

# CITY / SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2024 8:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting

Morgan Hill Unified School District

Boardroom

### Committee Members

Mark Turner – Mayor

Yvonne Martínez Beltrán - Council Member

Dr. Iván Rosales Montes– School Board Trustee

Adam Escoto – School Board President

Christina Turner – City Manager

Dr. Carmen Garcia - Superintendent

### Staff Members

Police Chief Shane Palsgrove

Edith Ramirez – Assistant City Manager for Development Services

Lanae Bays, Communications Coordinator

Services

Penny Timboe, Assistant Superintendent Business

Services

Pat Sánchez, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

### CALL TO ORDER

*The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

*There was no public comment during the meeting.*

### APPROVE MINUTES

*The motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2023 was passed unanimously.*

### INTRODUCTIONS

*Introductions were made and School Board President Adam Escoto welcomed everyone along with community member Brian Sullivan who was in attendance. Mr. Escoto also thanked the District IT team for their assistance with today's meeting.*

### CITY OF MORGAN HILL

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

*Chief Palsgrove provided the following updates:*

- *SRO Greg Dini retired yesterday after 22 years on the force. He had hoped to introduce Officer Victor Benitez, the new SRO, but he was unable to be here due to a scheduling conflict. Among the qualities Officer Benitez brings to the position are over 15 years of experience as a police officer and multiservice officer, great de-escalation techniques, currently a member of the hostage negotiations team and a field training officer and he is fluent in Spanish. He has visited the sites to introduce himself and is starting immediately.*

*Mr. Escoto thanked the Chief for the appointment and said it was a great fit for the district. He, Dr. Garcia, and several Board colleagues had the opportunity to meet and greet Officer Benitez while he was visiting Sobrato High School.*

- *There is nothing significant to report related to crimes and officer responses to youth incidents. The restorative justice program is going strong with 71 referrals to the diversion program. Chief Palsgrove thanked Dr. Garcia and Lanae Bays for promoting the upcoming community policy academy; registration is almost full.*

#### GENERAL CITY UPDATE

*City Manager Turner provided the following updates:*

- *At the February 2-3 annual goals setting sessions, the council looked at the Sustainable Morgan Hill document which prioritizes items with the city's goals and vision. The council validated the document with a few changes to strategic*

priorities including: 1) taking the council economic development strategic priority and adding tourism to that. 2) the communications priority was simplified by changing the name to communications engagement. 3) a new strategic priority was added: healthy community. A high-level definition of what that means will be brought to the council meeting next week. Healthy community combines a lot of different initiatives and the council wants to make it stand out and see what the city can do to promote it (by setting policy and engaging with community to become an even healthier community). She further commented on specific topics including economic development, economic blueprint in the 4 sectors, and youth sports and tourism. She stated that we can do even more in that area by funding recreational facilities and fields and encouraging holding more tournaments here. This would provide benefits for economic development by bringing people into city and providing more revenue from overnight stays, sales tax, hotel tax, etc.

- The parks and recreation department has significantly increased adaptive programming for youths with disabilities. In addition to the magical bridge park, the city is offering more adult and youth teen programs. Indoor adaptive play is beginning April 20. The city is looking for volunteers for the magical bridge – those interested should contact Chiquy Mejia and there is information on the website.
- The Mayor's State of the City address will be on March 13 at the Community Playhouse beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The city anticipates the next phase of the Hale Avenue extension to open in March with a ribbon cutting - weather permitting.
- The late night shop hop will be held downtown on February 17 from 4-7pm.

## **MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Superintendent Dr. Garcia provided the following updates:*

- *In response to a request following the Long Range Facilities Plan that was presented at the last City/School Liaison meeting, Dr. Garcia introduced demographer Ken Reynolds with Schoolworks. Mr. Reynolds shared the district overview of enrollment trends which he had previously presented to the School Board.*

*Data was collected from several resources including from the District, the city planning departments, and the city developers on anticipated construction of new homes. All of this information is put into a computerized mapping system. The birth data numbers show relative stability which is unique in California because many areas are seeing a decline. California started the TK grade for 4 year olds; this program has been expanding and by 2025 it will include all 4 year olds. We will see growth overall in enrollment because TK is becoming a full grade. The chart showing enrollment by grade shows consistency between the population starting and the population ending which shows good retention. High school grades are the largest population now but we will see a drop in those numbers due to a statewide population bubble that has moved through the school system and has progressed past the middle school. Incoming classes will be 500-600 whereas now we have a junior class of 700 students. Calculations on cohorts and patterns over time show a generally positive trend. The chart highlighting the city information on housing developments shows a lot of development which will fluctuate with interest rates and affordability; they have done their best to do projections that are realistic but a little bit on the conservative side. Grade level historical information and 6 year projections were presented. MHUSD had 8500 students 7-8 years ago but we are down due to the pandemic. They forecast a slight growth to around 8000 but predict we will be below the peak; we should experience slow continued growth except for the high school population. This relative stability and slight growth is good as many districts have been seeing a decline for years and are projecting a continued decline. Mr. Reynolds also presented information on school capacities, classrooms, students per classrooms, maps to understand attendance patterns, enrollment projections, and comparing population attending versus the population within the school district boundary (which shows net inflow or outflow). They looked at capacity to see if there is enough at a site or if students will need to be shifted. He discussed the interdistrict population. The utilization chart shows projections where we could be over capacity if the district doesn't increase facilities or switch boundaries. The middle and high schools are projected to be fine but it appears that 4 elementary sites could be impacted by overcrowding due to the development activity and TK expansion.*

*Mayor Turner asked for clarification on the number of unhoused students - are these students considered housed homeless or living in a car, etc? Mr. Reynolds explained that, for their purposes, unhoused refers to students who exceed capacity; this is not the same definition that the state now uses when using the term unhoused. This information gives the district objectives in terms of whether to build additional classrooms on campus to handle more students or to adjust boundaries – it is related to how many students we can put in a classroom.*

*Councilwoman Martinez Beltrán noted that while the numbers are currently pretty steady what happens after that projection – does he think that it would start to drop? Mr. Reynolds explained that they normally look at 6 years because the accuracy starts to fall after that. For example, the children aren't born yet who would be attending the lower grades. However, if the birth data continues to be stable in Morgan Hill then there would be continued stability or slight growth. Another factor would be whether the area reaches build out. He stated that there is more land in the*

*district boundaries in comparison to the city boundaries so we do have more room for growth. Future numbers are impacted by housing build out, demographics and how many students there are per household.*

*Dr. Montes reminded the committee that in June 2022 the School Board took action to raise developers fees. Previously \$4.08 per residential square foot and \$.66 per commercial square foot was collected. We are currently at \$4.79 for residential and \$.78 for commercial. He expressed that while looking at projections, sustainability for schools and classrooms and unhoused young people is at the forefront.*

*Dr. Garcia expanded on Dr. Montes' comment saying that Mr. Reynolds is also helping update the developers fees and that this update will be coming to a future Board meeting. Additionally, the Board is considering possibly tweaking school boundaries and Mr. Reynolds is helping with that analysis. Dr. Garcia also noted that for many decades MHUSD has been quite benevolent in authorizing intradistrict transfers (with 200 students currently coming from Gilroy and neighboring districts). They may consider not granting intra or interdistrict transfers to those schools reaching capacity; that is one option related to classroom space as opposed to building an additional school or bringing in additional classroom space.*

#### *District Update slide show and announcements*

- *Dr. Garcia wanted to publicly thank Officer Dini for his years long partnership with MHUSD and congratulate him on his retirement. She also welcomed Officer Benitez; and noted that he is a graduate of Live Oak High School.*
- *Yesterday Sobrato congratulated almost 900 students who received Awards for GPAs 3.0 and above.*
- *Sites are in the process of welcoming our incoming freshmen with curriculum nights at Sobrato and Live Oak. SMG, Britton and Murphy are welcoming their incoming freshmen.*
- *Pictures of students in action were shared from when the Board and Superintendent visited school sites.*
- *The district's partnership with CAPS - Climate Action Pathways – is made up of student teams that are working with our district, looking at our sustainability efforts and energy bills, and looking at recommendations for us to accelerate our climate action efforts.*
- *For the past 3 years we have been engaging in professional learning teams – looking at vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment. These monthly, district wide coalitions are comprised of administrators, teachers and others. The collaborative efforts provide opportunities for teachers who then meet once a week to answer board questions related to 1) what do we want students to learn and be able to do - grade level standards 2) how do we know if they have learned it and how is this measured using formative and summative assessments 3) what are we going to do with that data - extend, accelerate, push them 4) intervention - what do we do if they didn't get it.*
- *Dr. Garcia is continuing her Chats with Carmen and the conversations are always different.*
- *The District is in the middle of rewriting our strategic plan – the LCAP – with community forums and lots of meetings*
- *A Parent Roundtable meeting was held this past week*
- *Parent University courses were launched recently – including offering Spanish as a second language (which ties in with our dual language programs) as well as English as a second language.*
- *The district will be closed for February break next week and we will be back 2/26*

#### **Other Reports and Updates**

*City Manager Turner noted that there are two future meetings on the agenda: April 19 and June 14. She wanted to get a sense from the committee about transitioning to quarterly meetings noting that more can be added if needed. Everyone was in favor of the idea.*

*Dr. Montes shared that in addition to the demographer report that was presented at the last Board meeting, the District has a midyear LCAP report which is our 3 year strategic plan. The LCAP outlines our 3 District goals, how we are allocating money, the metrics we are holding ourselves accountable to, how we are doing in terms of meeting these goals and the outcomes we anticipate. He sees a direct connection with the city's Healthy Community goal and LCAP goal 3; this presents an opportunity for potentially shared action items and resources. We have been investing resources on wrap around services for young people via educational spaces and he was thinking of how could we partner with the city to engage in advocacy with state and regional representatives to deepen those supports. Supports for families experiencing homelessness and dealing with trauma and social emotional needs are all shared concerns. He wondered if we could identify action steps and bring these back to see how this committee can strategically identify some lead measures to get closer to our visions. LCAP Goal 3: Enhance student engagement, social emotional learning and school climate that fosters relationships, well-being and achievement. The LCAP and mid-year report are available on our website and Dr. Montes felt that it would be helpful to look at the metrics we have around these goals and how we are investing resources.*

*Councilwoman Martinez Beltrán suggested the committee could spend time thinking about our joint goals. For example, in regards to homelessness, we have had a grant through the county and it was paired with Gilroy to have someone come help with mental health. We could look at other shared resources. Additionally, the county is looking at another grant.*

*Dr. Garcia noted that this provides an opportunity to talk about existing partnerships. She announced that yesterday the district had visitors from the Hoffman Awards. On a yearly basis, members within the Santa Clara County School Boards Association issue Hoffman Awards to highlight amazing practices. Yesterday was a validation visit with respect to our CARE program which supports our unhoused McKinney Vento students. There is a symbiotic relationship between the district and the city. Mr. Escoto stated that the Hoffman Award is a very prestigious award identifying excellence in various areas.*

*Mayor Turner agreed that it was important to collaborate and work together when our mutual goals overlap and it makes sense.*

*Councilwoman Martinez Beltrán spoke about advocacy efforts. They are working with counties concerning homelessness, housing and other shared issues. She felt it was a good opportunity to have those conversations with schools and she will be in Sacramento next week.*

*Dr. Montes commented that as a member of the committee he has been thinking about how we could leverage our collective efforts with our shared interests. In addition to quarterly meetings he would like to look at codifying those shared interests and leveraging collective colleagues to continue to work for the betterment of the community.*

*City Manager Turner mentioned an example of where we could immediately work together. The county had provided a PERT (psychiatric emergency response team) person but the grant ran out; they received news that another PERT officer would be provided for Gilroy and Morgan Hill but because of county reductions they are not sure if it will come to fruition. The Mayor wrote a letter that she will forward to Dr. Garcia for input.*

*Councilwoman Beltrán suggested holding a 2 hour workshop to sit down and talk about joint goals. Mr. Escoto felt that staff should be included as they would know all of the relevant services offered.*

*Dr. Montes brought up the LCAP data points. For example, the high schools have been doing a tremendous job in AP courses offered and student supports which have resulted in substantive positive changes in numbers. Another notable data point is the number of students on track in 9th grade, graduation rates, and a-g requirements which makes students eligible for university. There is a lot of data in the annual report to dig into.*

*Mr. Escoto suggested perhaps taking the next 2 meetings to have deeper conversations regarding best practices and a systems approach to addressing the needs of the community.*

*City Manager Turner and Dr. Garcia meet regularly. They agreed to agendaize this, meet with their staffs and do a cross walk with the city plan and the LCAP – identifying overlapping areas. They would report back to the committee in April.*

*The consensus was to have the scheduled meetings on April 19 and June 14 and at that time get a sense as to transitioning to quarterly meetings. Additional dates will be set after the June meeting.*

## **TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

*Update from City Manager Turner and Superintendent Dr. Garcia*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 A.M.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

April 19, 2024

June 14, 2024