



# Moapa Valley *Hal Mortensen*

*Principal*  
**Ron Lustig**  
*Dean of Students*  
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*Dean of Students*

## High School

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### MOAPA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SOT MEETING 11/4/2020 AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
  - a. Attendance: Hal Mortensen, Terry Holzer, Kenna Higgins, Dallas Larsen, Chad Leavitt, Marquessa Aikele, Annalyn James, Maximus Shambaugh, Louise Culler, Mark Cottle, Korey Johnson, Lindsey Dalley (Zoom), Anjie Lee (Zoom), Duan McMinn (Zoom)
- II. REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES from 10/7/2020 Meeting
  - a. Chad Leavitt motion to approve minutes. Mark Cottle, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (3 min. ea.)
  - a. Hal: Introduce Maximus Shambaugh, student representative. Non-voting member.
  - b. Annalyn: Comment on Education Committee from CEAB: Volunteer homework help sessions are going well. The one in Overton is at full-capacity. The one in Logandale is going well. The one in Moapa hasn't seen any students. Mostly concerned about getting the word out and focusing on the Middle and High School.
  - c. Lindsey: Report on the Middle School SOT this morning. They are writing a letter to get on the school board agenda and start some movement to get the kids back to school full-time. Looking at how best to approach this.
  - d. Hal: Result for the election isn't official, word is that Jeff Proffitt did not win. Bob Sweetin did not win. Considers it a set-back. Effects rural school funding, but we need to re-strategize.  
Lindsey: He will reach out to the new trustee (Katie Williams), he believes she will be willing to talk. Jeff would have been nice, because he already understands the local. We just need to manage it and get her out here to see and participate.
- IV. GENERAL SOT BUSINESS (H. Mortensen; T. Holzer; L. Dalley)

A. Student Team Representative – Maximus Shambaugh, the liaison for the entire student body at the high school.

B. NRS. Chapter 388G.600 et.al. Formation Local School Precincts(to be handed out)

- i. Brief review of pertinent sections to local school precincts;  
Terry referred to the document. Particularly section 388G.600 which discusses the formation of local school precincts, responsibilities SOT, what we do, budget, hiring teachers, etc. Essentially, this gives us some autonomy with how school is run.
- ii. Re SOT function/duties  
If the law was truly followed (which it isn't), the school district should give us more and more autonomy. We are to be allocated money, but are not given that money. Services are hindered when we do not have control.  
Also look at sub-700, where it discusses more the organizational team.  
Wanted this document out there, so we understand the duties and powers of the School Organization Team.
- iii. Team Discussion  
Lindsey: Quick summary/biggest question he gets from SOT members is about the discouragement that the district doesn't let us do anything. Not the correct way to look at it. The SOT is not limited. The SOT is the group that should help implement the vision of the principal. We are fortunate to have a principal that wants participation from SOT. Many schools in Las Vegas do not have that.  
We are formed by statute, therefore we must exist – the school district cannot make us go away. Principal may not agree, but we as a SOT can petition the school board to do anything. It is an option. It is not a governance team trying to solve admin/teacher issues. It is designed to direct the school for the benefit of the students, teachers, and parents. It can go to the governor, school board, anywhere it wants to accomplish goals. Local school precinct is the Principal and the SOT together. They are not separate. They must work as a team. It is a positive thing.  
Terry: Bottom of 388G gives immunity to members who are not employees. If not an employee of the school districts, you are immune from liability from the school district. Helps to shield the principal/admin and other teachers and staff from having to go “against” the school district. Allows us to work together for the best outcome for our students, and as a result for our teachers.

V. MVHS LIVE INSTRUCTION UPDATE (H. Mortensen; Team)

A. Quarantined Students/Teachers Update

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Hal: Just had our first two official rounds of student and teacher quarantines. Sided on the abundance of caution with regard to quarantine. Anything reported, admin has to automatically enter into the database, and they get feedback from SNHD.

First Round: Two teachers were impacted and three classes. Also impacted Middle School and Bowler.

Second Round: Three teachers and around 50 students.

First round came back this past Monday and the second round will come back tomorrow. Students were able to continue school. District is watching meticulously. The consensus is that the contingency plan worked. By and large, impact to instruction was minimal, as these students immediately went to distance education.

Tomorrow and Friday someone (PBS?) is coming out to film – the intent is to put a film together for the school board next week to demonstrate that the hybrid is working out here.

Some discussion about the length of time students are required to be quarantined. Positive instances were not in the same Cohort (one was in A and one was in B).

Annalyn: Is there any way students can go back if they get tested and have a negative test?

Hal: No. Automatic quarantine. We are following the mandates from SNHD and CCSD.

Some discussion about student protests about wearing a mask. Also, the difficulty some teachers are having wearing a mask all day. Students who do not wish to wear a mask have the Cohort C option, and the high school is happy to accommodate. We want to follow guidelines to the “T” because we do not want to close down the school. Most students are compliant and are accepting it – some wear masks anyway because of work. Some discussion about taking masks seriously for the benefit of those with health problems, and that health problems in a family can change a person’s perspective of masks.

Terry: Appreciate those comments. Sorry that anyone tested positive or was exposed, but our plan is working. School immediately implemented the contingency plan.

### B. Full Time Live Instruction in January 2021

Hal: Region office is aware that we are considering full-time instruction in Jan. But we need to send some sort of formal request to the office, soon. We have not done that to get an official response, and they have been remiss in responding to our requests in a timely manner. Hal suggests that we write a letter. They are starting to build a master schedule in Las Vegas according to a hybrid model. At the next board meeting they will supposedly make the decision. (Though they were supposed to make a decision in an earlier meeting.)

Some discussion about what is meant by “full-time.” In this situation “full-time” includes:

Four days a week, with Wednesdays as deep cleaning.

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Cohort C would remain as an option.

In a best-case scenario Cohorts A & B would simply be joined and attend school in person two days a week.

Chad: Why Wednesday and not Friday?

Hal: **CCSD rearranged the support staff schedule** to accommodate Wednesdays. Also, **they** said no to our earlier request for Friday, and indicated we should keep it on Wednesday. We can try again, but Hal would rather put all energy into going back, as opposed to when the Cyber Day is. Perhaps that is something to consider for next Fall.

Dallas: Teachers do not really care which day.

Some discussion about the chances of the board/CCSD saying yes to going back full-time. We do not know. Terry pointed out that we had the option to go back earlier, but we could not maintain a 6' distance between students and have enough faculty to teach them all. Hal pointed out that White Pine is able to get away with K-12 not being 6' apart. They got a waiver from the Nevada Department of Education for students to be 3' apart. Also, we need to be in Phase 3 or 4, and that comes from the governor.

Some discussion about bus transportation. We already have students 3' apart on the busses, but a lot of our busses are currently coming from Mesquite and Cheyenne. So if Las Vegas goes to a hybrid model, we will lose those busses and may not have enough transportation.

Some discussion about how going back "full-time" would **affect** classrooms and teachers' class sizes. Hal indicated he had already spoken with Geniel Ozaki, and she said she'd make it work. There may need to be some schedule changes, but there would not be any changes to class length. Cohorts A & B will attend, but Cohort C will not. It will not be perfect, but Hal feels like we should be going for the big picture to get back to school and then work out the details. We have a little money in the budget to bring in substitutes if we need to create another class here and there to spread out students and accommodate social distancing. They might say "Yes, you could have gone back full-time right now, but you have to maintain 6' apart." However, our full-time would still not really be full-time. So, we're going to ask full-time and see what they will allow us. If the band and music and PE stay virtual, we will be able to spread students out and have the space.

Did the Middle School figure out the space problem?

Lindsey: They decided they were going to show a path where they could comply, but they wanted the board to give permission to the CCSD administration for them to work with the Middle School administration and the health district to comply. They were specifically going to contact Chris Garvey, and propose a motion. One of the problems was she went to bat for us, but it got confusing. They will suggest a motion for her to submit. In terms of the social

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distance, it went back and forth, but they talk like they have it figured out. The problem they had was busses.

Chad: Even if we get a variance from the Governor, that doesn't mean the district will bless it. The state mandate is 3', but CCSD has mandated 6'.

Terry: Whatever we do, we need to address some of the issues that might come up, or we're just wasting our time. We need some documentation from the health department stating that our transmission is low. We have to address and think about their concerns and how we will address it.

Lindsey: That was one of the points the Middle School SOT hashed out. They needed to see a path. We can't take anything for granted. The school board doesn't even know who we are out here. It needs enough detail to lay out the path. But on the other hand, we don't want to give too much detail, because we want some control. Once we get into writing the letter a little collaboration with Ken would be helpful.

Some discussion about who would draft the letter and things to include in the letter. It is better if the letter comes from the SOT, rather than Hal. Some things to include are:

- No transmission occurred or happened during school, they all occurred outside of school.
- A plan which continues staggering bell release times, one-way hallways, etc.

Chad: Any word about extra-curricular activities?

Dallas: We have schedules prepared. But as it is, flag football is the only one that can go for Winter Sports, because it is outside. Jan 22 is the first day student athletes can practice. The schedule is set for Winter sports first, then Fall sports, then Spring sports. Because soccer is outdoor, it is considered medium risk, basketball is in-door, so it is high risk. Right now no fans can attend, because the logistics of having fans might keep us from having sports. The school has invested in cameras to allow people to watch. We feel bad, because parents want to watch their kids play, but having kids play at all is better than having fans attend.

This is impacting students who rely on athletic scholarships. Some are going to out-of-state camps, others are getting looks from schools because of previous years' performance, but for those who were looking forward to their senior year being the clinch year, it doesn't look good.

Annalyn James made a motion for SOT to draft a letter to go back to school full-time, four days a week, which includes addressing the problems.

Marquessa Aikele: 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

Motion passed unanimously.

**Hal will draft the letter, but it will come from SOT.**

Some discussion about looking at/building off the letter drafted to get the hybrid plan. It was agreed that the letter should indicate that going hybrid was our trial period, and that we were successful. We proved we can do it.

Hal: Geniel has gotten together with other faculty to work things out.

Dallas: Can we do away with the one-open restriction. Do not want to eliminate classes, but would that help with space? If seniors only take the classes they have to take, would that keep fewer students on campus? If parents are good, and students' grades are good, and it helps kids get back to school, that would be a win-win.

**Hal: Yes. As long as students do not have an F in the previous semester and have a certain score on their ACT test.**

C. Progressive Discipline

Hal: Duane is presenting the next part. We are required to review it, and you can read it at your pleasure.

Duane: Guidelines the district puts in place for every school, trying to make all the consequences the same. It classifies every possible situation as minor, major, urgent. Minor behaviors at the classroom level, major until it happens a fifth time – same thing. **Nuisance** items are at the classroom level.

Restorative Justice. Basically trying to do anything they can to keep kids in school. They have been in touch with Judge Mills to come up with something for our school.

Multi-Tiered System of Support and Behavior. Gives a progression schools have to follow.

Hal: For example, it gives a minimum requirement for each. This year, so far, has been the best for discipline. **Duane, Ron, and Hal** met with Judge Mills; he is starting a program that he wants to work out – to look for alternative ways to address the chronic punitive behaviors. Instead of sending a student automatically to Judge Mills, and an indiscretion going into a student's permanent file, the student would meet with Judge Mills, and that indiscretion would go in a separate file prepared by Judge Mills. Trying to find proactive ways to address student problems and nip it in the bud before it gets out of hand.

Duane: Restorative Justice is one more step before suspension and removal.

Trying to reduce the School to Prison Pipeline. More to come.

VI. BUDGET (H. Mortensen)

A. Additional Funds in General Supply Line Item

Hal: We have approximately \$253,500 in our General Supply Budget. Money to do projects. Some of that fund (**\$81,000**) came from SLAs. We also had carry-over money. When we have excess funds, we tuck it away. This is the line item that Jara wants to go after. Have a feeling that Jara wants to go after it again. Right now it is written into state **legislation** that the money stays with the school. For example **at Perkins ES**, we had a teacher that retired and wanted to come back as a retired person, so we tucked her funds away. When we had too many students in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, we needed money for an additional teacher. But they looked in the General

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Supply Office, and said “No. You have enough.” They did the same thing to Sandy Valley. The Dean situation **last summer** is an example of what they are trying to do. We don’t trust the district. We have a couple of projects we have wanted to work on. Culinary Kitchen upgrade. Finally got it approved. \$300,000 for the whole thing, but got permission to redo it in phases. Phase 1 is getting up to health code. Then students can sell what they make. Hal wants permission to start spending those dollars.

Also wants to start sectioning off the Quad area. Then we can leave outside doors unlocked. Cost is around \$82,000 give or take.

Long term plan is to replace the smart board and replace the LCD Projectors. That would all go away and be replaced with a touch-screen tv. Around \$3500 per screen. Approached Dr. Rice about it, but she didn’t seem too thrilled by it. They were more focused on Chromebooks. **~~They paid to get new batch of Chromebooks.~~ Dr. Rice recently donated \$45,000 to MVHS to replace one grade level of Chromebooks. Those Chromebooks are expected to arrive soon and will replace all of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Chromebooks. Dr. Rice did the same last year and replaced all of last year’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade Chromebooks. We hope she will continue in the upcoming years.**

**Another project is the white-water stain on the walls of the school.** Hal wants to have someone do a bid to do a power-wash, then put on a sealant. Move the sprinklers away – been working on that. Think \$20,000 to do the brick all around. ~~Some graffiti on the back walls.~~

Terry: How much do you have to keep in the account?

Hal: I would also like to keep around \$30,000. It also covers athletics, maintenance, upgrading microphones, etc.

Terry: Is there a time/date it would be safe to start spending money?

Hal: Sometime in March. Technically **before** July 1.

Terry: \$81,000 from SLA?

Hal: Yes.

Asked Heather to itemize money on a spreadsheet. They charged us \$1500 for summer school, but we didn’t have summer school. A few itty-bitty **SLA items** ~~things~~ that equals \$81,000. Got a spreadsheet from the District to understand what dollars we used, and what we didn’t use. Because the \$81,000 came from SLAs, maybe that could go back into improvement of the facility. Hal will share the spreadsheet with the SOT soon.

Terry: So out of the \$253,500, you want to keep about \$53,000.

Hal: \$53,000 plus athletics.

Terry: That \$81,000 could be a nice little windfall for us. However, this election pans out, there are security concerns.

Dallas: Does that money have to go towards certain things?

Hal: Anything, yes.

Dallas: So, could that help with staffing for our full-time plan?

James: You gave us sort of a wish-list, can we create a priority list?

Terry: And if we need money for teachers

Hal: You can get subs, so we don’t lose staff positions.

Mark: Do you think we will lose teacher staff?

Hal: We will lose money, yes. I see a 95% chance that they will find a way to take the money.

Terry: We make the school district look good right now.

**Hal: I will provide a list of those projects and the cost for each at the next month's SOT meeting.**

B. MVHS Budget Proposals/Discussion

Discussion about hiring subs. The school/administration will take care of that.

VII. SOT GENERAL DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

VIII. FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT (3min ea.)

Discussion about colleges, whether they have been able to visit, and how students can receive college information. It was brought up that Utah State was doing an in-person open house in St. George at the Dixie Convention Center on November 10. However, when Donna contacted them, they indicated that this is not for the general public. . It is, in essence, an open house for those students that have already been accepted. There is a registration. This is not open to anyone to just show up. Donna and Teresa have called Utah State, SUU, UVU and all BYU's to check on in-person college fairs. All were indignant that, since we are currently in the middle of a pandemic, they are absolutely NOT doing any in-person meetings. What all of the schools said is that any interested students that may have missed our scheduled webinars with MVHS, may call admissions and they will attempt to set up individual webinars to ask questions.

IX. ADJOURN – 3:30 PM

Next Meeting December 2 at OLSHACS, 1:30 PM.