

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 16, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 16, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tom Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hill noted there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Recognition of Laura Zehr –

Dr. Teater recognized Laura Zehr for teaching “Above the Line” demonstrated by teaching her students to problem solve in her fourth grade classroom at Brown School.

MHS Student Ambassador Report –

Garrett Orrico, MHS Student Council historian, reported on recent activities including fundraisers for Esther House in Peoria and the Pekin Salvation Army. Upcoming events include a blood drive, volunteering at March Madness and St. Jude Week.

Superintendent’s Report –

Dr. Hill reported that:

- Morton High School is one of 23 schools in Illinois recognized by the College Board through the AP District Honor Roll for increasing AP opportunities for students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students who earned a 3 or above. He congratulated MHS students for this accomplishment.
- a new position has been posted for an additional special education teacher for second semester. The position is necessary due to increasing caseloads and will

begin a transition to increasing the amount of instruction delivered by the special education staff. The cost of the position will be partially offset by a reduction in two special education aides.

- he has begun reviewing materials from Redefining Ready, a program that has national participation. He referred to a template showing how a student/school would be assessed for college/career readiness.
- he, Mr. Neeley, Dr. Beaty and Mrs. Getz have reviewed the qualifications and services of two consultants who would assist the board in determining how the current facilities could best meet the educational goals of the district in the most efficient manner. After review and discussion, it was decided to wait until the Morton Moving Forward programming has been determined before making a decision on a consultant to provide facility options.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley noted he will be a part of an advocacy group representing IASB in Washington D.C. beginning on February 2. The group will meet with legislators concerning public education.

Mr. Neeley referred to a meeting evaluation form included in board member packets. He asked them to complete the forms to give him feedback on the meeting and how it can be improved.

Discussion Item –

Board Compliance – Instruction –

Dr. Hill reported that he has reviewed the Instruction Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. He and Mr. Neeley will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goals Discussion – Climate –

Mr. Neeley reviewed the District Goal of **Climate**: *“Morton District 709 will maintain a cohesive organizational system which fosters a culture characterized by mutual trust and respect among the board, administration, faculty, staff, students and community resulting in an organization focused on continuous improvement.”*

Dr. Hill noted he has spent his first six months as Superintendent getting to know staff and members of the community and assessing needs throughout the district.

Mr. Neeley referenced the three open houses held in the fall where board members were able to visit with community members.

Mr. Schmidgall noted the Board and Administrators met together socially in the fall to better get to know each other and help form relationships.

Morton Moving Forward – Year 1 Overview/Strategy 2 – Intentional Transition to Secondary -

Board members heard presentations from Dr. Smock and Mr. Hoffman for a more in depth look at Strategy 2 – Intentional Transition to Secondary.

Dr. Smock gave a presentation on 5th and 6th grade departmentalization within the school district. He noted it varies from school to school, but the current practice for most is as follows:

- 5th/6th grade students change classrooms and teachers for a select few classes.
- Same grade-level partner teachers determine which courses they will teach to all sections of that grade.
- A daily schedule is arranged for students to switch classrooms and teachers a few times each day.
- While one grade level may be switching, the other may remain completely self-contained.
- The type and degree of partial departmentalization varies in each elementary building, and varies from year to year.

Dr. Smock offered two other variations of departmentalization:

School-Wide Departmentalization –

- Within each elementary school, 5th and 6th grade students switch classrooms and teachers for nearly every subject.
- Each teacher teaches one subject to both 5th and 6th graders.
- There is a bell schedule similar to that of the JH or HS, except within a shorter day.
- 5th and 6th grade students do not have the same type of schedule and self-contained experience as K-4th graders.

District-Wide Departmentalization –

- One existing building becomes a 5th/6th grade intermediate school
- The scheduling and format could mirror the JH (teaming, exploratory, etc.)
- Each teacher is a content-level teacher who, generally, teaches one content area to one grade level.

Dr. Smock shared advantages and disadvantages to each option. The entire presentation can be viewed on [MP-TV](#) at 20:00.

Mr. Hoffman gave a presentation on the proposed MJHS Educational Program beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. The changes would address increased expected enrollment and would add to the course offerings.

Objectives for the new program include:

- Continue teaming concept.
- Increase the opportunities for career counseling/exploration.
- Increase exploratory options including foreign language.
- Create a schedule that meets the needs of 540 students.
- Increase ELA rigor.

Proposed Student Schedule:

- 8 total classes plus lunch
- 4 core classes (math, ELA, science, social studies)
- 1 Language Arts Encore class (quarterly rotation: Research and Writing 1, Research and Writing 2, foreign language, 2D/3D art)*
- 1 College and Career Encore (quarterly rotation: CareerMaker, computer programming, Future Readiness, health)*
- 1 band/orchestra/choir OR study hall class
- 1 PE class

Teacher Schedule:

- Teach 6 core classes and have 2 planning periods (1 team plan period)
- Periods are 44 minutes

*Three additional teachers are needed to provide the additional encore experiences and account for the growing enrollment of 60+ students than are currently at MJHS.

The entire presentation can be viewed on [MP-TV](#) at 45:00.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve November Treasurer's Report
- Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Out of State/Overnight Trips – MJHS Orchestra – Indianapolis/JH Wrestling State Meet
- Approve Minutes of the December 5, 2017, Regular Meeting and the December 5, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 12-6-17	Bills 12-15-17	Bills 12-22-17	Bills 1-3-18	Bills 1-12-18
Ed. Fund	\$3,470.62	\$201,639.28	\$188,158.06	\$6,255.18	\$98,967.97
Bldg. Fund	--	67,823.04	6,983.75	689.65	60,571.42
Trans. Fund	--	18,493.00	1,332.05	62.78	18,778.42
TORT	--	9,780.00	--	337.50	--

	Payroll 12-8-17	Payroll 12-22-17	Payroll 1-5-18
Ed. Fund	\$501,752.80	\$516,870.75	\$451,957.66
Bldg. Fund	32,159.07	32,810.07	32,655.37
Trans. Fund	12,645.01	16,858.82	10,191.39
Payroll Accts. Pay.	486,249.93	503,612.60	522,119.56

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Purchase/Sale of Property and Student Discipline. **(SILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:50 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the meeting be adjourned.

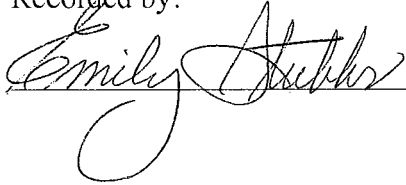
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

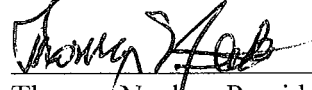
Recorded by:



Submitted by,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President