

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

DECEMBER 6, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 6, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION ACT

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Thomas Neeley called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mrs. Michelle Kaeb, Mr. Tim Taylor

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$1,150,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.

There were no questions from the audience. Mr. Neeley declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:33 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mrs. Michelle Kaeb, Mr. Tim Taylor

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted there were many activities by staff and students in November centered around Thanksgiving to help those in need in the community.

Jr. High Exploratory Presentation –

Mr. Crider introduced Jr. High teachers Ben VandenBerg, Megan Hasler, Sana Becker, Melissa Winchell, Gary Kutkat and Jessica Shopiro. They in turn introduced students who demonstrated projects from the new exploratory classes that replaced the unit classes at the Jr. High this year. Mr. Crider explained that the exploratory classes give teachers the freedom to extend the curriculum. He praised the teachers for embracing the change.

Mr. Neeley thanked the students and teachers for their presentations.

Common Core Timeline –

Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Grzanich reviewed the plans and timeline for implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The District's goal is to fully integrate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math by 2013-2014. Committees have been organized to serve as building leaders and trainers. The mission of the committees will be to become familiar with the CCSS and to determine an implementation plan. Dates to share the "what" with the rest of the faculty are March 12, 2012, elementary math, secondary math and secondary ELA; and May 22, 2012, elementary ELA.

This year the district is focusing on the "what" and will move to the "how" next year. Some teachers have begun to implement CCSS into the curriculum this year with pilot resources and lessons/units. Mrs. Taylor reported that two 6th grade teachers will demonstrate how they are using the CCSS for math at the January 10 board meeting.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that current curriculum policies are being reviewed by the ISBE. District administrators will make changes to our policy and administrative procedures if needed.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he met recently with the design team for the elementary building additions. He noted the cost estimates are close to the target. He stressed that they have taken a very conservative approach with no luxuries in the design. Bids will go out on February 13, 2012, and will be due back by February 28. Board approval of the bids is scheduled for the first meeting in March. Bids for the west wall at Jefferson School will go out soon, also. He noted that \$1,500,000 life safety work needs to be completed. Much of that work is to be done at the high school.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Central Illinois Division meeting of the IASB is scheduled for December 7.

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick presented Rosie Durand and Candice Harvey with certificates of recognition earlier in the day for attaining National Board Certification. There are a total of six teachers in our district that have reached this certification level.

IASB Conference Reports–

Board members reviewed and shared information from workshops they attended at the recent Joint Boards Conference. All shared that much valuable information was gained along with the ability to network with other school board members. Their appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to attend this conference.

Action Items –**Approve 2012-2013 Levy Resolution –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has reviewed the Fund Balances and the expected needs for next year based on the proposed FY13 Budget presented previously to the Board of Education. Based upon these initial estimates, the District would experience a budget deficit in the Education Fund. The expenses for this levy were calculated based on projections. Given the uncertainty in state, local and federal finances as well as potential medical insurance costs, these estimates are subject to substantial change.

The Tentative Levy approved at a previous meeting should allow the district to access all of the taxes available, but this depends upon the precision of estimates and projections. Because the change in the CPI was only 1.5% and estimated growth is only 1.2%, a hearing for Truth in Taxation purposes was not required.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the 2011 Levy Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Appointment of Superintendent – 2012-2013 –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board of Education has concluded the search for the superintendent's position to be employed July 1, 2012, for the fiscal year beginning on that date. The Board of Education has conducted interviews as well as reviewing information about each of the candidates. With that review, the Board of Education is prepared to appoint the selected candidate.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Lindsey Hall as the superintendent for Morton CUSD 709 beginning July 1, 2012, for the contract period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Neeley expressed satisfaction with the process of selecting Dr. Hall. He noted there were over 30 applicants and that 5 were interviewed. The community and staff were surveyed for their views prior to the search beginning.

Dr. Hall expressed her appreciation to the Board for their confidence in her abilities. She is eagerly anticipating starting her new position in July.

Discussion Items –

Board Personnel Policies Compliance Report -

Mr. Neeley reported that as part of the policy compliance monitoring practice, a review of the Personnel policies was conducted. After review, it is the Superintendent's opinion that these policies are being followed and that the District is in compliance with those policies. Mr. Neeley will sign the policy compliance form and place it in the master compliance file in the district office.

2011 Audit Report –

Ms. Helen Barrick of Clifton Gunderson reported to the Board of Education on the 2010-2011 audit of the District's financial books. She reviewed the education fund and indicated the district received a "clean opinion," which is the best opinion given. Ms. Barrick congratulated the district for taking steps in all funds to adjust for lack of funding. The district has done an excellent job with finances in very difficult financial times.

Mr. Neeley thanked Ms. Barrick for the report. The financial state of the district is a tribute to Dr. Kilpatrick, Mrs. Getz, Administrators and staff.

2012-2013 School Calendar –

Mr. Smock reported that the calendar committee met recently to discuss the school year calendar for 2012-2013 and is awaiting feedback from administrators and staff. The proposed calendar adds a few days to the first semester to move closer to evening out the days in each semester. He noted that high school finals are again scheduled to take place prior to Christmas break. The calendar will be brought to the board in January for approval.

Community Engagement Process –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted his appreciation for the work done so far by Unicom Arc on the community engagement process. After the board selects a community engagement consultant, more detail can be added in terms of actual tasks and timelines. Strategic planning may be added along with the engagement process. Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the community engagement process becomes important when looking at the long-term plan. Approval of the community engagement consultant will be brought to the

board in January.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve 2011 School Library Grant Application
- Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
- Approve October Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 11-18-11	Bills 12-2-11	Payroll 11-25-11
Ed. Fund	\$93,219.87	\$130,429.52	\$392,299.22
Bldg. Fund	46,658.77	41,585.07	29,934.55
Trans.Fund	7,332.92	22,282.49	12,149.12
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	380,134.66
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Kaeb, 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.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:45 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

