

# Morris Brandon GO Team Meeting Summary

Date: February 1, 2018

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Primary Campus Gym

## I. Call to order

Caren Bharwani called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

## II. Meeting Protocols

### ○ Roll call; Determine quorum status;

Present:

Gordon Benedict, Caren Bharwani, Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs, Tracey Hudson, Sara Kirsch, Kate Laine, Kara Stimpson, Kelly Trotter, Sonya Walston

Absent: none

A quorum is established.

### ○ Approve meeting agenda

Kate Laing motioned to approve the agenda. SW seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval.

### ○ Approve previous meeting minutes

Sara Kirsch motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Tracey Hudson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval.

### III. Discussion Items

#### ○ FY '19 Budget Development Presentation

Ms. Stimpson presented the preliminary budget that has been received from the district as follows:

- A new funding model is being used. Schools receive a per pupil allocation using a Student Success Formula (SSF). This formula is based on how much it costs to educate each child and begins with a base, per pupil, amount for every student and then gives additional weight to specific factors (rather than just a per head formula). Factors weighted for additional funding include:
  - Increased weight to K-3 (district's priority to support reading for younger grades) and 6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grades (transition years)
  - Children living in poverty
  - Special Ed
  - Gifted
  - ELL
- The school is given a per pupil amount based on pupils who have each of these characteristics. The current year demographic data is used and extrapolated onto next year's kindergarten population estimates to get the total for next year.
- Morris Brandon is also receiving a dual campus supplement of \$318k.
- Morris Brandon's budget for the FY 19 school year contains a revenue amount of \$8,473,893. This is based on a student population of 1022 students, which is an increase of 22 students from FY 18 projections. Currently we have 1015 students.
- The district is holding back \$113,781 until it has better clarity around property tax revenues. This amount has already been deducted from the \$8,473,893, so if it is released it will be incremental revenue. We do not know for sure when we will know if the holdback will be released. Last year it was released in late Spring.
- With this budget, Ms. Stimpson is proposing adding 2 homerooms next year (one in K and one in 1<sup>st</sup>). Based on current student population projections, this would lead to average class sizes per grade of: K-22, 1<sup>st</sup>- 22, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 20, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 23, 4<sup>th</sup> - 26 and 5<sup>th</sup> - 26.

- Maintenance of all other programs (i.e. maintain status quo) such as Special Ed, Special, Admins, Paras, Nursing)
  
- Ms. Stimpson is also proposing the creation of 3 new positions as follows:
  - Buy back .5 of an ESOL position to create a full time ESOL teacher. Currently we are allotted 1.5 ESOL teachers. It is very difficult with one person to go between both campuses and we have a need for 2 full time teachers - one at each campus. This will help support our ESOL sub group.
  
  - Create a full time support teacher position for dedicated work with sub groups
  
  - Create a position for an ELA Instructional Coach. This position would serve K-5 and be charged with creating a cohesive ELA framework for the school, communicating this to teachers, ensuring it is being implemented, tracking progress, providing support, etc. This is more expensive than a full time teacher position because it is a longer contract - 211 days.
  
- Ms. Stimpson is also proposing purchasing Wit and Wisdom, an ELA instructional framework including books, instructional manuals, manipulatives, etc. The school has currently been piloting this in a few classrooms in grades 3-5. Feedback has been positive, but data is inconclusive. There is a consensus amongst administrators and teachers that we need a revamped, cohesive ELA strategy. Have not yet decided what that is, but Wit and Wisdom is being considered. The cost would be \$50K for grades 3-5 and \$100K for all grades.
  
- If the holdback funds are restored, Ms. Stimpson proposes the creation of an additional support teacher position with those funds.
  
- Q&A followed the presentation
  - CB asked if teachers would be receptive to working with an ELA coach. KS said it had not been discussed with teachers yet.

- SK asked what things Ms. Stimpson felt might be missing from the budget, what she would do if Morris Brandon had more money allocated to it. Ms. Stimpson said she believes this budget gives us everything we need.
- Sue Friedrichs and Tracy Hudson inquired about the possibility of going back to having 2 guidance counselors, as opposed to the one we have now. Given the dual campus, it is difficult for one counselor to split her time between both campuses. Both teachers indicated that the counselor is very helpful with small group pullout sessions dealing with Social Emotional Learning issues, and with help in managing behavior and discipline issues in the classroom. Teachers feel the lack of 2 counselors can take away from instructional time in the classroom. The group brainstormed different ways we might be able to add in an additional counselor position, or .5 of a position. To be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- KL asked if we should wait to move forward with an ELA curriculum until we decide if we will hire an ELA coach, and, if we do decide to hire one, until that person is hired, so he/she can weigh in on options. Also asked, what are the criteria we will use to decide if Wit and Wisdom is the best ELA program for Brandon?
- GB asked if the district's overall revenue increased or if just the allocation amongst schools changed, so that some schools are getting more than last year and others are getting less. KS answered that the revenue is about the same, and some schools are getting more and some less.
- KT asked for a schedule showing how many teachers, staff, etc. in different categories of positions (e.g. homeroom, specials, support, admin, esol, etc.)
- Next steps
  - GO Team needs to approve the budget by the first week of March
  - In the next two weeks, Ms. Stimpson will:
    - meet with Assoc. Superintendent to review the budget,
    - meet with cluster principals to ensure alignment amongst cluster schools,
    - present the tentative budget to the faculty and staff

- GO Team will have work session on 2/15/18 at 5:30PM at MC to continue budget review and discuss open issues
- GO Team will reschedule the meeting currently scheduled for 3/2/18 to 3/6/18 at 7:15AM at the Main Campus and will plan to vote on the budget at that time.

#### **IV. Information Items**

- GO Team Elections
  - Elections for the next school year will be held in shortly.
  - We have 4 people rolling off the board at the end of this school year: 2 Parent Representatives (Sara Kirsch and Gordon Benedict) and 2 Community Members (Kate Laing and Kelly Trotter).
  - Parent Reps will be elected by the parents in the school community population and Community Members will be nominated by the principal.

#### **V. Public Comment**

- No public comment was offered.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- GB moved to adjourn the meeting; KT seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.