



Moapa Valley High School SOT Meeting Minutes 1/3/24



Call to Order/ Roll Call

William Ragland, Kenna Higgins, Bryan Linford, Hal Mortensen, Charlemange Serrano, Chad Leavitt, Mark Cottle, Wynette Wolfley, Lisa Wolfley, Lindsey Dalley, Mandie Matheson

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Kenna Motioned to approve the minutes, Bryan second. All approved.

Public Comment: (3 min each)

None.

Student Representative: (Charlie)

Scholarship Opportunities are hard to figure out. Might be helpful to have more heads up or a central place to find them.

Is there a Hazel Heath update? Hal- the front office is using it for those who need it. They can be alerted if anyone else could benefit from it.

The Student Council shouldn't have to pay to get into games, because it is a grade to attend. How can we represent our school if we can't always afford it. Hal suggests using the StuCo funds to pay for students to attend.

Student Murals update? Kenna got information from Donna, she is on board and wants to be in charge. She wants art approved in advance, and only painting on certain surfaces that work with acrylic paint. We could do a giant mural with small sections to be painted by different artists, which would involve more students.

There needs to be time and date set for these projects so they are organized and not just happening whenever. With her extra time spent, she asked for extra duty pay. Possibly paid as a club. Charlie will meet with Donna to set a plan and budget then bring it back to SOT for help approving.

Will: Suggested a "Beautification Club" so that it has room to grow with multiple projects and influence more.

Informational Items:

A. Annex from CCSD and work group update (Hal)

Committee: Principals from MV & VV, Kenna & Bryan will be the lead (one being a backup) CEAB members Terry Holzer & Wendy Mulcock, VV CEAB Cathy Davis & Jody Thormley will represent at the annex meeting with Jara. It will be held at the MESC on Friday Jan 5.

Questions proposed to the district-

1)What is your definition of the annex? We want enough information to determine we are capable. 2)Can we get funding straight from the state, rather than the district? 3) Who would supervise us? (Can we just call one person for permission for things like a bus change on testing days or farm days, etc.) Rather than going through many layers at the district level.

Lindsey: The goal is to inch us closer to autonomy from the district with this annex. We need a supervisor that is a barrier from the district leadership, who wants to micromanage us.

B. UNLV Rebel Start Academy

10 NV Schools qualified for this grant, and we were selected as 1 of 3 CCSD schools with help from Grant Hanevold who helped to write the grant.

Program started three years ago to help fill the teacher vacancies. They've given support staff the opportunity to start an accelerated bachelor's program to become a licensed teacher within a year.

This same program is offered to juniors and seniors now to get that schooling done in 2 years.

Prior to junior year they would get 6-9 credits for interning with teachers helping kids during summer school. During the school year they'll take college courses online during class, proctored by MVHS teachers.

Summer prior to senior year earning 6-9 credits for working with kids, Then again, college classes during the school day during senior year.

Graduate HS with at least 60 college credits, for free. 1 year college remaining to complete at UNLV.

We should have more information in about a month.

C. 17 Nevada School Superintendents visiting school farm

AG students will give a tour of the farm on Jan 10th from 2-4pm. The Farm Bureau and Denise O'Toole will help with the tour. We are the 4th largest rural school in the district and Jara wants to show off how rural we are and the benefits we have to being rural. The other 15 rural superintendents don't want to share rural funds with urban districts. This is a way to show that CCSD has rural schools with the need for rural funding.

D. Second theater at MVHS advocacy (Kenna)

Our theater suffers from overuse. From August to December, we used our theater for outside community events about 3 times a month. Sharing the space with high school productions and band concerts, the schedule gets tight.

Our technology is analog, and everything is switching to digital. With an aging theater, it is hard to teach students the proper technology that would be used in a career. Theater is in desperate need of updates; but we also really need a second theater.

We would have a second space for all our HS needs and the needs of our local elementary schools, community events, etc.

Will: Rotary wants to do a local music scholarship with higher funds but it is one needing auditions and we don't have the space or time to offer that to students with the dates the Rotary has available.

Kenna drew a map to show where it could extend out along grass, only taking a small portion of the staff parking on the north, proving we have room on the grounds for it.

Will: The benefits are to the whole school. To combine all theater storage in one place and not be in multiple hallways, connex boxes, and storage rooms, frees up space for band, orchestra and others.

Hal: Meetings in Vegas are in the second theater at other high schools. These new proposals all go through the Bond Oversight committee. That is where we need to start. We would need 2-3 SOT members to attend a Bond Oversight meeting and get on the agenda.

Lindsey: We need to show the numbers that we overuse the facility and even turn down community events that are trying to book our facility. Needing more room isn't enough of an argument.

E. Updates: Summer school, open periods, small school allocations, hold harmless, 300 hall water bottle dispenser and student artwork

Hal will push for CCSD to sponsor our summer school.

CSN will offer a HVAC program. There are teachers who will oversee the program during the school year and work in HVAC industry during the summer. It will be a 2 year program with 5 courses offered only to VV & MV currently. Classes held in person at both schools and on flex wednesday our MVHS students would go to Mesquite for the lab. We are aiming to start this program in the fall. Hoping for 20 kids to attend.

Business Items:

A. New Budget for 24/25 beginning January 12 and due February 2

We will discuss the budget at meeting on Jan 24th

B. Seven period school day for 24/25 / POW program for discussion

Hal recommends we proceed with the POW or Pirate Opportunity Wednesday and go back to our original plan with the 7 periods before CCSD got into a disagreement with CCEA. We could then add credit retrieval classes back to the schedule to keep failing students caught up. Right now with our 9th grade, there are 62 F's. Last year, we would have automatically placed those students in credit retrieval classes at the beginning of 2nd semester. This year, we cannot, so now we have many students who are behind. We would spread out the high number of students in classes from from 5 to 6 classes. For example, if one teacher has 150 total students, this year his classes are divided into 5 classes and next year, his classes would be divided into 6 classes.

M/T and T/F regular schedule, W virtual for students, mandatory in person for students deemed at risk, D/F and with a minimum of 5 missing assignments.

We would be considered a distant ed school because of virtual Wednesdays. We would meet the teacher prep time requirements. We wouldn't have to worry about the Carnegie minutes, although we would maintain them. The small parameters of meeting so many requirements would be removed. Chronic absenteeism will also improve.

Kenna: The flexible Wednesday would not only benefit those students falling behind, it would be a great day for those elective classes to complete bigger projects. Ex: building a set, doing a light workshop, etc.

Will: There is NO time with our current, very tight schedule to work with students. I either stay late at night to work with students or it doesn't get done. This 7 period schedule and Wednesdays will fix that.

We can't chase 1-6% that are failing and ignore the other students. 85% of the students are doing good and have good grades. Anything better will improve us. We need to catch the freshmen who are failing now and fix the issue.

Chad: What are the concerns with this schedule, since we have never done anything close to this?

Geniel: Students who don't come regularly probably will still struggle to come on Wednesdays designed to help them. The 85% of students who are good and try, are falling behind and this will elevate them and their success. It will look like "M-F school is mandatory, but if you are up to date and have good grades, you have the right to stay home to work virtually on Wednesdays".

Hal: We will set parameters for the POW schedule:

Students with Minimum D or F are required to come, and/or with 5 missing assignments- required to come. They would only be required to come for the class(s) they are required by the teacher to attend. However, all students can still come if they want to accelerate.

Looking to purchase a half day bus route for students that don't need the full day. Chad questioned why all students couldn't stay all day- worries students will be lazy by nature. Teachers say we will have wanderers but it is also a perk to get to leave early because you don't have other work to do.

NIAA requires full day attendance for athletic game days. We will have to see if athletes can check in online or will be required to attend in person on Wednesdays.

Wynette motions to support the 7 period POW program, Kenna seconds and all approve.

C. Nominate Marty Taggart for naming of a facility

Teachers have stated they felt redundant to add name Marty's name to the football field when it is already Keel Field. Wrestling room seems more fitting but we need to have the sign prominent in the gym leading to the wrestling room.

Mandie motions to name the wrestling room after Marty Taggart, Wynette seconds it, all approve.

Hal says this will take 6 months to get things moving on it and will need letters from parents and teachers as recommendation.

Next Meeting - January 24, 2024

Adjourn at 3:10pm