

Reach out to MHPD on your own terms

← MHPD, A1

most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. 'Coffee with a Cop' breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction."

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

Contact Sgt. Norman with questions at (408) 779-2101 or at bill.norman@morganhill.ca.gov.

Parent Project

In an unrelated effort by MHPD to reach out to residents seeking

pointed assistance, School Resource Officer Jeff Brandon will lead another session of the Parent Project starting Sept. 28 and running through Dec. 13.

The 12-week program, offered one day per week from 6-9 p.m., was created specifically for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice specific prevention and intervention strategies for destructive behaviors, including:

- Learn to never argue with your child
- Improve school attendance and performance
- Prevent alcohol and drug abuse
- Stop gang involvement

The program, which costs \$50 per parent and \$75 per couple, is a collaboration among the District Attorney's Office, the city of Morgan Hill, Morgan Hill Police, Morgan Hill Unified School District and other community organizations.

For more information, contact Officer Brandon at (408) 779-2101 or Jeff.Brandon@morganhill.ca.gov.

New board president

SCOTT FORSTNER
Reporter

MORGAN HILL—It took three school board meetings, one challenge of parliamentary procedure and three rounds of voting by the trustees but Morgan Hill Unified School District's governing body finally has a new president and vice president.

The Sept. 6 reorganization will hold for the next few months anyway, since the board will again conduct a vote on their officers following the November election, where three trustee area seats are up for grabs.

In the meantime, replacing Interim President Bob Benevento, who carried over his 2015 presidency until a board majority could be established, is Trustee Gino Borgioli, who got that nod by a 4-3 vote at the onset of Tuesday night's meeting.

Borgioli—elected to the board in 2014—then led the Sept. 6 meeting, after being nominated by Trustee Tom Arnett

and shown support from Trustees Rick Badillo and David Gerard. Borgioli's own vote tipped the scale in his favor on the third attempt. The other nominee, Trustee Ron Woolf, received three votes from himself, Benevento and Trustee Donna Ruebusch.

Woolf was then nominated by Arnett for vice president while Gerard nominated Badillo. In that vote, which ended with Woolf winning by a 4-3 majority, Woolf, Benevento, Arnett and Ruebusch voted for Woolf. In the minority were Badillo, Borgioli and Gerard.

Ruebusch declined her nomination by Benevento prior to the only vice president vote that gave Woolf a second consecutive term in that position.

The board reorganization vote was a long time in the making. First, with only six members, the board, failing to reach a majority, opted to table any future votes until a

seventh member joined them on the dais. That happened with Arnett winning former Trustee Amy Porter-Jensen's seat in the June election.

However, Arnett was not sworn in until August and no reorganization vote was taken at the two subsequent meetings because only six trustees were present at each of them—an even number that could have easily resulted in a tie, considering the board's history of division. Ruebusch was absent from the Aug. 2 meeting and Badillo from the second.

Three members of the public spoke in support of Borgioli, Gerard or Badillo as the new board president prior to the vote at the Sept. 6 meeting.

Parent Aida Cazares said she wanted any of the three because "I feel like they listen to me as a parent and my concerns. Their agenda is educating my child and bettering our district."



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