



School Organizational Team Minutes
MVHS Google Meet
9/3/2020 12:30 pm



SOT members in attendance: Marquessa Aikele, Louise Culler, Lindsey Dalley, Kimberly Hardy, Terry Holzer, Aimee Houghtalen, Chad Leavitt (by proxy), Hal Mortensen, Geniel Ozaki, Gary Watkins.

Visitors: Camille Christensen, Kristin Delgadillo, Suzanne Garlick, Chole Garcia, Kenna Higgins, Ronald Lustig, Duane McMinn, Matthew Messer, Ken Paul, Esmeralda Serrano, Greg Thompson, Kevin Walker, Gary Weiss

- I. Call to Order by Chairman- Terry
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes- Motion made by Kim, 2nd by Gary
- III. Public Comment (3 minutes)-
- IV. MVHS Reopening Plan
 - A. Hal - We have been in school for 7 days. It has been challenging but we feel lucky to be here in school at all. Students and teachers are staying masked in the hallways and in the classrooms. Distancing is encouraged and traffic is flowing in one direction. Desks are all facing front. Teachers are spending HOURS to prepare and teach. News media from the RJ, Channel 3 News and Fox News were present in the valley.
 - B. Dr. Jara along with Dr. Mitchell and Joe Caruso visited the valley schools on Friday, the 28th. They also stopped by the AG farm and had a tour. They thought the students were happy being in school. We got positive feedback. They want ALL of CCSD to open up.
 - C. Vegas schools are facing some issues with technology. Some parents are getting online, some inappropriate clothing and background activities are on during live lessons etc.
 - D. Virgin Valley along with the VV CEAB reached out to Dr. Jara and questioned why the needs of their students can't be met. Jhone Ebert, the NV state superintendent, said that they could open as long as CDC guidelines are followed. They are awaiting contact from Dr. Jara and CCSD. Their plan is open 4 days a week starting October 12, dividing students into cohorts A and B- similar to our plan.

Shawna Jessen from Grant Bowler asked if we could do the same in Moapa Valley schools. The answer was yes.

Hal presented the idea of a 4 day week to the teaching staff and only 10 are supportive to the change. The majority feel as though they are just settling into this routine, and the stress of changing again is unthinkable. On the other hand, students were polled and they overwhelmingly agreed to coming back for 4 days. Hal stated that it will be the teachers decision and he will support them.

The hope is to wait until semester and make the change, or even better resume school as usual.

Discussion ensued-

Terry- Appreciative of all the teachers, counselors and staff. She feels that the teacher's input is critical. She wondered if VV would wait until the board meeting on the 10th to get final approval and make a decision. She feels that 4 days would be better for students.

Lindsey- There are 2 things to look at. 1. What is best for students? and 2. What are the long term and short term effects? VV CEAB president, Jodie Thornely got a call back from the state the same day, giving them a verbal go ahead. MVHS should jump on this and get approved as well, to return to 4 days a week. We need to move forward.

Kim- Teachers want to come back to a regular schedule. She wants us to make a forward move, not a lateral one. We need to wait for the semester. We've proven that we can do this. We need to finish the current plan and see it through.

Terry- She agreed with both sides. But we should preserve our rights- whether we use it or not. Teachers will have to comply. Our teachers matter. The SOT considers parents, teachers and all.

Hal- Teachers cannot be forced to come back.

Gary- Teacher's concerns are not if we can do it, but so we are all on the same schedule as other schools in the valley. Some parents have a spouse that teaches as well. We are spending time developing videos for each content that we teach to outline the lesson and assignments. Here for the students- all students.

Aimee- What are the reasons not to go back to 4 days?

Kim- We would rather go online. Doing both- 2 jobs- and getting paid for 1, barely. There is no family time. We already have lesson plans done for the semester. Teachers, especially CTE, cannot teach in 45 minutes. 80 minute classes are better. Changing “midstream” would be too much! We should say what is best for the students is to have functioning teachers in the classroom.

Terry- Will VV get what they want?

Lindsey- At this point we need to be in the game. Maybe go for all or nothing? Even if we don't adopt the 4 day plan, we need to go for it, and seek approval.

Marquessa- We are all for plan A- going back to normal, full time. So do we need to fight for a plan that we don't want? If we have rural flexibility- we should be able to go back in a normal fashion.

Gary- Teachers are working overtime- online and in person. His wife says the schools out here are giving the Vegas teachers a bad rap. They may have to go back to a schedule like we have. Propose that we move back to .normal in January.

Hal- Some 60,000 students in the district have not been contacted to date. We want our contact to be 100%.

Lindsey- Let's come back with a full time plan and present to the board.

Terry- Will we be allowed to go 5 days? If we have room to maintain the 6 feet or 3 feet, do we have the staff to cover? CDC is changing the guidelines. Within the next month we could go back to full time.

Marquessa- Would we be able to meet CDC guidelines?

Hal- A different “phase” would allow more students in each classroom

Terry- Hopeful that every 30 days it will get better and better. We are a huge feather in Jara's hat. Maybe we could combine students in classes with small numbers? Asked for details on VV's plan, days, times, groups etc.

Lindsey- Kids are in the lowest risk group. We need to go to the board now. Write a letter to the state to make changes based on circumstances and or events.

Marquessa- Is it better to go ahead or wait and watch how VV does?

Terry- We need a simple letter to state the new plan. Include the board in this letter. Let them know it's for all rural schools, not just Mesquite.

Kim- I motion that we move forward to seek inclusion in rural autonomy with the goal of resuming normal school at the semester.

Gary- 2nd the motion

Terry- Motion passed Let's get the letter out by Thursday, September 8th after circulating to SOT. Kim and Kenna were asked to write the letter.

Marquessa- What are the teacher's office hours? Are they the same every day? 1:00-2:12?

Hal- It depends on the teacher and their schedules

Gary- There are lots of students to address. Seeing a total 160 between cohorts A, B and C.

Kim- Some teachers are doing a google meet during office hours.

Terry- What about the new turf that we are getting? How much does that cost? A teacher's salary? The school enclosure? What about virtual labs - how do they work?

Geniel- Virtual labs are held in various places, like the gym or the library, under supervision by a staff member. The students also have the option to go home, if they can arrive safely before the class begins.

Gary- Emphasized that all guidelines must be followed. Masks must be worn at all times. Students that will not follow the rules, will be placed on cohort C.

V. Budget

- A. Hal has funds set aside to cover the losses we may face after count day on September 11th. We will know more at the next SOT meeting that will be held on September 16th.

VI. SOT General Discussion

A. Parent and Student Vacancy Elections

Aimee Houghtalen will be replaced, as her family has moved to Utah. We will need to post for the election in a timely manner. Hal mentioned that the CCEA usually runs this. We need to have the newly elected in place by October 1st. The parent representatives usually come from PAC meetings. ALL parents are encouraged to attend PAC. There will also be a new student representative, which in the past has been the student body president.

B. Interview Protocols

SOT members key responsibilities are to include “Input regarding principal selection if a vacancy occurs.” Teacher and other staff member interviews are not included in the key responsibilities, but Hal as principal chooses to include SOT in the process.

VI. Public Comment

Terry had questions about senior pictures for her daughter, as she missed her assigned day. She was given information about how to get the pictures on a different day. She also asked about ACT dates. The dates are nationally scheduled and are given at MVHS in October, December, February and June.

Marquessa asked about MAPS testing. Times, dates and students affected. Testing is for 9th and 10th grade students in the areas of Math and English. The first round will be given on Wednesday, September 9th.

VII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned after motion by Geniel at 2:27 pm, 2nd by Gary.

The next SOT meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 16th.