



17575 PEAK AVENUE MORGAN HILL CA 95037

15600 CONCORD CIRCLE MORGAN HILL CA 95037

Meeting Location:	Committee Member	Steve Tate
Morgan Hill Unified School District	Committee Member	Larry Carr
Board Room	Committee Member	Rich Constantine (Alternate)
15600 Concord Circle	Committee Member	Bob Benevento
Morgan Hill, CA 95037	Committee Member	Ron Woolf
	Committee Member	Donna Ruebusch (Alternate)
	Staff	Steve Rymer
	Staff	Steve Betando

**CITY /SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, February 20, 2015
Minutes**

Board of Education President Bob Benevento called meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Steve Tate, Council Member Larry Carr, City Manager Steve Rymer, Police Chief David Swing, Admin Sargent Ray Ramos, Karl Bjarke, Andrew Crabtree, Trustee’s Ron Woolf, Donna Ruebusch, and Bob Benevento, Superintendent Steve Betando, Assistant Superintendent’s Kirsten Perez and Norma Martinez-Palmer, Transportation Director Kathleen Rael, Transportation Supervisor Christopher Bates, Director of Construction Casino Fajardo, Director of Facilities Anessa Espinosa, and Jayne Giangreco (note taking)

1. Information / Discussion Items
 - 1) City of Morgan Hill updates
 - a) General Plan Update

Items 1(a) and 2(b) were covered together.

City Manager Rymer began with a discussion regarding land usage and the new EIR process. The City will contact the School District regarding the demographic information. The City will add language in the General Plan regarding inclusion of school sites. Mayor Tate expressed the City’s concern that 81% of the growth is outside of the City. The City plan calls for a 70% single-family, 30% mixed multi-family, and dense housing. Larry Carr stressed that we need to grow the City limits and push into the open space / agriculture, but if we do so it will change the character of Morgan Hill to more high density and less rural. The City is trying to maintain some light industrial and pleasant downtown that is a destination for all neighborhoods.

Superintendent Betando offered the suggestion that some hillsides might be developed for housing (of course with the understanding that El Toro is untouchable) and follow the European model that preserves city-centers and agriculture with homes on the hills. Mayor Tate felt that open hillsides are the

“character” of Morgan Hill. Superintendent Betando emphasized the school district’s planning is focused on effectively educating kids and developing community schools within walking distance. The District’s plan is to relieve the size/pressure on our schools and plan for future school size, keeping in mind transportation needs and control costs of transporting students. He added that he looks forward to continuing the City/School dialog. The District is poised to acquire property of 10/20/40 acres to accommodate elementary/middle/high schools respectively. The District is concerned about “in-fill” planning by the City without the provision for neighborhood schools.

b) Down Town Projects

Items 1(b) and 2(c) were covered together.

The Monterey Lane Reduction six month trial started this week. The City is monitoring the overall usage of the road, especially during peak hours. They are expecting a different outcome when school is in session (currently on break). Butterfield traffic lights have been aligned to create better flow of traffic through North and South corridor. The City Council has some concerns; the Council is committed in giving the trial some time. The 3rd Street Garage planning is underway with the public art getting most of the attention. The City is excited about fixing 3rd Street, adding community space and a plaza with pictures from interested local artists. They will work with the Taste of Morgan Hill committee. The goal is that everything will be completed this year.

Kathleen Rael was concerned about the bus routes taking longer with the Monterey Lane Reduction and busses having to cross the rail road tracks. Kathleen spoke of the new program “Student Connect” which connects parents with their student’s bus via text (or email) so they will know if the bus is running late; this new feature will be added next week. City Manager Rymer requested forwarding of any informal assessments/feedback from parents regarding delays.

The City is also looking to establish, making available and notifying the public where “points for free Wi-Fi” would be located to support the new programs that require students to have access to the internet. The City would like to “negotiate” with cable and internet providers to allocate some portions of dollars collected within cable fees to help fund and supply the access to free Wi-Fi.

c) Police Update

Chief Swing reported a very smooth year so far. He added that we’ve had cases of use, possession and consumption of Marijuana at the high schools. Two weeks ago a vehicle search during a routine traffic stop revealed fire arms and possible explosive material. Monterey Road from Watsonville to Middle Roads were closed. Oakwood School locked down for the safety of their students. The police department is working with Oakwood regarding better communications.

d) City Council 2015 Priorities and Goals

In alignment with the 41 Development Assets, the Council is actively looking for ways to engage our students during Council meetings. Council members will be visiting our Civics classes to encourage attendance at the Council meetings. They will be looking at the agenda to add items that would be of interest to the students.

2) School District updates

a) Technology Implementation in MHUSD

Assistant Superintendent's Norma Martinez-Palmer and Kirsten Perez reported that the Technology integration plan as part of Measure G is underway. We are getting Chromebooks distributed to our schools starting this week. This is the first year for the new State Assessment and CCSS tests will be online. Assistant Superintendent Kirsten Perez explained how internet access and computers could be a hardship for some of our families. We are currently cleaning our old computers for student use at home. The City would like to look into donating unused computers to needy families. This would be a good community project. There was joint discussion to explore revenue sources to provide "internet grants" for low income families.

b) Future School Facilities

This item was discussed with item 1(a)

c) Transportation Route Alternatives for Downtown Street Renovation

This item was discussed with item 2(a)

3) Joint City Council / School Board Meeting

Work towards scheduling the next Joint City Council / School Board meeting in May at the Community & Cultural Center or at Britton Middle School. Some agenda items for consideration are the use of Bond funds, transportation and future school facilities, and include items that could be structured to be more meaningful to the Civics students in attendance.

2. Approve minutes of City/School Liaison meeting of October 24, 2014

Motion: R Woolf / Second: L Carr / Ayes: Unanimous

3. Topics for next meeting

Growth management – school boundaries

Rail safety

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting was adjourned at 9:49am