

# Minutes

## City / School Liaison Meeting

February 16, 2018, 8:30 AM  
Morgan Hill Unified School District  
15600 Concord Circle  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
Educational Services Training Room

### Attendance Taken at 8:39 AM

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	<u>Staff Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Steve Betando	Kimberly Beare	Larry Carr
Donna Ruebusch	Anessa Espinosa	
Ron Woolf	Casino Fajardo	
Steve Tate	Chris Ghione	
Christina Turner	Kirsten Perez	
David Swing		

### 1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Board of Education Trustee Donna Ruebusch called the meeting to order at 8:25am. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

There was no public comment.

### 3. APPROVE MINUTES

#### 3.1. Approve minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2017

**Motion Passed:** with a motion by Ron Woolf and a second by Steve Tate.

Yes Steve Betando  
Absent Larry Carr  
Yes Donna Ruebusch  
Yes David Swing  
Yes Steve Tate  
Yes Christina Turner  
Yes Ron Woolf

### 4. CITY OF MORGAN HILL

#### 4.1. Vision Zero

Presented by Chris Ghione, Interim Deputy City Manager, Chris reviewed Vision Zero Morgan Hill traffic safety strategies which was officially adopted by the City Council at its January 17, 2018 meeting. District staff shared that the new parking lot at Paradise Valley Engineering Academy has the new "reverse parking" design. Reverse parking makes it safer and easier to see students in the parking lot when pulling out of a parking spot. Due to backing into the parking spots, students are on the sidewalk while unloading their backpacks and other items from the trunk of the vehicle. Vision Zero Morgan Hill will be presented to the Board of Education at its March 6, 2018 meeting.

### 5. MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### 5.1. Cannabis impact on students

Superintendent Betando reiterated his wish to keep the cannabis industry out of Morgan Hill due to the effects it has on our youth. He stated how the District is now dealing with "Juuls," (they look like little USB devices, but are electronic cigarettes that were designed to assist smokers looking to switch from smoking cigarettes), which are sold in a variety of flavors and could be used with nicotine and cannabis. They are being marketed towards the younger population and the District is seeing evidence

*of them being used in our schools. We are educating our staff on these new devices. Edibles are still prevalent. They are very accessible to kids and the community's acceptance to this type of industry as a whole is a bad message to kids.*

*Christina Turner, City Manager, stated we have brought this to the Council at several meetings and the decision was made to move forward to explore different types of industries that include cannabis, everything from retail sales, cultivation, testing, deliveries, and production and manufacturing. The City would do this by conducting a community survey with specific questions and also including whether the voters would want to include a sales tax, which could include varying percentages, such as 10-15%. The City will also look at the time of day for sales, and access following State mandated requirements or do we want to make it more restrictive. Based on this, staff would go back to the Council in the April / May timeframe to see how they want to proceed, which may lead to going to voters in November. We could potentially look at a revenue measure for a possible occupancy tax.*

*Casino Fajardo, Director of Construction and Modernization, asked if there was a tax placed on the sales of cannabis, would there be a "safety tax" or a portion of it that will go to the schools for support? Christina stated there are two ways of generating revenue, one being regulatory fees – which would be through the permit process, which could be implemented without going to the voters, recouping some of the Public Safety's time. If we do a tax, it would be "general" in nature – which will go for public safety, youth education, and recreation. These are just some of our ideas of where the revenue would go. If it's a general tax, we are not required to use it for specific purposes. Steve Betando stated that in past discussions, he believes, the revenue would be earmarked specific to schools for prevention education dealing with those students who are expelled – who are some of our neediest students. Chief Swing shared a graph of the current work load of 911 calls to officers, which showed they would need to increase to 10 officers to be at average with the County. Superintendent Betando suggested a resolution, put together by the Liaison Committee, in opposition and to keep with the current code, before our next meeting on April 10. With a statement, we should convey "please don't change the codes."*

*Kirsten Perez, Assistant Superintendent Business Services, added that many of our expulsions this year have been related to sales, and they are obtaining the cannabis through their parents, or in their home. One of the challenges with Odyssey closing next year is there will be no South County Expel Program, so students from Morgan Hill who are expelled will have to go to Snell Road in San Jose. The County has quadrupled the cost for a seat which was \$5,000 and is now \$22,000 for each expelled student. So we have the distance issue for the families and for the district we have the increased cost that we need to figure out how to fund. We believe most of these students will not travel to San Jose and they will then become truant and be lost in the system.*

## **5.2. Maintenance Operations Transportation Technology (MOTT)**

*Kirsten Perez reported that she and her staff have met twice with Chris Ghione and his staff after the decision was made at the last Liaison meeting in October to pursue an expansion of the Corp Yard and seeing what it would look like for both of our organizations. Staff is working on a draft for request of qualifications and proposals from an architect to produce some facility master planning. The idea would be to look at each entity individually, and then have a third option of joint needs to see where we would have overlap and to look specifically at the Corp Yard to see if there was adequate space to meet those needs. Hopefully we will be able to issue our RFP and have some results by summer.*

*Christina Turner stated the City's legal team would prefer that both the City and District adopt separate resolutions to terminate the current JPA and that their legal team is already working on a draft document.*

## **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **6.1. Joint City / School Collaboration Projects: Borello, Nordstrom, Britton**

*Britton Middle: Casino Fajardo stated that we are still waiting on State approval on the Britton drawings. Currently we are working on flood plain and leveling issues, making sure we have the elevation correct. Hopefully we will announce date of ground breaking within the next week or two.*

*Nordstrom Elementary: MHUSD staff met with City staff on how to partner on the project. In about a month we should start our interviews for the RFQ. The Board of Education has approved the replacement of the portables with new classrooms. We also discussed the access road and the Master Plan, currently the District doesn't have funding for the access road. We will need to see how the bids come in to see if there is any savings.*

*Chris Ghione added that the City is still not in agreement with the District on the access road going through the park. The parking lot located on the West side of the park is currently being used as a drop-off for students, but realizes this is a distance away from the school. Stated the City currently doesn't have funds budgeted for expansion of the lot, but it is something to continue to consider and work on. Superintendent Betando stated that the expansion of the parking lot will not help the traffic problem on Dunne Avenue, and feels the main reason for the access road around the park is to change the whole configuration of the drop-off and pick-up area. Also, students are being dropped off on the South side of Dunne and are crossing the street. He would like for the group to reconsider and possibly find other funds that could be used. Chris stated that they (as directed from the Council) have an outlined process which would include public engagement before we announce what we are planning to do. This process has been shared with the team. We would like to go through this process with an openness to alternatives and listening to the community, because this is a big impact to the community and putting a road through the park is just the opposite of what you would want in a park space. Superintendent Betando corrected Chris stating the access road would be on the North side of the park not through the park. Superintendent Betando agreed that there needs to be a balance and mentioned that if the District puts a parking lot in where the current portables are (East of Nordstrom), the community will be able to use it for all of their sport activities and events. Listening to parents who have their children in sports, they would be very appreciative having a parking lot near the fields for community access and also games after school.*

*Trustee Donna Ruebusch added that the impact of the congestion isn't just at the Dunne / Murphy Road area, it's all the way up to Hill Road. We would need to look at the larger regional area and the impact just traveling through the area. Chris added that there was past discussion about possibly flipping the park and school in the future, but neither the District or City would have the funds for that type of endeavor.*

*Kirsten added that the District isn't interested in doing a future "flip flop" of the school and park. The District is looking to add a road and parking lot behind the new building and then talk about the connection road that would go out onto Murphy. Steve Betando asked if the RDA funds that the City continues to collect, per agreement with the District, is going into the General Fund?*

*Kirsten mentioned that staff is trying to understand the public participation piece to better understand the neighbor's concerns and to be able to address them. The District trusted in the City to do the parking lot at Borello, even though there were concerns with the neighbors on not wanting the drop off and parking lot on their street. We hope that in the Nordstrom case the City will listen to the District and give more to the District who has to deal with the parking drop off and pick up every day. From a staff plan we feel this is the best plan possible. Chris stated regarding Borello, it wasn't that we had to have the two drop off areas, it was because the District was going through the environmental process the City wanted to make sure that it would be an option. If the City finds out that they can do it on Peet Avenue with the extra parking near the water district site, then we are open to switching. Because it was going through the environmental process, if we didn't ask for it then it would have made it impossible to ask for it in the future. We are open to working with the District – we just wanted to make sure we left that option open. Same for Nordstrom, the Council would be making the ultimate decision.*

*Next steps for Nordstrom would be for staff to get together and work on the engagement portion with the community. Then take it to the Parks and Recreation Commission and then the Council for approval. Steve Betando stated the District has sold 80 Million in bonds and this is one of the projects that would be used with that money. So everything is waiting on support from the City on the design and funding. We've also let the principal talk to her school community about us trying to work with the City on the design. Chris stated, to be fair to the City, he wanted to mention that they were ok with moving ahead with the interior, but not doing the parking lot. This is the first time hearing that the City is holding up this project in anyway. Kirsten said it's a "wish list item" that we don't have the money to do this, but it's been given to the contractor as an option.*

*Christina added, from the City's perspective there are two things, one we don't think that the road through the park is a good solution and secondly, we don't have the money budgeted for it. Chris stated, the City, as with Walsh, if we understand the project we could help fund the offset. From the last meeting he understood that the District didn't have the funds to even look at upgrading the parking lot, so we weren't moving forward. What we had mentioned also was in addition to the road to the side we thought there could be some other things that could be done with changes to the existing configuration and even improve it.*

*Kirsten added that at the end of the City / School staff meeting, District staff felt like the City wasn't in support of the project and why spend a year getting public participation if the City staff wasn't in support of it. Chris feels if we don't have the funds we could still develop a rough master plan for the site stating these are the things we can do going forward. Taking the road out of it and doing the improvements to the parking lot and all of the other improvements that could happen without the road. And those would not require community engagement. District staff stated we've already done that and have a master plan and it won't solve the access issue, the drop off issue, or the multiple side access for students to enter. The idea was certain grades would enter on one side of the drop off, and the primary kids could be in another area on the side. Taking the line of traffic off of Dunne, anything short of that we could purchase a house in the back and make an access road to Pepper Tree Drive. We've done a traffic plan and a master plan and we feel there is strong feelings on both sides on the street through the park and at this point we don't know how to move forward. So nothing has happened because of this fundamental disagreement on how to solve this problem.*

*Christina suggested both District and City should create documents with needs, maps, etc., so we could get some guidance from trustees and council since both sides have different ideas. Both City and District staff will work on getting this information together and sending it to the committee prior to the next meeting and also include information on Britton.*

#### **6.2. Topics for next meeting - April 20, 2018 (rescheduled for April 19, 2018)**

*Donna Ruebusch is interested in developing a joint resolution between the District and City calling for a ban on assault weapons and increase on background checks to protect our citizens and children. If not a resolution, then perhaps a joint statement.*

*Community and student safety is a priority for both the District and City and this committee would like to keep an immediate and on-going dialog on this topic.*

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:11am.*

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Steve Betando, Superintendent  
April 19, 2018