

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the District Office at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members:

Board President Gaylene Adams – present
Kelly Preece - present
Mandy Wallace – present
Andrea Brooks – present
Angie Trease – present
Student Member Jackson Farmer - present

District Staff:

Superintendent Andy Jensen - present
Business Administrator Scott McMillan – present
Secretary Jana Brown - present

Other Staff and Patrons: Tara Jarvie, Trina Wilkinson, Ramona Martin, Michelle Morrell, Luke Thomas, Josh Sargent. Steve Wood, Crae Wilson, Gwen Romero, Michele Wilkinson, Jan Holding, Destiny Field, Holly Todd, Ed Schultz, Andrew Phillips, Emily Hiatt, Aaron Venz

Welcome: President Gaylene Adams opened the meeting.

Prayer: President Adams

National Anthem: Jackson Farmer

Consent Agenda:

President Adams asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. She asked that the approval of the school fees be moved on the agenda after the public hearing. She stated that if there are no additional corrections, the consent agenda, including the following, is adopted:

- a. Public Notice
- b. Minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting
- c. Personnel Updates
- d. Budget Report
- e. Payment of claims for April in the amount of \$3,081,797.23
- f. April School Reconciliation Reports

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Superintendent’s Report:

APEX Implementation and Workforce Development

Superintendent Jensen gave a background of the APEX Planning Grant. He introduced Program Lead Holly Todd and informed the Board that Holly has been hired to oversee the APEX Grant. Holly reported that this grant helps districts create catalyst centers. She noted that the “Career Launch Institute” will focus on student-centered growth and well-being which will be achieved in the following areas:

- Entrepreneurial mindset
- Responsiveness
- Profession-based learning
- Professional skills development
- Self-discovery & exploration

Holly discussed each of these areas and how they will benefit the students.

Food Services (School Lunch Prices)

Food Services Director Jan Holding reported that the district is right in line with lunch prices around the country. Therefore, there will not be a school lunch price increase this year. She reported that she implemented a new program this year and it has gone well. She stated that MHS Kitchen Manager Cindy Venz is retiring and Trina Pentz will take her place as kitchen manager.

Student School Board Member Recognition

The Board recognized student school board member, Jackson Farmer and thanked him for his service on the School Board this past year. They presented him with a plaque and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Business Administrator Report:

Business Administrator Scott McMillan presented the budget report for April. He discussed the report as well as the capital projects that are currently underway and those that will begin in the future.

Discussion Items:

Budget Proposal

Business Administrator Scott McMillan presented the 2025-26 final budget and the 2026-27 tentative budget. He reported that the legislature changed the Truth in Taxation process. He noted that the district

is proposing a tax rate increase; therefore, it is imperative that we start the process, even without the tax rate being finalized. Scott also presented the property tax impact schedule:

- The Morgan County School District is proposing a 2026-27 budget that includes a tax rate increase.
- The approximate dollar amount of additional ad valorem tax revenue that would be generated by the proposed tax rate increase is \$1,745,000.
- The approximate percentage increase in tax revenue that is based on the proposed tax rate increase is 11%
- The approximate percentage increase to the amount of property taxes paid on an average residence per year as a result of the proposed tax rate increase is -0.5%
- The approximate percentage increase to the amount of property taxes paid on an average commercial property per year as a result of the proposed tax rate increase is -0.5%
- For each department of the taxing entity whose budget would be affected by the proposed increase. Outline the budget increase or decrease to the department – all new funds would be allocated to salaries and benefits for school staff.
- Articulate the operational impact to the department if the taxing entity approves the increase – As demand for SPED services and the cost of providing them have increased, the associated state and federal funding have not kept pace. This increase will balance the SPED budget and fund the addition of a post-high program. In addition, this will fund a portion of the health insurance increase, add 2 FTE's to MGMS to lower class size and maintain 2 school nurses that were previously funded with one-time grants.

Salary and Benefits Committee Recommendation

President Adams presented the recommendation from the Salary and Benefits Committee. The recommendation is that new money go to fund certified steps and lanes, ESP steps, and a 1% COLA. This recommendation is based on reducing four FTEs.

Travel Requests

The Board thanked the high school administration for completing the forms correctly and in a timely manner.

Action Items:

Extended Travel Policy

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to approve the Extended Travel Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Brooks

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE) Policy

MOTION: Board Member Wallace moved to approve the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE) Policy.

SECOND: Board Member Trease

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Trustland/TSSA Plans

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to approve the Trustland/TSSA Plans.
SECOND: President Adams
DISCUSSION: President Adams thanked the high school for rewriting goal #3. Board Member Trease thanked them for rewriting all their goals.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing

MOTION: Board Member Preece moved to recess from regular board meeting to convene in public hearing for the purpose of discussing school fees for next school year.
SECOND: Board Member Brooks
DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

President Adams asked if there are any public comments on school fees. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Board Member Brooks moved to close the public hearing and reconvene in the regular Board meeting.
SECOND: Board Member Preece
DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

School Fees

MOTION: President Adams moved to approve the school fees for the 2026-27 school year..
SECOND: Board Member Brooks
DISCUSSION: Board Member Trease clarified that the only thing that changed was raising the cheer fee to match the drill fee. Scott McMillan indicated that is correct.
APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously

Board Member Committee/School Visit Reports:

The Board members gave updates on their school visits and committee assignments.

Advanced Planning for Upcoming Events:

- a. MHS Graduation May 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m. @ Dee Events Center
- b. Next Meeting June 9, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Work Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- c. Pre-Delegate Assembly – June 5, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- d. Delegate Assembly – June 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

President Adams informed the Board members that she will email them the Board goals. She asked them to let her know if they have questions and/or concerns.

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Business Administrator, Scott McMillan