

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JUNE 5, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 5, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDED BUDGET

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Thomas Neeley called the public hearing to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the purpose of the hearing is to amend the original budget to incorporate the anticipated progress completion on the classroom addition project.

There were no questions from the audience. Mr. Neeley declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

The Board of Education recognized Dr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Dennis Johnson for their years of service to the school district. Each will be retiring effective June 30. A short reception was held.

Audience Presentations - Chris Martin, 1031 Johnson St., addressed the Board concerning the 2nd grade alternative program this past year. He is not in favor of continuing the program and gave several reasons for his position. Andy and Andrea Knepp, 514 N. Ohio St., Amy Jo Neeley, 40 Shiloh, Cara Knepp, 741 Fillmore, and Lou Davila, 1215 Weatherspoon Dr., each addressed the Board in favor of continuing the alternative program in 3rd grade for the next school year.

Mr. Neeley thanked everyone for sharing their points of view and noted that the Board was not taking any action on the subject at this meeting.

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted there were many activities that took place in May at all of the buildings. It was a great conclusion to a great year.

District Office Summer Hours –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the summer hours for the district office will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Drug Testing Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there were a total of 323 random drug tests at the high school this past school year. Of these, two tested positive for marijuana. After January 1, testing was started periodically for K-2 and Bath Salts. He also reported that the high school hosted a community forum on K-2/Spice and Bath Salts. Approximately 150 students and parents from Morton and the surrounding community attended the forum.

The testing will be administered next year by a nurse assistant contracted through Methodist Hospital instead of Tazwood Services.

Dr. Kilpatrick concluded that there are areas to work on, but the program in place helps in curtailing substance use.

Dress Code Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on the dress code violation summary provided by the high school administration. Of the 34 offenses this past school year, 24 of them were holes in student's pants and the length of shorts, skirts and dresses. Until the fashion trends change, these will continue to be the main violations of the dress code. The administration strives to ensure consistent and effective enforcement by making sure the entire staff understands the expectations and reports violations.

External Counseling Programs Report –

Mr. Walt Nunnally of Illini Family Counseling reported to the board on the early intervention counseling he provided at the high school this past school year. Besides providing the numbers of student contacts, he gave a few examples of the types of issues some of our students are dealing with. He commended the administration and staff at Morton High School and noted his appreciation for the opportunity to be available for our students.

Lincoln 2nd Grade Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the background of the alternative 2nd grade program at Lincoln school that was implemented this past school year. He explained that due to a larger than usual

percentage of the 2nd grade students being at the upper ranges academically in both math and reading, the District implemented the alternative to have a certain number of students move to a different class for math and for reading to receive differentiated instruction. The students that traveled to each of these classes could be different based on their spring 2011 MAP scores in each subject. The purpose was to provide a high level experience for all students and learn the advantages and disadvantages of this approach using the existing resources. The ultimate goal was to learn if the program was successful and if so, ways that a differentiated program could be introduced at other grade levels or at the other schools.

During the spring of the 2011-2012 school year, interviews were conducted with the teachers and principal to gauge what they believed were the strengths and weaknesses of the program, what they learned and what some suggestions might be for future thought. All students were held to high standards and there was no reduction in expectations in any class. Travelling created some issues including a degree of interruption and lost time; modifying materials took a large amount of time and effort; and scheduling of the support services such as teacher aides became difficult. On the positive side, there was a general belief that some students in the non-alternative class group were more comfortable asking questions and being involved in discussions due to a feeling of not being judged by other students. In addition, the staff felt the curriculum could be delivered at a more intense level and additional time could be spent with students. Because of this the students had excellent results not only in terms of growth, but in terms of a better understanding of the material.

Dr. Kilpatrick shared the academic trends for the participating students. The non-alternative class on average met their growth targets in math at approximately the same rate as all other students in the other elementary schools (79.2% vs. 80%). The alternative class students on average met their growth targets at a somewhat lower rate than students in a similar range at the other elementary schools (61.5% vs. 81.3%). When the students in the upper range of the alternative class students are removed from that average and from the other schools as well, the difference narrows (76.5% vs. 82.1%). Non alternative class students in reading met their growth targets at approximately the same rate as all other students in the other elementary schools (78% vs. 80%). The alternative class students again on average met their growth targets at a somewhat lower rate than students in a similar range at the other elementary schools (60% vs. 78.2%). The same pattern with students in the upper level of the range did not exist in reading as it did in math.

Dr. Kilpatrick's recommendations are to move away from the structured alternative class approach and use a team of outside resources coupled with staff members from across the elementary schools to explore alternatives that could include either a project-based approach to differentiation for these students, an intervention based approach, or some combination of those concepts. He recommended beginning soon, as gathering people, designing alternatives and creating a solid program for implementation takes time.

Board members agreed to move forward and take steps to explore Dr. Kilpatrick's recommendation.

Dr. Kilpatrick commended the 2nd grade staff at Lincoln School for working hard this past year to provide the alternatives.

Legislative Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick updated the Board on current legislation either upcoming or already passed. He noted the legislature approved a \$200,000,000 reduction in education funding. The

Action Items –

Approve Dual Credit Textbooks –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration is recommending the purchase of *Joining the Conversation-Writing in College and Beyond*, by Bedford/St. Martin's Palmquist and *The Little Penguin Handbook* by Pearson-Faigley for the Expository Writing dual credit course. Also recommended is *Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business* by McGraw-Hill-Irwin for the Business Law dual credit course. ICC requires that the district purchase these textbooks for the dual credit courses.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve purchase of the dual credit textbooks for a total cost of \$7,026.50.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Application for Renewal of Waiver of Elementary PE –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that a public hearing was held on May 31 for an elementary physical education waiver. The current four year waiver will expire in the spring of 2013 and a new application must be made to receive another waiver allowing the district to hold elementary physical education two times per week as opposed to daily as required by the School Code. The new waiver will expire in 2015. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that under current law, this will be the last waiver the district can apply for.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the application for waiver of daily elementary physical education.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2011-12 Amended Budget –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the tentative amended budget has been provided for review. The budget has been on display for more than 30 days and a public hearing as required by the Illinois School Code was held earlier this evening. Since the time of the approval of the tentative amended budget, there have been no changes. The original budget is being amended to incorporate the anticipated progress completion on the classroom addition project. The administration recommends that the final amended budget be approved.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the 2011-12 school district amended budget.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bids for Transportation Vehicle –

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the district received 2 bids to purchase a new 29 passenger bus. One of the bids did not meet the bid specifications. The administration is recommending that the Board of Education accept the bid from Midwest Bus Sales including trade-in for \$56,000 for the 29 passenger bus.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education accept the bid of Midwest Bus Sales for one 29 passenger bus.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of Used Transportation Vehicle –

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the district is currently leasing an 84-passenger bus due to an accident last November that sent one of our buses in for repairs until June. Since the district is budgeted to purchase a new 84-passenger bus in 2012, the administration has negotiated with Midwest Bus Sales to purchase, as a used vehicle, the currently leased bus. We will be trading in a 1999 – 78-passenger bus.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education purchase one 84-passenger bus from Midwest Bus Sales for \$97,686.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Appoint Brown School Principal –

The appointment of the Brown School Principal was removed from the personnel report for separate approval.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education appoint Faith Waterfield as Principal of Brown School for the 2012-2013 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 1

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Authorize Submission of General State Aid and Transportation Claims
- Approve Treasurers for 2012-13 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories

Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
 Approve Complaint Manager
 Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
 Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
 Approve Prevailing Wage Resolution
 Gift Acceptance Report
 Approve Auditor for 2012-2013 School Year
 Review Closed Session Minutes
 Approve BFPAC Rental Rates
 Approve 2012-2013 Salaries
 Approving and Signing Minutes of the May 22, 2012, Regular Meeting
 Approval of Bills and Payrolls

	Bills	Payroll
	6-1-12	5-25-12
Ed.Fund	\$149,274.89	\$396,252.36
Bldg.Fund	28,415.09	30,847.97
Trans.Fund	15,320.17	14,405.45
Payroll Accts Pay	--	387,918.01
Fire & Safety		--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, 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 10:00 p.m.

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

