



Moapa Valley High School Organizational Team

MOAPA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SOT MEETING 04/07/2021 Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Terry Holzer	Hal Mortensen	Dallas Larsen
Ron Lustig	Kenna Higgins	Mark Cottle
Louise Culler	Lindsey Dalley	Marquessa Aikele
Annalyn James	Vernon Robison	Kyle Hiezlebetz

II. REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES

Motion -Mark Cottle: Motion made to accept minutes as presented
 2nd-Louise Culler
 Motion passed unanimously

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

Wendy Mulcock Thank you from CEAB. CEAB is getting ready for graduation and looking for donations to help fund those activities.

IV. MVHS LIVE INSTRUCTION UPDATE (H. Mortensen/D. Larsen)

A. Report on back to school full time

1. Push for Fall 2021 normalcy (assemblies; activities; volunteers)

Back to five days a week, three classes per day for students.

Good to see all the kids coming back. Almost back to 100% normal. Teachers have made t adjustment, it's been difficult because it was in the middle of the semester. Cohort C students who were on the waiting list and wanted to come back were all able to come back. We are down to about 90 Cohort C kids. The District is still looking 5% at capacity next year. We will still have to do Cohort C. The District is opening the door for Cohort C to be whoever wants to do "distance learning."

Cohort C would be treated like a normal class with a normal schedule. Students will have to get on time in the class like in a regular class. (It would be synchronous.) Still working out a few things. Electives will not be available to Cohort C. Looking at working out some elective courses for Cohort C through NVLA.

What is the timeline to go back to normal in Fall 2021? In May, administrators are to present a plan to the Region and wait for approval. Jara indicated that next year schools in Las Vegas would be looking at 75% capacity, which is where we are now, and so we are trying to take the next step

The goal is to go back to normal to have dances, assemblies, activities, etc. Hal will write a letter indicating this is our desire.

B. Sports Report

Last week of Fall sports, and the first week of Spring Sports. C C SD is now allowing Home fans to attend sporting events, but there is a limit of four fans per athlete. Away fans are not allowed. Football allowed MVHS parents at Virgin Valley because we didn't have any Home football games. Virgin Valley okay'd that MVHS parents could attend. We have three Home Track Meets scheduled. There is a request for volunteers to help run the track meets. Only four teams are coming to each meet. The meet must end after four and a half hours. All of C C SD is playing Spring Sports.

Tennis Courts: C C SD are coming out April 17 to check the condition of the tennis courts.

C. C C SD new grading system

New grading system goes into effect next school year.

Last three or four years, "they" have been talking about grading reform. Hal presented a power point that was presented to the administrators about changes. The goal is to change the way we grade to be "standards-based."

District wants to tie up the COVID money into the standards-based grading system.

Next year, all math classes are getting new Math books. One of Jara's big things is uniform grading, equity, access for all.

There is still more information coming out, including two feedback sessions that licensed personnel can attend, and other informational meetings for parents. Hal passed out several handouts with information about standards-based grading.

Some discussion about how funds (particularly COVID money) would be tied to the standards-based grading system. Vernon Robison spoke about information he obtained from Steven Horsford about access to federal COVID money.

Vernon - At least 20% of COVID money to the District must be spent on "addressing learning loss, equity issues, including the impact to rural communities." (Vernon quoted from Horsford.) A learning plan needs to be sent by the school to the admin of learning instruction. The school district must submit a plan to the state superintendent. Principals and local schools should meet and express concerns to the School Board and Superintendent. The expectation is that when they write the plan, it will be written with the intent to address needs of schools. 20% could consist of materials, reduction in class size (new staff), specialists needed, etc.

Hal mentioned that schools are allowed to apply for something innovative. In an admin meeting, they indicated about 20-30 schools will be approved. For example, Bowler is working on a new bell schedule plan to address learning issues. Elementary schools in both valleys applied to have their own independent Cohort C (Distance Learning) program. Jara said the money would come indirectly through approved programs from C C SD. Something is also coming down the pipeline regarding summer school.

How long do we have to spend the money? According to Horsford and legislation, we have until 2024 to spend the money, but that timeline might look different from C C SD's perspective.

Discussion among the SOT members regarding CCSD requiring Cohort C, but not providing the resources to successfully implement Cohort C in a rural community. This is an area where we can focus on any extra COVID funding. We should focus on the 20% that are available to rural schools, and not be intimidated about CCSD's arbitrary 20-30 schools approval limitation. We should outline the things we need and ask for them. We are rural and have our special needs. We have nothing to lose by going after it.

Lindsey and Dallas pointed out that we used to have a full staff - teachers in each of our classrooms, and now many classrooms are empty. In the past several years we have lost 15 teachers. Even though CCSD has already spent this (COVID) money in their minds, we need to go around Jara - that's what SOT can do. We need a list, and we need to start making noise now, talk to state superintendent, get Marilyn Kirckpatrick involved. If we try to climb the ladder through CCSD, we will get tied up forever until it is too late. Lindsey is willing to get an appointment with Horsford's staff, with four or five people to present a plan. It was pointed out that one of the inequities in a rural community is that we cannot hire a teacher for only one year - they won't move here. But with COVID money, we have at least three years to hire teachers and spend the money.

Motion - Kenna Higgins: Motion to get a meeting with Horsford and others to address the rural learning loss and equity issues dealing with COVID funding for Moapa Valley Schools.

2nd - Mark Cottle seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

There was also discussion about including more than just hiring teachers as possible uses for COVID money in a rural school. If we have other options we have a better chance of persuading "the powers that be" that the money is needed. Some examples include funding learning centers, addressing mental health inequities, more counselors/social workers, not having enough staffing particularly for Cohort C. It was suggested (and accepted) that Department Chairs would have a good idea of where the focus should be at Moapa Valley High School.

D. New NV Health Academic Standards K-12

The district found a way to include sex-ed curriculum indirectly. The middle school has done a lot of research and sent several emails about this.

V. SLA UPDATE/ (H. Mortensen/T. Holzer/Team)

A. CCSD Reply to SOT email

B. Team formal letter response

More work to do on the SLAs. SOT should draft a letter reply to the reply Hal received from CCSD. Quote back to CCSD the right to allocate the budget money, and school districts are supposed to give us more autonomy, but we are referencing the reorganization. Hal brought the contract agreements which includes wording for the SLAs.

Motion - Dallas motioned to write a letter sending it to both the school district and the state indicating we want our SLA funds.

2nd - Annalyn James

Motion: Annalyn James - Draft a SOT letter to support our objection to the Academic Center SLA and the Juvenile Schools SLA, sent to Central Office and CC Mark Newburn.

2nd - Mark Cottle

Motion passed Unanimously.

Lindsey met with Mark Newburn who was put in as Vice President of the State Board of Education, and Rene is our current representative. Mark Newburn said the State Board of Education would be very interested in this issue of the SLA.

VI. COVID UPDATE (H Mortensen/Team)

A. School report

B. Federal Funds Mental Health

VII. FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT (3min ea.)

Hal - Lyon Middle School has a separate person to take notes. Kenna will continue to be secretary, but a non-participating position for someone else to take notes.

Annalyn - in charge of the CEAB subcommittee for homework help. Switching it to a Math Lab. Tuesdays at the Fair Grounds from 3-5. Doing it in conjunction with Parks and Rec, they will be able to pay a few students. Graduation update: trying to get the Band, Orchestra, and Choir to do a performance.

Lindsey - emailed staff from Horsford's office. Setting up a meeting with staff on Monday (12 April).

VIII. ADJOURN

Next Wednesday in May.