

**School Organization Team**  
**MVHS Zoom Meeting**  
**7/27/2020**

SOT Attendance: Hal Mortensen, Kim Hardy, Chad Leavitt, Marquessa Aikele, Terry Holzer, Aubrey Aikele, Geniel Ozaki, Louise Culler (present by proxy), Amy Houghtalen, Lindsey Dalley, Gary Watkins

Visitors: Dr. Kenna Higgins, Korey Johnson, Jill Laub, Ron Lustig, Deanna Harding, Bryan Linford, Suzanne Garlick, Jenni Adams, Duane McMinn, Matt Messer, Donna Swanson, Anjie Lee, Brandon Jones, Regan Whipple, Rex Hardy, Tamera Clove, Celeste Bosch, Esme Serano, Michelle Anderson, Emily Pack, Wendy Mulcock, Ted Biggs, Amy Keller, Annalyn James, Shelby Turner, Erin Philips, Mark Cottle, Korindi Totten, Eva Ables, Brooklyn Redd, Emily Matheson, Rebecca Marshall, Amy Gale, Jenna Rhude, Denise O'Toole (as named on the Zoom meeting screen)

I. Call to Order - Terry Holzer (1:12)

Louise Culler is present by proxy - Kim Hardy

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes - Motion: Kim Hardy, Second: Geniel Ozaki  
Minutes approved and passed.

III. Introductory Comments: Terry Holzer.

Terry addressed opportunities for public comment. She asked that individuals limit their comment time to 3 minutes during the first public comment opportunity. She also asked that we hold questions pertaining to agenda items until further in the meeting as there will be additional time given for public comment. It is important that the SOT follows the agenda. She indicated that the SOT will try to accommodate all public comments, but cannot vary from agenda.

III. Public Comment: Tammy Clove - Tammy expressed that teachers and kids are excited to get back to school. She thanked everyone for working so hard for our kids. She also indicated that her preference is to see classes stretched out to year-long courses as opposed to semester-based.

Terry Holzer - Terry received a call from KJUL radio. She gave a brief interview earlier today; this interview will be aired on Sunday at 7:30 AM.

Annalyn James - Annalyn agreed with Tammy Clove with regard to extending classes for a whole year instead of a semester. She also expressed concern with Math and English classes, observing that having these classes for only half a year would be detrimental to student learning.

#### IV. Brief Budget Update (Hal Mortensen)

Hal indicated that he hasn't heard anything new about the budget or budget cuts. He has been in discussion with eight principals who are serving on the funding committee with Dr. Jara. Hal emailed questions to these principals asking them to inquire whether the SOA portion of each school's budget would be returned to the school if students/teachers are not using their brick and mortar buildings. They did not give a direct answer. Based on the information he received, Goudie and Dr. Jara were present, but it was not clear that schools would get that money back. SOA funding allows schools to buy certain services back from the district. Hal said the question was asked, but so far we haven't gotten the answer we wanted. Hal was told that in July administrators would be getting another round of cuts. According to Hal's source, MVHS is not as bad off as we could be. Hal purposely held money back for this school year budget because the district kept giving them budget cuts. We will not know the full impact until after count day, which is towards the beginning of September. Last year we were down about \$8,000, this year we are down about \$20,000. Much of that budget gap is mitigated because of the money held back at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The goal is for CARES to replenish lost money. We are waiting until the dust settles after count day, but we are feeling hopeful.

Lindsey Dalley asked how much money we are talking about from SOA funding - ball park figure? He asked whether it is worth it for SOT or CEAB to rattle the cage. He said Ken Paul went after that money hard for Lyon. If it was a couple thousand, maybe it's not a big issue, but if it's closer to \$30,000, perhaps we should consider going after it. Is it worth the fight, and is it a fight we should pick?

Amy Houghtalen commented that we only get the money if we request it. She said they aren't going to say we just get that money back, unless we ask for it. Having gone through the process with Lyon, Amy said that if we look at the law, it looks like if we request those funds they have to send that back to us. When it's time for SOAs to be submitted, a school has the option to decline the line item budget categories we might not be a part of. She thinks it would be worth it to go after that money.

Hal indicated that the total service agreement is approximately \$129,000 and change. This funding is broken up into various needs. Funding is cost per student.

Terry pointed out that because schools did not resume regular classes after Spring Break, it would be prudent to look at funds that were allocated and weren't used.

Amy indicated that schools have to look at each item individually, then submit a formal request and have SOT sign that.

Lindsey Dalley made a motion to look at each of the funding allotments within the SOA and request the extra money back. Marquessa Aikele seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued about creating a subcommittee. Hal indicated that MVHS Administration would look at data and bring that back to the SOT. There was also discussion about possible deadlines and the importance of making a formal request. Amy confirmed that there is a timeline with a deadline, and they would need to look into that. Terry also pointed out that they should inquire after the unused money during the spring after schools closed.

Lindsey gave kudos to Hal for not letting that issue slide by.

#### V. Moapa Valley High School Reopening Plan -

Hal said he was supposed to have a meeting this week with all the rural principals. Rural schools have the option to go back to brick and mortar/in-person instruction as opposed to solely distance or online learning. They are still waiting to have this meeting. Region Superintendent (Marcl) indicates this meeting is forthcoming. Hal received a text prior to the SOT meeting from several rural principals, asking about the meeting with the Regional Superintendent. Hal also sent a message to the Regional Superintendent - asking about the meeting. He has not received a response. Supposedly, rural principals will have a separate guidance book from other schools in the district. Hal may not have answers to everyone's questions, simply because they are waiting for guidance from the district.

With regard to the reopening plan submitted a few weeks ago by MVHS, at the time the district was looking at a hybrid model, as well as doing one year in one semester. But last week, when the district decided to implement an exclusively distance learning model, and the Board of Trustees voted on that, things changed. Currently, middle schools are required to have courses in one semester, while high schools have been mandated to proceed with year long courses. Hal called Geniel to see if she could make the magic work. Hal pointed out how impressive it was to work out a schedule in one night which typically takes 2-3 months to complete. Geniel and a few staff got together, and it was decided that the main focus should be on what is best for our students, while maximizing learning for students. Further, several courses need to sync with Virgin Valley, as MVHS coordinates dual credit courses through CSN with Virgin Valley. It is important that whatever we do, MVHS and VVHS schedules match. One idea that has been discussed was scheduling CSN courses after school.

Transportation also needs to work. Half of kids from 7:00-10:30, other half comes in from 10:30-1:00. Now what we need to decide is whether or not to do year long courses or semester long courses.

Geniel Ozak gave a lot of credit to Kim Hardy, Christie Lewis, Dr. Higgins, and Gary Weiss. A lot of input has come from teachers, and Kim Hardy has been the hub. They came up with a plan to salvage six credits. It was determined that what was best for kids was to go to year long classes, and have six

classes all year long. Using Blue and Gold days, working in the Learning Centers the second half of the day.

Terry Holzer asked Geniel to explain the Learning Centers a little.

Geniel: Utilizing three gyms, because social distancing wouldn't allow for PE classes, gyms could become Learning Centers. Cohort B would attend Learning Centers in the morning, while Cohort A attends classes. A staff member (or two or three) would supervise each center. In that Center students would work on online courses. In order to earn seat time, students have to do a certain amount of online work to make up for the lost seat time. If students were in Learning Centers, a staff member would be available to answer questions. Then students would flip-flop. While Cohort B was in classes in the afternoon, Cohort A would go to learning centers.

The question was raised, about how that would affect the band? Can't really do band in face masks.

Geniel: Ted has a good idea for how to handle Band. 0 Period, students in band would have an open period. A few other teachers who feel like their best option is online. If students are taking these classes, schedule them a 0 period and then take an open.

Ted Biggs indicated that his biggest concern is for kids to have the ability to take classes that will make them happy/motivated. He also pointed out that going from 8 to 6 credits is difficult.

Geniel: We are trying to keep everyone's schedules the same, the way they are set up. Students have a schedule, but would need to drop two classes. Our students are over-abundant-rich in electives. Many might drop 2 electives, but many have opens, a lot would be dropping open periods. The plan is to review very schedule, on a case-by-case basis.

Ted asked if kids take six classes and then a 0 hour period.

Geniel: Yes.

Ted: The idea is that for Band, students can do one-on-one lessons without having to sacrifice band. This can be done for at least one year.

Terry: What does that mean, students have to drop two classes?

Geniel: By law students need to be in four classes for juniors and seniors and freshman need to be in six classes to be counted as full time. We would need to take their schedule down to six periods. We

cannot realistically fill all 8 requests for all students - because of social distancing and small staff. But we can fill 6 classes.

Terry: Will this impact their graduation credit requirements?

Geniel: No. Our students are very credit rich. They will have opportunities to make up electives.

Terry: There is always the option to take online classes or an open.

Geniel: We wanted to keep the master schedule intact as much as possible. Until we get in and actually do the moving of every schedule, we won't really know. Every teacher has a prep period. So, we took the 7 and 8 class period and put it where the teachers have prep period. All courses are being offered, but just period 7 and period 8 had to rearrange in order to fit into a 6 period schedule. Anything offered in B7 and G8 had to be moved. Some of those courses are different, but mostly the schedule stayed the same.

Terry: Are other CSN courses affected?

Geniel: All the CSN courses are the exact same periods as when they were. So if VV can get on board, they are still where people can utilize them.

Terry: Theatre. We have a regular theatre class and a dual theatre class?

Kenna: As far as Kenna is concerned, the CSN and the Theatre class will be compatible. As much as is possible with technology, etc. students will have opportunities to perform.

Terry: Added that parents still have a choice. They can do homeschool, online, or what we're doing.

Marquessa: Opting in to Learning Centers - is it an all or nothing. Can they pick and choose which days if they choose to go home.

Kim: That's an administrative question, and depends on how we put the schedule together. Theoretically, students would probably have to choose because we are responsible for those students if they are on campus.

Hal: Depends on how the schedule works out and how many students we can have in the rooms. How many seats, etc. Our priority in the Learning Centers was first freshmen and sophomores, hoping that juniors and seniors will have the maturity to guide their own learning at home.

Marquessa: So, potentially, students have the choice. But if a student has an online course and chose not to opt in, would parents be responsible for picking students up.

Hal: We are hoping transportation will work with us, because in Vegas they won't be using their busses. We are hoping to request a few more busses. The gentleman in charge of transportation for our area is working with us. Lyon will also need more. Perkins will not.

Marquessa: Is this still a plan where students are coming to school M-T and then Th-F? Or will they come M-F?

Hal: M-T then Th-F.

Marquessa: Circling back to Mr. Biggs band idea...will this work with other electives? Depending on what students would have to drop from 8 to 6, could students request to have band as a 0 period?

Geniel: Students wouldn't have to request, if the student is in band he/she is going to automatically be enrolled.

Marquessa: So, 0 period labeled a 0 because not in a regular schedule. But could she have 6 courses and the 0 period for band? Just wondering.

Geniel: Problem is that we're limited to 18 kids in a classroom. For kids taking more classes than we can accommodate, we won't know until we count the numbers. We are counting on dropping some of those classes for some of those kids. We can't guarantee that everyone can add classes because we don't know if we will be able to accommodate them.

Marquessa: Sounded like to me that Ted understood he wouldn't be able to have a room full of band students. I wanted to know if students would be able to have band as an extra, was there some workability there.

Kim: The way we have it worked, if a student already has band, we would automatically give her an open for band, and then after students are scheduled, on a case-by-case basis, students can add a class during that open period. It would be on a case-by-case basis depending on how many students are in that class, etc.

Marquessa: It sounds like they cannot sign up for seven classes. It sounds like if a student is signed up for band, culinary, then STUCO they would have to decide whether or not to take a class, depending on how classes fill up.

Kim: Some classes will be virtual - it doesn't matter how many students are in those classes. The only classes students would have to drop would be ones where students are in the classroom. Because we have four weeks until school starts, Geniel and Christie will work on the schedule. Hopefully a majority of students' classes will work. If there is a particular situation, the student would need to decide. Then parents can request specifics.

Marquessa: Will students have an opportunity to select and submit which electives are their highest priority?

Geniel: At this point, we are really trying to make concessions and make things work. If we have to go in and make things work for what works with everyone, we have to do that. Then we will make a phone call to parents and students. We will do our best to keep those communications open. There will be a lot of decisions that have to be made. We will try to honor students, for example, the 3rd year CTE courses will take precedence. If there is a big problem we will work with it. Cannot say for certain that every kid will get everything they want. We are hoping for give and take from everyone.

Marquessa: Expressed that she is grateful for options. She has had several parents contact her with questions. Because older students, juniors/seniors, are credit rich, they are more concerned with graduating. For the younger students, freshman/sophomors, it is different.

Geniel: Reminded everyone that anyone that is in band will remain in band. Band will not be dropped from anyone's schedule unless they request it.

Hal: There still will be some unknowns. The best case scenario was to keep everything the same. Geniel and Christie will be looking at schedules. We have a lot of single classes. Here we have teachers teaching four or five subjects.

Changing gears: Cohort C.

The beauty of going back to brick and mortar, parents have a choice. They can choose Cohorts A or B or go 100% online. If we have 4 or 5 kids that are taking various classes online, ALL teachers will have to do some sort of blended learning, regardless of what class is taught. Cohort C will have to do all online courses. There are a couple of ways for Cohort C to work: teachers could hand students all online course work, or students have a camera and microphone and meet with that teacher. A third option is for that student to be online during the classtime. Whatever is best for that teacher we will make work. Korey bought some cameras for online.

If we stayed on the former hybrid, seniors would graduate at Dec. But now we have the year long courses. No, our plan is not approved, we are waiting for guidance from the district to get it approved. No rural principals have received word. We don't know why, we are asking questions, but have not received any response.

Terry: Having a rural guide has a lot to do with it. A lot is covering our agenda items. Terry remarked that everyone has been working really hard. She appreciates that school, administration, and teachers want to get our students back as normal as possible. We should rejoice that the board heard that message. We know that everyone is working really hard to accommodate and stabilize life as much as normal. We will not get all the answers today, but this is important because the SOT is hearing the plan, following up on our last meeting, and it is important to get all this information. When the district meets with Hal we will have more info.

One more question: How will the school determine who is in Cohort A and Cohort B?

Kim: For the most part, the only fair way to do that is randomization. We plan on sending out a parent survey for clarification, and we feel it would be fair and best for students on the Reservation to put them in Cohort B. Then they don't have to wake up at 3:00AM as they usually do. We also want all family units in the same cohort, again, it will be on a case-by-case basis if there happens to be problems.

Hal: We also have a handful of students who babysit younger siblings.

Marquessa: What about coordinating between two schools? (Lyon and MVHS) Do we need to ask beforehand?

Hal: Sending out a survey. There will be an open-ended opportunity for parents to input special circumstances.

Terry: Bowler hoping for older siblings starting a little later. Going back to school, staying healthy - using purell, washing hands. The main component is that our valley has <5% infection, which amounts to about 350 people.

Kim: Several teachers had concerns about kids coming in sick. We also need to make sure parents know that if students are not feeling well, if they are running a temperature, this is the year to let them stay home. If this is going to work parents have to be onboard.

Hal: Beauty is that all teachers will have an online platform. We don't have to wait, we can just pick up and go home and continue work that needs to be done.

Terry: That's an excellent critical point. There will be access to all courses online. Now is not the time to take chances. Keep the child home. Personally, my daughter just stayed home for 10 days, even though she felt okay, she just stayed home. As things develop some sort of allowance will be made so that students can stay on top of the work.

VI. Transition between classes.

Hal: Part of the plan we had to submit was how to ensure the safety of everyone. Our main goal was to reduce amount of social interaction with everyone. We all know kids aren't social distancing, but when they come to school, temperature checks are parents' responsibility. I can't imagine doing 530 temp checks. The Health District has allowed students to return, and the onus is on parents.

Masks, yes. Students will exit out one door, then enter another door. Looking at different doors for students to enter/exit. Looking at bus stops, maybe front of school be drop off, back of the school be pick up. Looking to have breakfast and lunch in classroom not cafeteria. We will have this all documented before school starts. We won't be able to do assemblies in the theatre or the gym, we will have to do it during MVTV time to communicate with students. We have to limit interaction while students are on campus.

Terry: Thank you Hal. One of the issues that come up is what about students and people who can't wear masks? A health issue, trauma, etc. I know we probably do not have a definitive answer. Special needs children, some who have hearing problems - we don't have all the answers, but the general understanding is children under the age of 9 do not have to wear masks. But at high school, what about special needs in that area.

Hal: We will follow whatever is given to us by the CDC requirement. We will follow that to a 'T'.

Terry: A very large part of going back is having a contingency plan.

VII. (I don't remember which bullet point this was on the Agenda)

Hal: We are waiting for that guidance from the district.

Terry: Generally speaking, one of the main ideas is that when we have 18 students in a classroom, we know where they are. The general consensus is that we will be able to localize it and take remedial measures necessary.

VIII. Teacher impact and concerns. While teachers are dedicated to teach, they are also concerned about their own health.

Lindsey: Assuming the plan is workable. Do we need a motion to adopt the plan?

Terry: Probably be prudent. Take action as a team. School has presented the plan, subject to fine tuning. Does anyone want to make a formal motion to adopt the re-opening plan which includes Cohorts A, B, C. Some distance learning for all classes. Plan is subject to further direction by the

school district. Includes sanitization, social distancing, etc. Shall we make a motion to adopt the high school plan as presented.

Kim: Motioned to accept plan as proposed.

Second: Gary Watkins

Motion passes.

Terry: Any other team comments, general questions?

Chad: Talked about hiring this or that, but with the budget don't know if appropriate. If the budget goes down will we have to

Hal: Our numbers are projected to need to be around 530 to maintain status quo. We have budget money tucked away, and if student enrollment goes down, we are hoping that that will be enough to make up the difference. There are rumors speculating that around 10 of our athletes are moving out of state. Hal cautioned them to check eligibility requirements. We hope to be able to maintain current status with numbers, and that students will take advantage of what we have to offer.

Chad: If we do have enrollment down, when do we lose a teacher?

Hal: It will be in September. Count day is the beginning of Sept.

Kim: No teachers talking about leaving. But Kenna is aware that she would be the first teacher cut.

Hal: We are going to do our best to retain all our teachers. A lot of parents are getting info out there, we are doing something. Once we get finalized Hal will send social media blasts, etc.

Terry: Children need these elective outlets more than ever. Open up for further public comment.

Public Comment:

Annalyn James: Thanks to all the teachers/admin/counselors. We appreciate it.

Jenni Adams: Thank you to all hard work and dedication. Asking Hal about PR and how to get information out.

Hal: Working on a statement about what we are doing, pending approval. Whenever there is a negative comment, there is confusion. For now, counter those people. We are opening, pending approval on our plan - four days a week.

Lindsey: More of an FYI, as we've been in CEAB and SOT, it is important to make the note that teachers and administrators are not on the clock. Admin only gets one month off, but instead the district is throwing things into crisis. We appreciate that effort. As parents it is easy to overlook and think "Well, that's your job." Hal and Ken and other admin and teachers have been constantly working. This is their time to be at the beach.

Terry: We cannot thank you enough for the countless hours. From the bottom of our heart, so many community members and colleagues thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Gary Watkins: This has all been put up on us in the last month. We put this altogether then told - why weren't we given this back in March/April. We also ask that parents be patient with the whole process. Teachers and counselors have been working around the clock.

Marquessa: It is nice to see everyone come together. Way to go above and beyond.

Hal: Terry got us on the map with the RJ article, and it was brought up. Garvey brought it up, Jara was asked and he was at the board meeting. Terry will be on KJUL, everyone definitely needs to get on and listen with her New York accent.

Also, activities for seniors. Unfortunately, we will not be able to support activities for seniors because of all that is going on. We encourage parents to discuss with students to pick up those traditions. We need to get to phase 3/phase 4. All athletics have been post-poned until Jan. A big thanks to parents who realize the importance of stepping up.

Terry: Question, would it be possible to do something like cohort a, b, etc. with the senior class and the activities?

Hal: Only 50 gathering. We could do 50, 50, 50 gatherings.

Terry: It's a thought.

Hal: It would require getting approval.

Wendy Mulcock: Thank you for opening this up and inviting us to be there. We got a tiny taste of this feeling, when we had 6 days to put graduation on. There is a lot to do and a little bit of time to do it. This valley can accomplish miracles. Everyone is in the trenches, there are people praying and it will work. It is analogous to learning, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, that 300 people will be coming to Thanksgiving dinner. Then you get creative.

As an FYI, we hold seminary in the building across the street. That takes a big chunk of kids. At this point, seminaries and institutes are supposed to do exactly what the schools servicing the area

are doing. Is there a benefit to us, because there are no after school activities, would it be better to encourage kids to take seminary during the day? Or do we keep the early morning class for Freshmen.

Hal: The predicament is that going from 8 to 6, we will be doing away with opens. That's when students will be taking seminary. Unless students are credit rich, students cannot have an open.

Wendy: Just wondered what we can do.

Kim: We have a lot of kids that will be in band and culinary. We weren't sure as we were smooshing everything together. As far as that goes, I think it will just work out as everything else has so far.

Terry: One question: we are going to six classes, so B7 and G8 will be dropped. If a student has an elective they love, could they do some sort of independent study?

Kim: In creating a master schedule, we took the B7 and G8 classes into consideration. That doesn't mean those classes have been dropped. Essentially, we are putting those over in the same spot as where the teachers' preps were. It was weird how there were so few conflicts when just putting those in. Again, PE, Culinary, Band - those are all online.

Terry: Questions about PE, what about the Weights class? Will it have to be dispensed with because of all the touching?

Kim: Weights will be going forward. They will treat it like a gym in Vegas, you use it and then wipe it down.

Terry: Anyone else have a comment or question? If there are no other comments or questions. It's 3:00, we will officially adjourn. Depending on what happens/transpires we will arrange for when we are meeting again.

Meeting End: 3:00