

Morgan Education Foundation
Minutes – May 20, 2015 Morgan School District Office

Those in attendance were Diana Windley, D'Lynn Poll, Shaun Peterson, Justin Weeks, Neil Carrigan, Supt. Doug Jacobs, Ken Adams, Kathy Markham, Principal Terry Allen, Scott Duncan, and Kelly Wright

Diana called the meeting to order at 6:35am and Justin Weeks offered an invocation.

Diana received a letter from Scott Deru requesting a leave of absence for one year from the board because of increased responsibilities with his employment.

The minutes from April's board meeting were reviewed and Ken Adams motioned to approve the minutes and Kelly Wright seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the minutes.

Kelly mentioned that former board member Diana Olsen's work schedule has changed and she is interested in serving on the board once again. The board was excited to receive this news, as Diana was a great asset to the board when she served previously.

Financial Report

D'Lynn presented the financial report and noted that most of the activity was in the scholarship board account. More monies are expected to be deposited in coming days and a more accurate total will be posted by next month's meeting.

D'Lynn noted that she had just received the expected \$1500 match from the LoveUtahGiveUtah campaign in March which brought our total up to approximately \$3370.

There was a discussion as to which fund those monies should be allocated to. Ken Adams recommended that it should be spent on technology since that was to be our focus fundraiser for the next several years. He also felt that we needed to update the public on where we are spending our technology dollars and also show how student academic growth is positively related to the increase in more funds being spent on upgrading our technology.

Supt. Jacobs felt it would be very difficult to show the direct correlation between increased funding and increased test scores, but he said he would compile numbers and prepare an article for the paper outlining where the Foundation had donated money to help upgrade our technology and how that has helped the individual schools.

Kathy Markham expressed concern over the lack of available funds in our Classroom Grant fund. She felt the LoveUTGiveUT monies would be better used to increase that fund. She asked Terry Allen his opinion as a principal and also as the district's technology director where he would like to see the money go. At this time, he felt the money would be better spent on classroom grants.

Following this discussion, Kelly Wright moved to allocate the money raised from the 2015 LoveUTGiveUT campaign to the Classroom Grant fund. Kathy Markham seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Scott Duncan made a motion to accept the financial report and Kelly Wright seconded the motion. All voted in favor to accept the financial report.

Governance Committee Report

Kelly Wright presented his report on the progress made by the governance committee since last month's meeting. The committee focused on partnerships with special entities, specifically the Morgan Scholarship Board. Kelly presented the original collaboration agreement signed in October 2007 by both the MEF and the Scholarship board. The committee is still working on refining the policies and procedures and will meet the first Wednesday of June to hopefully finalize the By-laws and policies and procedures. They will hopefully be able to present the document for an initial approval and vote at our June meeting.

Scholarship Night Report

Kathy Markham reported that the annual Morgan High School Scholarship Night held on May 12, 2015, was a success. The Scholarship Board chose to honor twenty individuals & businesses that had donated over \$10,000 since the inception of the board in 1997. Each donor received a box of chocolates and their names placed on a plaque outside of the Counseling Center at MHS. Most were present to accept this small token of gratitude for their efforts. The board also awarded scholarships ranging from \$500-\$2500 to fifty-two deserving graduates. The total amount in local scholarship money awarded was over \$60,000. In total, the MHS Class of 2015 was awarded well over \$1,500,000.00 in combined local, institutional, & athletic scholarships.

Kelly Wright recommended that the MEF Board write a note of thanks to the scholarship board for their efforts. He also reminded that the outgoing scholarship board president serves on the MEF Board the following year. Since this year's president, Sharon Holland, is moving out of state the scholarship board will need to appoint someone to fill that role. Kathy will present that at their board meeting in September.

Classroom Grants

D'Lynn is preparing to send the application for Classroom Grants to all of the teachers in the district. Given the lack of funds in the classroom grant account, we discussed whether to allow teachers to apply every year for a grant or move it to every other year. In the past we have been fortunate to be able to fund almost all of the grant requests that were deemed worthy. Scott Duncan and Kelly Wright felt that we should only fund grants based on availability of funds and all agreed. Terry Allen said that he had several teachers from the middle school who had already prepared grant requests.

This brought up a discussion as to if the money from the Affiliate Fund could be used to fund classroom grants. D'Lynn checked the January minutes and found that we had decided to divide the funds equally and send them back to each school's Community Council to decide how those funds should be spent. Terry Allen made the excellent point that we should not give up our authority to make decisions of where money is spent to outside organizations or individuals. Community councils are advisory boards to each individual school and are not policy making boards. Kelly reminded the board that money can only be disbursed after a request has been made and approved by the board.

The MHS Mountain Bike Racing Team asked last year if they could raise funds through the Foundation for the purchase of a trailer to haul equipment to races. That request was approved because it met the requirements of our by-laws. The organizers then began fundraising to sponsor specific athletes and told donors that they could also run this through the Foundation as well. Flyers were sent out without the Board's knowledge advertising this opportunity. Raising funds for a specific student goes directly against the private inurement clause in our by-laws and is thereby not allowable. It could also jeopardize our 501(c)3 charitable status.

Diana shared that an individual had donated \$500 to the Foundation and requested that it be released to a specific student to fund his or her upcoming mountain biking season. Kathy Markham made a motion that we simply refund the individual's \$500 and that individual can do with it what they wish. Supt. Doug Jacobs seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. D'Lynn will refund the money and let the mtn. bike team know that this type of fundraising is not allowed to run through the Foundation. Diana commented that we have learned a valuable lesson through these experiences and we will be much more careful as to which groups the Foundation will form partnerships with in the future.

Golf Tournament

The Classroom Caddie Tournament is still scheduled for August 4, 2015 at 9am at Round Valley Golf course. D'Lynn will email the registration form out next week. The goal is to have thirty foursomes participate. Mike Deru and Shaun Peterson have volunteered to help organize the tournament along with Kathy Markham, D'Lynn Poll, Becky Weeks, & Neil Carrigan. They will meet on June 16th at 6pm at Kathy Markham's home in Mtn. Green.

Superintendent Report

A retirement dinner was held last night to honor the five teachers who are retiring this year.

The Morgan School Board approved funds to hire five new teachers for next year.

As far as the budget, the district is in pretty good shape because of the tax equalization bill approved by the state legislature.

There will be a budget hearing on June 9, 2015 to decide if there will be a Truth in Taxation hearing held in August to determine property tax rates for the coming year.

The district refinanced some bonds that will save the district \$80,000.

Scott Duncan asked Supt. Jacobs about projected growth within the district and the upcoming needs and possible sources of funding for those needs over the next five years or so. Supt. Jacobs responded that the district owns property on Trapper's Loop and seven acres near Morgan Elementary. Neither of those sites is big enough for a middle school. It is anticipated that a new elementary in the Mtn. Green area will be the most pressing need in the near future. Remodeling and additions can be done at the middle school to help accommodate the expected influx of students.

Funding will always be an issue and the district will need to be very careful in their expenditures and creative in their planning to find the best possible way to fund the future growth.

Scott motioned that the meeting be adjourned and Kathy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10am.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 17th at 6:30am.