

MINUTES

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD WORK MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at District Office at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Board Members: President Gaylene Adams, Vice President Kelly Preece, Board Member Mandy Wallace, Board Member Andrea Brooks, Board Member Angie Trease

District Staff: Superintendent Andy Jensen, Business Administrator Scott McMillan, Secretary Jana Brown

Welcome: President Gaylene Adams opened the work meeting.

Board Goals:

President Adams reported that one of board goals focuses on safety. She welcomed Representative Tiara Auxier to discuss the board's concern with cars passing the buses when the stop arm is out. She informed Representative Auxier that she will send her the videos of these events. President Adams asked if it would be possible for the legislature to investigate this matter and the possibility creating a law where law enforcement can cite the owner of the vehicle rather than the driver of the vehicle. Representative Auxier stated that she is aware that this is a major concern for the entire country. She noted that she will investigate the matter and address it in the next legislative session. She also informed the Board that the legislature has increased the education budget to increase teacher pay and focus on early literacy.

President Adams reported that the county is also working on putting in flashing crossing lights on State Street.

Business Administrator Evaluation Summary:

President Adams welcomed Richard Stowell from the state. He is present to review the Business Administrator Evaluation.

MOTION: Board Member Trease moved to leave the work meeting to move to closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

SECOND: Board Member Brooks

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: A roll call vote was taken:

Gaylene Adams – Yes

Kelly Preece – Yes

Mandy Wallace – Yes

Andrea Brooks – Yes

Angie Trease – Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then went into closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

MOTION: Board Member Wallace moved to go from closed session to regular work meeting.

SECOND: Board Member Preece

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

APPROVAL: The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2025-26 Final Budget and 2026-27 Tentative Budget:

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.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Business Administrator, Scott McMillan