



Moapa Valley High School Organizational Team



AGENDA 6 January 2021 MVHS Library and Virtual

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Attendance:

Hal Mortensen, Dallas Larsen, Korey Johnson, Kenna Higgins, Mark Cottle, Terry Holzer, Louise Culler, Maximus Shambaugh, Camille Christensen, Adrian Nelson, Ron Lustig, Vernon Robison, Esmerelda Serrano, Duane McMinn, Brooklyn Redd, Chad Leavitt, Annalyn James, Marquessa Aikele, and others who attended virtually.

II. REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES from 12/2/2020 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes: Mark Cottle

2nd: Dallas Larsen

Approved Unanimously

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

Marquessa Aikele requested an update about fixing the tennis courts. Hal indicated that CCSD is sending people out to do an assessment on the tennis courts, and while they haven't given a definite date about when the renovations will occur, they are aware of the problem.

Chef Serrano and some of the Culinary Arts students spoke up to comment and vouch for the importance of the renovations in the Culinary Kitchen. Chef particularly stressed the importance of making the kitchen health department certified so that anyone on MVHS campus can sell food for athletics and fundraisers. Chef also noted that, in an outdated kitchen, it is difficult to teach students proper preparation, the importance of nutrition, i.e. eating better foods vs packaged foods, and the nuances of being a professional chef. Chef Serrano would like to see the entire project finished, not just Phase 1, which will bring it up to health code standard.

Several students also spoke up about the importance of updating the kitchen, how much they learn from Chef Serrano, and how the classes have taught them to prepare food properly.

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

A. Status of Face to Face Instruction

Terry Holzer and Hal updated the SOT with regard to moving forward with "full-time" instruction.

The newly elected Trustee for our School Board District, Katie Williams, was sworn in and came out to tour schools. She has been in communication with CEAB and SOT members, both from MVHS SOT and other school's SOT. She will advocate for further face-to-face instruction. Starting with K-3. The point was made, and it is believed Katie Williams understands that when/if Las Vegas schools go to the hybrid model, Moapa Valley Schools want to be one step ahead and go back "full-time."

Hal indicated that when he asked Dr. Jara and Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell about the waiver, the response was that we needed to "get board action." Hal has also reached out to Katie Williams and she is aware of the need for the 6 foot waiver from the State Department of Education.

Lindsey Dalley pointed out that a potential amendment was created for Katie to introduce. He also stated that it is good that she is willing to talk with us and have that open communication.

Student rep Max expressed student concerns including what he was hearing from students about going back, that some students feel nervous about changing schedules, and that many students are working now and need that money. Team discussion continued and Terry made the point that getting the students back with more face to face is a priority and full distant learning is still an option for those who work.

V. ATTRITION & CARRY-OVER FUNDS (H. Mortensen)

A. Presentation re: Proposed Use(s) for Carry Over Funds and SLA

B. Team Discussion

Hal gave a slide presentation about the potential use of carry over funds, including updating the culinary kitchen, finishing school enclosures etc. General discussion ensued about possible use of funds; general discussion about concerns of future budget cuts and Dallas made several points and concerns of losing more staff and he would not support cutting staff and teachers.

Click [HERE](#) to access Hal's slide presentation.

Carry Over Money: We've been able to hold funds to build up a reserve for projects we need to do. A few years ago we heard rumors that Dr. Jara was going after our Carry Over funds, he tried but didn't succeed.

We cannot use the money for staffing. Dollars will not be there later for a staffing position.

If we do not use it, it will most likely disappear. We must spend this money by March 1st, this allows CCSD to do their weird bookkeeping - even though the fiscal year ends in July.

Projects: These are the long-term projects being proposed. (See slide outlining various projects. Culinary Arts (Top Priority), School Security (Top Priority), Front Foyer Security, Effervescent Removal, Interactive Screens, Exterior Vehicle Storage)

Safety: Particularly important for securing the Quad Area and 200, 300, 400 halls. These security measures have been presented to the school district, but they will not fund it.

Team members addressed concerns over aesthetics, how well the fencing will secure the school (height, etc.), and how keep students (and others) from just letting someone inside. The fencing will provide

an additional layer of security to prevent random people from coming onto campus and into classrooms during school hours.

Dallas asked about the height of the fencing between halls. Hal would like it to be at least 10 - 12 feet, not the standard 6 - 8 feet.

Terry: Aside from the aesthetics (which can be a con), if we do not do this project we leave our students open to be sitting ducks. She brought up the situation not long ago regarding an individual who plotted to burn up the church across from the high school. Terry also pointed out that an analysis was done on the school campus by law enforcement experts. The bottom line is that when the school was built, an open campus in a rural area was common, but today schools are not being built without complete enclosure. Another downside is that the school will have to self-fund the project because the district refuses to. Still, that leaves a lot of vulnerability to the campus and our students.

Maximus: Used to live in CA, and the school he went to didn't have a fence; however, there was an incident at the high school next to his school. The next year they put up a fence. He feels like the fencing is a good idea. It would improve students' ability to walk between hallways to get to class.

Dallas: The biggest con that teachers are worried about - it just takes one rock or one text message for a student to let another student in. What will be the consequences for a student push open or leave open a door for another student? If we do not enforce those consequences, then \$82,000 goes down the drain. Further, we will also need to monitor between the hallways. Who will monitor that extra space? Height is another concern. Will it be high enough?

Hal: There will be consequences. We will post signs indicating such. Hal also expressed his concern about leaving the doors open this school year, but he felt like he needed to make a decision during the time of Covid so that students could come back to school.

Lindsey: Hashed a lot of this through with CEAB. Lindsey is a big opponent of the fencing. The biggest con Lindsey objects to, and is still there is the aesthetics - it looks like a jail, it goes against what our community stands for. However, when security experts (not from the district) came out, they were very concerned about the layout of the school. We need to rely on the experts for their opinion and their advice - and if we ignore their advice we become liable. He can appreciate the position Hal finds himself in if something ever happened and we had the opportunity to increase security, but did nothing. It becomes incumbent upon us to rely on the experts and their opinions. Their biggest concern was not from a student doing something, but from a random crazy person coming onto campus. Lindsey hates to have to agree with it, but feels like we are stuck.

Terry Holzer pointed out that consideration should be given to the potential growth of our community. She also expressed serious concerns that the school cannot risk NOT finishing the enclosure with these funds. Terry further pointed out students are afraid on campus and discussion continued re some of the potential concerns and misuse by students etc. She further pointed out that the prior SOT team had approved the culinary kitchen upgrade, but not to use school funds for it. Mark Cottle confirmed that he was a team member when culinary improvements were improved.

Annalyn pointed out that CEAB was working for four years to get funding and discussion continued about the ups and downs. She echoed concerns about the recent attempt to burn down the church across from the high school. When the experts came in and gave us the facts, it was really eye-opening.

We need to make sure that our kids are secure - and that we've done everything we can to make sure they are secure.

Hal: Using \$81,000 dollars from SLA means this money hasn't been taken from somewhere else in the budget. His recommendation is to use this money for security. Prior SOT approvals were that we want to do it, but it needs to be funded by CCSD. Now that we know that isn't going to happen, the proposal is to have it approved by the SOT and site-based funded. Terry further pointed out students are afraid on campus and discussion continued re some of the potential concerns and misuse by students etc.

Moving on with the Culinary Arts Kitchen (Hal):
Click [HERE](#) to access Hal's Slide Presentation.

\$69,000 has already been invested into this project. We finally received approval and cost analysis from CCSD. Got plans finished with KGA Architect who originally designed the school and the new gym. See slide for description and pictures of renovations.

Kitchen pods will remain the same. Part of the renovations include taking out the last kitchen pod and making it culinary standard. A three basin sink will be put in next to the washer and dryer. This will bring it up to code. We are asking for the installation of the three basin sink, hand washing sink, and the grease interceptor (the drain in the floor). This is Phase One. Phase One will get the kitchen health certified, once we get it health certified the kitchen can sponsor food fundraisers.

Terry: The team had authorized improving the Culinary Kitchen. When we hired a new teacher, we hired a Sou Chef - and SOT was led to believe that this was something that the school wanted to go forward with.

Hal: Went to Mesquite, Eureka said they would match any funds we fundraise - they did not give a specific dollar amount. This was also before the Covid and the pandemic - things may have changed for them. Hal anticipated that the whole project would cost around \$100,000, he was surprised to find it would cost \$300,000.

There was a lot of discussion about choosing to upgrade the kitchen when a lot of teachers see staffing cuts staring them in the face. Dallas and Kenna pointed out that many teachers do not understand spending \$100,000 on this type of scenario. Particularly if we can fund another staff, or use the money to keep the staff we have. Hal indicated that because this money will not be available as part of the regular budget, it is not wise to use it for staffing.

A lot of discussion about the inequality of the projects on the table. Kenna expressed concerns that some of the attrition funds were not allocated to supplement dept budgets. General discussion ensued on this subject including team members suggesting to let the teachers come with proposals for what they would like, so that they can be part of the proposed projects, when this comes up again.

Dallas pointed out that when we have a budget meeting in a few months, he would not vote to cut a staff position, especially when we are building a brand new kitchen, and he felt like we could have helped saved someone's job with this money.

After further discussion about focusing more on teachers' needs and having the option to increase department budgets and let teachers have more say in the decision-making process of what they need in their classrooms. Terry suggested a motion be made. Kenna made a motion.

Motion: To approve both the security measures and the culinary kitchen improvements, with the caveat that when we have extra money on the table either from SLA or Carryover funds again that one of the possible funding projects includes giving more money to department budgets and teachers.

Marquessa: 2nd

Passed Unanimously (with Dallas voting to approve with reservations - he did a sideways thumb - it is possible he abstained). Dallas expressed serious concerns about future loss of another teacher and he would not support that. There was some discussion that Moapa Valley High School has lost 13 teachers in 13 years.

VI. FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT(3min ea.)

Lindsey: Complimented the discussion. Though emotions ran high for some, he felt like it was an important conversation to have, allowing opinions and concerns to be addressed. This is the way we work through what needs to happen at our school.

Dallas: Thank you Duane for all his hard work helping athletics get off the ground!

Mark: Takes a lot of guts to speak out.

Terry: CEAB is also looking into grants as another source and avenue for funding.

Hal: Commented that there has been discussion among administrators and others about the possibility of annexing away from CCSD, but that requires further legislative action in the summer.

Further discussion about renovations on the tennis courts. Hal sent an email to Dallas and others about CCSD looking into it. Marquessa was concerned about students playing this year on a bad court, and that maybe we needed to say something as a SOT to CCSD. Dallas indicated that we should be careful, because if they come out and condemn our courts, then we can't play at all. We will continue to follow up on this topic.

Terry: SOT needs to be prepared, once the budget comes out we have barely a two week window. It is supposed to come out Jan 15. Tentatively we will be meeting Wednesday, 20 January @ 1:30.

VII. ADJOURN @ 4:00

Update: Per Hal's email on 8 January, the budget will not come out until 25 January. Therefore, the next SOT will be held on 27 January 2021 at 1:30 PM in the MVHS Library and on Zoom.