

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 1, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 1, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President 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

Re-Organization of Board –

Elect President –

Mr. Neeley, President Pro Tem, asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Tom Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Neeley was declared President by acclamation and he assumed his seat.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Schmidgall nominated Dr. Beaty to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Dr. Beaty was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Schmidgall to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Schmidgall was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board meetings for the 2018-2019 year will be the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced. Board members will meet prior to the second meeting of the month with staff at each building, September through April.

Audience Presentations – Jessica Belsley of Morton informed the Board of Education that a group of district moms gathered on Monday of this week to pray for students, each staff member by name and for each board member. She noted they have been doing this throughout the school year.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

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

Teacher Appreciation Week –

Dr. Hill noted that National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7 – 11. He extended his and the Board's appreciation and thanks for all that 709 teachers do for students and the district on a daily basis. He shared this quote – *“Every child deserves a champion; an adult who never gives up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.”* - Rita Pierson, teacher

PTO Reports –

PTO Presidents from Brown School (Angel Fisher), Grundy School (Malinda Radloff), and Morton Jr. High School (Kara Knepp, V. President), reported on their PTO activities and purchases for their buildings this past school year.

President Neeley expressed his appreciation to the PTO's for all they do for the students and schools.

Update on 5-Year Capital Improvement/Maintenance and Health-Life Safety Work –

Architect Jeff Keach updated board members on the 5-year plan, focusing on FY2019, as the 2018 health/life safety items have been addressed or will be addressed this summer. The plan has been extended out 15 years. Mr. Keach pointed out that the \$3.5 million dollar project at the high school has been removed from the list for now. It included work on the east parking lot canopy and men's and women's locker rooms.

Mr. Neeley noted that Thursday, May 17, has been set aside for board members to meet at the Jr. High School for a walk through and review. The meeting time will be determined soon.

School Improvement Goal Update – Elementary –

The elementary principals reported they had given a presentation to the Board at its October 3, 2017, meeting on the proposed Reading Workshop model. They gave an update from that presentation at the meeting tonight. They noted the timeline for the professional

development opportunities made available throughout the school year and continuing this summer in preparation for the launch of Reading Workshop at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Saunders noted the students will be assessed three times throughout the school year to measure/benchmark their progress. Fountas and Pinnell – “*Classroom*” has been chosen as the curriculum materials for K-3 for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Neeley thanked them for their thorough report and asked if the board could be provided reports three times throughout the school year. Mrs. Bernier noted her appreciation of all of the professional development that has taken place ahead of implementation of Reading Workshop.

President’s Report –

President Neeley reported he recently attended “The Equity Event” sponsored by IASB in Lisle, IL that addressed the what, why and how of equity issues in education.

Discussion Item –

Goals Discussion - Achievement –

Dr. Hill reviewed the goal of Achievement – “*Morton District 709 will nurture and challenge each student to reach their potential through the highest quality teaching using evidence based instructional practices, curriculum, programs and services.*” He noted that the administration continues planning for next year implementing strategies for Morton Moving Forward. Mr. Neeley expressed his desire for a dashboard with indicators of student progress.

First Reading and Discussion of Student Handbook Revisions –

Dr. Teater reported the discipline handbook review committee met recently and discussed recommended revisions. The only revisions were minor language additions to the Jr. High and High School handbooks. The revisions were sent to our attorneys for review and will be brought back to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

Title I Plan – 2018-2019 –

Mrs. Owens reported that one of the requirements of our federal Title 1 program is the submission of a Title 1 District Plan. Title 1 funds must be used to enhance or supplement the program of instruction that the district provides to all students/schools. In the past Title 1 funds have been allocated to our two eligible elementary buildings (Grundy and Jefferson) and have been used to support full day kindergarten, and additional intervention services in reading and math--above and beyond our typical program.

Given some changes in district-wide services for the 18-19 school year (i.e. full day

kindergarten district-wide, Reader's Workshop, Instructional Coaching, etc...), the administrative team has carefully reviewed and considered the best way to maximize the impact of this funding to serve a wider range of student needs. For the 18-19 school year, the funds have been reallocated to serve students in three of our eligible schools, Jefferson Elementary, MJHS, and MHS. Funds will be used to support math instruction at Jefferson (co-teacher, math aide, expanded aide support in Kindergarten). It is also proposed that funds will be used at MJHS and MHS to support Title 1 Counselor positions (0.5 FTE at MJHS, 1.0 FTE at MHS) and expanded intervention supports for eligible students.

Action Items -

Approve 3.0 FTE School Counselors (1-JH/2-HS) –

As part of Morton Moving Forward, the following positions are being recommended for the 2018-2019 school year:

Strategy #2 – Intentional Transition to Secondary:

- **Jr. High School Counselor** –The hiring of school counselors has been moved to the first year of Morton Moving Forward to reduce the student to counselor ratio, meaning the counseling staff can meet more frequently with students to better provide college/career readiness assistance, social/emotional assistance and academic interventions. Counselor/Student ratio goes to 1-250.

Strategy #3 – Increased Focus on College and Career Readiness:

- **2.0 High School Counselors** – Initially one counselor in year 1 and one in year 2 was requested; however, our continued desire to provide both college and career guidance and increased desire to provide social/emotional support has led to modifying this part of the recommendation.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve 1.0 FTE Jr. High counselor and 2.0 FTE High School counselors for the 2018-2019 school year.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Social Worker Position – JH/Morton Academy –

At the April 17, 2018, Board of Education meeting Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens, presented a proposal for an additional school social worker to be hired for the 2018-2019 school year.

Added staffing approved by the Board of Education for the 2017-18 school year has enabled the district to provide social/emotional intervention to students in a more

proactive manner. Class-wide social skills and problem-solving lessons occur on a regular basis for the majority of elementary aged students. Improved legal compliance in evaluation has also been a positive outcome of the addition.

Continued challenges:

- Morton Academy students require school social work services that have not been considered into our staffing model in the past.
- Currently MJHS has 3 school social workers who each serve MJHS one day per week. This staffing model meets legal compliance in serving our 7th and 8th grade students; however, it does not allow us to maximize the benefits of services delivered by a consistent person.
- IDEA (Federal Special Education Grant) requires expenditure of a portion of our grant money to serve students with disabilities in our district boundaries who attend non-public schools (private schools and/or homeschools). We now have requested School Social Work services at a private school utilizing these funds.

It is recommended that an additional 1.0 FTE School Social Work position be added for the 2018-19 school year. This position would serve MJHS 3 days per week, and serve Morton Academy 2 days per week.

Morton Academy reimbursement, IDEA Grant money, and Title 1 Grant money would provide funding to offset 4/5th of the cost of the added position.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve an additional school social worker for the 2018-2019 school year to serve MJHS and Morton Academy.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Technology Manager Position –

The Technology Manager position will be responsible for overseeing day to day operations and will report directly to the Director of Curriculum and Technology. This will allow the Director of Curriculum and Technology the ability to focus on curriculum, instruction and teacher professional development. This position will add additional responsibilities to a current employee in the technology department.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the position of Technology Manager effective immediately.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Food Service Contract
- Approve 2018-2019 Student Fees
- Approve Final School 2017-2018 Amended School Calendar
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Staff
- Approve Minutes of the April 24, 2018, Regular Meeting and the April 24, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-27-18	Payroll 4-27-18
Ed. Fund	\$5,004.05	\$499,964.78
Bldg. Fund	62,964.00	34,783.00
Trans. Fund	--	15,871.40
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	462,967.27

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:35 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:00 p.m.

Recess Meeting –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Dr. Cross, that the meeting be recessed until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 3, 2018.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting recessed at 10:00 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting – Thursday, May 3, 2018 –

President Tom Neeley reconvened the Board of Education meeting from May 1, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Present via telephone: Mrs. Bernier

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Mrs. Bernier left
the meeting via phone call
at 6:21 p.m.)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:27 p.m.

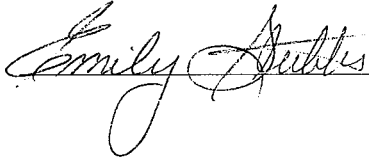
Adjournment –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the meeting that began on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, and reconvened on Thursday, May 3, 2018, be adjourned.

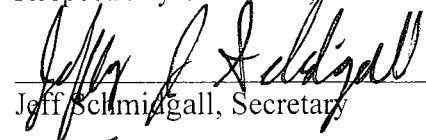
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Bernier)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

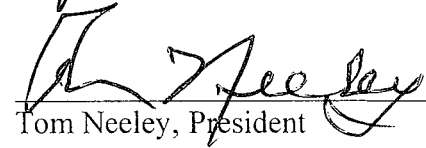
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President