### **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

# **April 22, 2014**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 22, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

#### <u>REGULAR MEETING –</u>

Secretary Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. John Applen, Mr. Tom Neeley,

Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Tim Taylor (arrived 7:05 p.m.)

Members present via telephone: Mr. Shaun Bill

Mr. Clint Heinold (joined at 8:15 p.m.)

#### **Audience Presentations –**

Cortney Vlahos, Max Vlahos, Paul Grethy, Jr., Joel Powley, Dannette Rumsey, Tanya LaSota, Sue Brown and Melissa Garretson spoke of their experiences with dyslexia and asked the school district to train teachers to recognize signs and symptoms of the disorder, acknowledge it in students and provide assistance. Dr. Hall thanked all that spoke and attended the meeting for the time taken so their voices could be heard. She assured the group that she and the Board have listened intently and heard their suggestions and will be moving ahead with more research. An update will be given at the June 3 Board meeting.

#### Reports -

#### <u>Administrative – </u>

### Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hall reported there were Freedom of Information requests to report. 1) Connor Hughes's request for public records that are proposals submitted by Ombudsman Educational Services and/or Educational Services of America (parent company) and/or contracts between Ombudsman Educational Services and/or Educational Services of America and Morton School District and/or Morton Board of Education. A search of our financial system resulted in no record of a vendor by that name. 2) Patte Winn requested copies of every District 709 assessment test (screen prints) by grade, including but not limited to, ISAT, NAEP and PARCC. This request was denied as this information is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

# <u>Kindergarten Update –</u>

Dr. Hall reported on plans for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. She explained that Title I funds will be available at Jefferson School to pay for a teacher's salary and recommended that the following occur for this next school year:

- Emily Gerber full day Kindergarten (currently teaches two half day sections)
- New teacher paid with Title I funds full day Kindergarten
- Emily Ropp full day Kindergarten (this would be a continuation of the extended day program for students having been identified as benefitting from a full day experience)

Dr. Hall noted that data has been compiled to reinforce the need for full day Kindergarten at Jefferson. Much larger numbers of students are needing RtI intervention and support in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Jefferson specifically. Full day kindergarten at Jefferson could be viewed as a Tier 1 intervention by strengthening the core curriculum for all students at the Kindergarten level. The position for the new teacher will be posted soon.

#### PTO Reports -

PTO presidents from Lettie Brown School, Lincoln School and Grundy School reported on activities over the past school year. Those reporting included Jessica Kaputska, Brown PTO, Abby Ely, Lincoln PTO and Darcy Riddle, Grundy PTO. Dr. Hall thanked them for all they do for their schools.

#### Other –

Dr. Hall noted that Administrative Professionals' Day is tomorrow and thanked Emily Stubbs for her work as Superintendent/Board of Education Secretary.

Dr. Hall reported that the next Key Communicators meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Grundy School. On that same day, an Open House will take place at the new transportation facility from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 4:45.

### President's Report -

# **Special Education Staff Meeting -**

Mrs. Bernier thanked Ms. Ashby for hosting the meeting with the Special Education staff earlier in the evening. She noted that they care deeply for the students and make a lifelong impact on their lives and the lives of their families.

(Mr. Taylor took over presiding as president at this point in the meeting.)

# Action Item -

# <u>Approve Student Handbook Changes –</u>

The district Discipline Committee met on March 21 and recommended changes were brought before the Board at the April 6 meeting.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the changes for the elementary, Jr. High and High School discipline handbooks for the 2014-2015 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

# Approve Agreement with Village of Marton -

Dr. Hall explained that an existing intergovernmental agreement between Morton School District and the Village of Morton is expiring in September of 2014. This agreement permits the Morton Police Department to regulate traffic and parking on school district properties and enforce applicable statutes. The new agreement is an update and continuation of the previous agreement, and also adds the new bus facility to the list of properties covered by this agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Morton that permits the regulation of parking and traffic on our properties.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### Approve Admission of Non-Resident Student Per Board Policy 7:60 –

Dr. Hall noted that Delavan Unit School District's Special Education Coordinator requested that Morton Unit School District 709 consider accepting a tuition student for our high school life skills program. They do not have enough population to operate their own life skills program. Morton's Special Education Director and the life skills teacher observed the student in her jr. high program and determined that her needs could be met in Morton's life skills program. The recommended tuition rate is based on the per pupil cost to operate the life skills program during the 2012-13 school year, as reported to ISBE through program cost centers and personnel reporting. Tuition cost to Delavan Unit School District is recommended at \$12,953.00/year.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the

admission of a Delavan High School student with special needs into Morton High School
for the 2014-2015 school year at a tuition rate of \$12,953.00

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

# Approve Bids for Window Project at MHS –

Dr. Hall explained there are three classrooms and one group of offices that surround the High School courtyard in the center of the building. The single pane glazed aluminum frame exterior windows are badly in need of repair. They will be replaced with insulated high efficiency glass. Three companies submitted bids ranging from \$78,900 - \$87,800. Trotter General Contracting submitted the low bid of \$78,900.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Trotter General Contracting for \$78,900.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### Approve HS Modern Language Texts –

Textbooks for Spanish and French were presented to the Board of Education at the March 4 meeting. The texts have been on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. No comments were received by the public.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Modern Language textbooks for a total cost of \$66,877.25.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

# <u>Approve Contract for Director of Curriculum and Technology –</u>

Recommendation of a three-year contract for the Director of Curriculum and Technology with pay increases as follows -2014-15-7.8%; 2015-16-2% and 2016-17-2%.

Mr. Applen commended Dr. Teater for his hard work, but noted he opposes administrator contracts longer than one year due to the economic climate and the change in the evaluation process for the teachers.

Mr. Taylor concurred that Dr. Teater is a valuable resource with all of the technology

changes he is overseeing at this time. He supports a three-year contract.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the contract for Director of Curriculum and Technology, Troy Teater.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 2 (Applen, Neeley)

Motion carried.

# **Approval of Contract for Assistant Superintendent –**

Recommendation of a three-year contract for the Assistant Superintendent with pay increases as follows -2014-15-2%; 2015-16-2% and 2016-17-1%.

Mr. Applen commended Mr. Smock for his hard work and loyalty to the district, but he restated his reasons for opposition to a three-year contract. Mr. Neeley concurred. Mr. Taylor noted that former boards awarded long term contracts to the assistant superintendent and the raises are below market. Mrs. Bernier feels the board is being good stewards by offering 3-year contracts.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the contract for Assistant Superintendent, Craig Smock.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 2 (Applen, Neeley)

Motion carried.

### **Approval of Contract for Superintendent –**

Recommendation of a four-year contract for the Superintendent with pay increases as follows -2014-15-3%; 2015-16-2%; 2016-17-2%; 2017-18-2%.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the contract for Superintendent, Lindsey Hall.

Mrs. Scarfe noted that she has no problem with multi-year contracts. It is not out of the norm for other districts or this district in past years. Locking in a good administrator for 3-4 years is being fiscally responsible. The district will be able to plan budgets several years out.

Mr. Applen added that Dr. Hall initiated multi-year contracts in the spirit of the new TRS law taking effect in June. He feels the board is going around the spirit of the law. This was not a board-initiated move.

Mr. Taylor noted that the Superintendent brought this to the board on behalf of the other

administrators and herself. It was not a selfish act. The board brought in counsel and he agreed with offering multi-year contracts for this reason. Mr. Taylor appreciates the transparency of this process by the Superintendent. Salaries are public knowledge and should be discussed openly. The school district will save money in the long run and this is a win-win situation for the district and the administrators.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 2 (Applen, Neeley)

Motion carried.

# Consent Agenda -

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff

Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Personnel

Approve Food Service Contract

Approve Minutes of the April 1, 2014, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session

Minutes of the April 1, 2014, Regular Meeting.

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-4-14	Bills 4-10-14	Payroll 4-11-14
Ed. Fund	\$136,253.24	\$311,665.66	\$428,206.51
Bldg. Fund	14,401.90	29,282.55	32,010.71
Trans. Fund	10,356.84	2,209.34	12,945.46
Payroll Accts. Pay.			400,352.17
Fire & Safety	11,800.00		
Tort	4,472.45		

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

### Closed Session -

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, 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 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Bernier asked what is done at this time if a student is diagnosed with dyslexia. Dr. Hall explained that the student's parents, the student (if old enough), principal, teacher(s) would meet and discuss the diagnosis, the students strengths and weaknesses and any recommended accommodations. She noted that our teachers should be trained to learn to identify the initial signs and symptoms of dyslexia. Dr. Hall added that RtI coordinator, Jill Lyons and Ms. Ashby will speak to the board in June.

### Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bernier, Secretary

Tim Taylor, Vice President