then concessions get shut down.

Terry: Why doesn't the NHS doesn't do any fundraising for anything. We know how to fund raise. We could come up with more money.

Hal: We can't do big large dinners because we don't have a certified kitchen.

Lindsey: My understanding is that we're worried about losing the money. There's nothing that says we have to spend this tomorrow. If we earmark it – what would be the earliest day they would sweep the account?

Hal: The summer.

Lindsey: So we can just hold off. Then change the priorities and go that direction. Just because we've approved the budget, doesn't mean we can't go back.

Hal: We can't wait too long, because the district shuts down spending. Different Departments, CTE all have deadlines they have to spend.

Lindsey: So, don't you just write a check to the contractor? Or does CCSD do all that.

Hal: CCSD does that. All spending stops about April. That's the deadline.

Lindsey: You can't spend a dime? Is there a slush fund?

Hal: No. The district has a deadline. Even though July 1 is the last day, there is a deadline.

Chad: If you spend that \$103,000 on culinary is it certified at that point.

Hal: Yes, \$103,000 makes it certified.

Annalyn: How will not having a certified kitchen adversely affect sports.

Hal: Boosters get a lot of money from concessions then turn it around. We literally need the concessions to keep our school going.

Lindsey: So are we generating the money now with sports shut down?

Hal: No. No money is coming in right now.

Dallas: Boosters run all of our concessions. They have programs where clubs or teams help and get a portion. The Boosters is the one that runs all our concessions.

Hal: I need to come back next month to do a presentation on each project so everyone understands the why behind the culinary, and the why behind the security.

Terry: I like what Lindsey said. We have a lot going on. I still think the school district should pay for that (the security fencing), but we have to make a decision about it. We need to look at what is happening in the world. Our high school is a high school that could be a target. I'm big on security.

Lindsey: If we didn't know the district had a gun to our head, we would probably stairstep it. In a private business, I would be stair-stepping it as more information came out. For \$100,000 you could probably, or less, buy a mobile kitchen and move it around. Is there room to stair step this and prioritize.

Terry: The district will look at our budget and will automatically give us less money for the next school year.

Marquessa: I'm wondering about the kitchen, I thought the ball park number floated around was in the \$80,000/\$100,000 area. And if the \$100,000 gets us to a certified kitchen, then why the rest? In the past we all knew why we wanted security to be our capital improvement, but are there different people making decisions. What would be the other options for fighting the fight one more time.

Hal: The preliminary costs were around \$100,000 – basically what I thought. The architect did a cost analysis, and we put money into looking into the cost analysis, which is another reason to commit to this project - we've already put money into it. To make it work, make it certifiable – that's the same thing the fair ground has. At the January meeting, I will have presentations ready. We still have time.

Ron: Based on other schools, before Covid, while we are sitting with money, there are good reasons to spend on everything on that list. If we complete Phase 1, it will be an income generator for us. When you go around to other rural schools they can't sell anything. We can do Phase 1 successfully right now without phase 2 and 3.

Terry: We will have a presentation as an item on the agenda on the Jan 6 meeting. We will revisit it. Along with all the other items.

Lindsey: We don't get the whole budget and are expected to vote on it in one meeting. I don't think it is reasonable, nor fiscally responsible with the deadlines put out there for us. A lot of insights were given. It isn't fair to Hal...we don't want to kick the can down the road. But the board needs time to consider the ideas.

Terry: It is important to realize that we have a very good culinary department.

Dallas: Are we waiting until next meeting? Everyone seems to be in favor of the interactive screens.

Lindsey: If everyone is ready, why not.

Terry: We can only have one or two \$100,000. Both the kitchen and the screens are \$100,000 items. I don't want to piecemeal the vote.

Marquessa: Are the screens that much?

Dallas: Total of \$100,500.

Marquessa: It sounds like there is a lot of support for that.

Dallas: Good to wait on the vote. But I want to be on record as wanting to use the money for staffing.

Marquessa: Dallas brought up staffing. What are our areas of greatest need for staffing?

Dallas: We lost our PE/Health/Drivers Ed Teacher. See a need to replace this teacher. If not the Driver's Ed. Science Department is down. English is down. My biggest worry is that I don't want to lose someone else.

Terry: The Health/PE decision was made so we have another assistant principal. I don't see us rehiring a Health/PE position so we don't lose our additional administrator.

Dallas: I am pro-teacher.

Marquessa: More of a brainstorming...we tend to end up having to play defense.

Terry: Have a parent who thinks we should hire a teacher for computer programming.

B. Proposals/Discussion

VI. SOT GENERAL DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

We may need to have an additional meeting this month. CEAB meeting is on Friday. A push to help us become a rural school district of Clark County.

VII. FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT (3min ea.)

VIII. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned. 4:11 PM

Next Meeting: January 6, 2021