



Moapa Valley High School SOT Meeting Minutes 12/6/23



Call to Order/ Roll Call

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

Review & Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comment: (3 min each)

Hal recommends in next month's meeting an addition to the agenda to consider naming Marty Taggart in some portion of the school. Maybe the wrestling room or part of the fields.

Student Representative: (Charlie)

1) The 300 hall water dispenser is not working. Very slow dispensing water.

Hal confirmed there is a work order in.

2) Hazel Health is a program that is available to all students, but counselors only had advertised it to students who might need it. It is 7 free counseling sessions you could do virtually. Recommends that it is better advertised to students.

Hal suggests we put things on MVTV and Kenna suggested we could also push it out on chromebooks.

3) Pickleball club has started and they have 38 members. They hold the club every T & Th. They want to have internal tournaments. They could sell popcorn and use that money for the program and donate half to teen mental health charities.

4) There is a program in vegas where students can paint murals on school property. He thinks students would take more ownership of the school with "public art".

Chad suggested we get the conversation started. Kenna will talk to Donna about heading this up.

Informational Items:

A. Follow up to Jara's visit- Open Periods, Small School Allocation and Hold Harmless (Hal & Lindsey)

Jara had the opportunity to hear our voice, and it went well. If anything is going to happen it would be through Raffalski, chief of staff. We won't get answers right away. Everyone gave good presentations and Hal is grateful for everyone's participation. There should be \$400,000 back in our budget from the Hold Harmless and Small School Allocation.

The plan of action is a letter written to the state. Looking for a discrepancy between NRS and the NAC.

Terry: The meeting was fabulous, and everyone did great and Jara was listening. Progress was made. Jara said we were audited because there was an issue with another school. The audit wasn't a target at our school. He did say that he wanted to work with us to help us with our schedule.

Lindsey: Jara didn't know what happened to our schedule. He was told what to do by people under him. He thinks we need an annex from CCSD. We know we need to condense 5 levels of administration and reduce the bureaucracy. VVHS is not fighting like we are. They are ok staying with schedule as is. The community and VV CEAB are in support of the annex.

We need a group carved out from the district, the annex would provide that carve out. We would be a "pilot program". The district wants conformity. They want to keep all schools on the same page. We need to work at the angle of getting all North LV schools and VV on the same page to have a unique schedule.

We need to get an annex written in during the next year and ½ of Jara's contract so that we cannot lose that privilege.

Bryan: We need to do our thing and do it as best we can. If VVHS doesn't want to step up and help then they will "miss the train".

Hal: The board discussed that there are VV parents and reps that would help us go forward. The city, parents, and board members are willing. So those not in support will not pull us down. Just aren't pushing as hard to change.

Terry: Jara referenced Western HS and their unique schedule. We have a lack of autonomy and this annex could help us. Jara was supportive as long as it is legal and legislation approved.

Open Periods - We need to push for each school getting schedule

autonomy, and not just fight for what Moapa wants. We have 5 weeks to put together a committee to work with Jara for an annex. The benefit would be rural funding and not CCSD funding.

Terry: The working group meeting with Jara is set for Jan 5th and it is critical that we address the high school schedule right away. CEAB, SOT and CCSD will present a letter to the NV Dept of Ed regarding our open periods in our bell schedule.

Chad: Who from the district will actually sign it? We can't let it get lost in the district. SOT is confident they can get it signed if we give a deadline. Lisa said it would be helpful to say, "sign it so we can show the state that we are working with the district"

Kenna will work with the letter Terry has drafted and get it ready for signatures.

Lindsey: We need our committee for the working group meeting. Each valley will provide an admin rep, two CEAB reps, a teacher rep, and then the district representative. There would be 11-12 in total. Any bigger things won't run smoothly. We are going on Jan 5th to execute our strategy.

CEAB meeting is tomorrow at 4pm and on December 28th there is a committee meeting for 10am in preparation for the Jan 5th meeting.

Chad calls order of business: Mandie motions and Lisa seconds that Kenna will write the letter in rough draft form.

Lisa moves to have members from our SOT be on The CEAB working group. Kenna seconds it. All approve.

Terry: We need to talk about the money they are NOT giving us. The money for the rural schools would come straight from the state. We need to be sure that MVHS remains on the forefront with the annex. I am not going to let us fall to the wayside. We are going to get people on board and go in with an idea for our schedule, our annex, and our budget.

Chad: There is a model we could emulate that is used by the OPD5 Board with MV and VV both equally represented. There are ways to work together with both valleys feeling satisfied.

B. Innovative School Plan- New Bell Schedule Proposal called 'POW' (Hal)

Hard to go back to block. We could do an alternative schedule like Western HS. Wednesday would be a day for struggling students. Any with a D or F would be required to attend. The other students could do work remotely. We would have more flexibility. We are proceeding with

a 7 period about 46 min classes on M, T, TH, F and Wednesday would be fixed schedule for those required to attend. We are not planning on CCSD giving permission to do open periods at this time.

Kenna: She stated the benefits of this flexible Wednesday for students and teachers. Getting projects done, and getting students caught up. Other students would have to check in once during the distance education day. Staff are split on whether or not this is a good idea. They don't like the idea of change again but also don't know what Wednesday looks like.

Discussion about grading policies this year, such as assignments have to be submitted within 5 school days and getting a zero.

With 5 English teachers they can rotate who is monitoring the class on those Wednesdays, and others can just run the study hall .

Will: CCSD wants us to participate in honor band, marching band, solo and ensemble, etc but there isn't time. With this open Wednesday, those students can come practice for concerts and solos, etc.

Kenna: Core teachers like to see their students everyday so the 7 period schedule is helpful. And this additional day would help the struggling students.

Hal: Courses would have to be cut within 6 period days. Elective classes/programs on the chopping block so we could then add 1 english teacher and 1 math teacher to make our schedule work for all students.

Discussion ensued how this would decimate our elective program.

Will: Concerns 1) thinking of elective teachers, the students would come the 2nd half of the day. Music dept has low numbers, but how can I explain to kids that they would be required to come on that optional wednesday.

2) If you look at numbers from 2014- There are 127 kids in the band. There are currently 41. I don't want to lose more kids and end up with the program being cut down the road.

Will does like the schedule and thinks it would be beneficial to see his kids for a larger chunk of time. We have to make Wednesday a mandatory day, not an "optional" day. It is a day to get ahead. It should be a flex day. We cannot fold if parents don't like it.

Kenna: My perspective on this- no schedule is going to be perfect, our goal is to keep teachers and programs. We cannot go to 8 periods without open periods. We may have to give things up to save jobs and courses.

Hal: Block is difficult and we can't do block without open. We need 7 periods to be able to offer credit retrieval for the students who are failing. We can make it however we want. We don't have to fight for a flexible schedule if we sign up for the Western model. There is already a precedence in place so that work is already done.

Will: From my point, I see 33 kids in 2nd period and 8 in first period. That is a problem. (Other teachers explained that is a problem with our small school schedule and it will always be that way) The education of high school is progressive. The core standards are changing and are more complicated. Taking up more time and requiring more from teachers.

Mandie concerned the focus is college ready but they aren't passing core classes and we are trying to save CTE classes. She is worried this alternative Wednesday schedule isn't the best option for students. Growing up here we had 7 periods and still participated in electives and it does work.

Hal states we are required to have the CTE classes for diplomas.

Bryan said as the district cut CTE programs in the early 2000's - the industry has struggled to maintain a workforce. Having only a 7 period schedule takes 10 minutes away from each class. The farm would be done. The CTE classes would struggle.

Mark said we could make Wednesday's CTE day. Possible option.

Chad is not optimistic that 7 periods will be approved since it was not previously. He was assured by multiples that it would be approved with an alternative schedule such as the Wednesday flex day.

Kenna, Bryan, Mark and Hal looked at 15 different schedules and will continue research and getting opinions.

C. Staffing Forecast in January (Hal)

a. Distance Education during the CC Fair

This would help with our chronic absenteeism but still waiting on approval from the district.

b. Summer School 2024

Summer acceleration is gone but if we still have 6 periods, we need to have that option out here not just in Las Vegas. We only need 3 teachers for 4 weeks. \$30-40,000 for transportation. This is an equity issue to not have this credit retrieval option for our students.

Hal is also requesting a mid day bus for students who do not need a full day.

Next Meeting - January 3, 2024
Adjourn at 3:40 pm