

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**August 21, 2012**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 21, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Neeley expressed his gratitude for Teri Horner's years of service to District 709. She was loved by the staff and students of Brown School and across the District. In 2008, Teri received the Anne Roffel Reading Recovery Award and the Reading Recovery Teacher's Award of Excellence. She was a member of the International Reading Association and co-authored, "Looking at Print" and its supplement, which was published in 2000 by Kaeden Books. She then authored "My Big Sister" which was published in 2010 by Hameray Publishing. Teri made a difference in many lives and will long be remembered. The Board of Education and audience joined Mr. Neeley in a moment of silence in her memory.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request that has been fulfilled.

##### **709Connect Update –**

Co-Chair Kelly Scarfe thanked board members for attending the first meeting of 709Connect. She noted there were approximately 200 in attendance at the meeting. A summary of the meeting is available on the District website. Topics chosen for future meetings are finance, facilities and curriculum. At the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 30, Dr. Hall will present on "Bucks, Buildings and Books." Mrs. Scarfe noted that the September 20 meeting was changed to September 25 due to Homecoming festivities.

Mrs. Bernier noted how diversified the coordinating committee is and the good discussion they have had in planning the community meetings. She encouraged Board members to attend a coordinating meeting as their turn comes up.

**President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board self evaluation meeting has been re-scheduled to Thursday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Neeley noted he will be joining IASB in an interview of 91<sup>st</sup> District State Representative candidates Mike Unes and Jennifer Groves Allison on September 6.

**Discussion Items –**

**Board Process Policy Compliance -**

Mr. Neeley noted the section of Policy 2:140 that refers to a Student Ambassador attending board meetings. The Board agreed the policy should be revised to read that the Student Ambassador will attend three meetings per year for updates. Those meetings would be at the beginning of the school year, at the beginning of second semester and at the end of the school year. After the revision is made to the policy, Mr. Neeley will sign off that the Board Process policies are in compliance.

**Facilities/Construction Review –**

Dr. Hall gave an overview of the construction that took place at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln Schools. The total cost of the project came in at \$3.2 million, which includes the extended driveways added at Grundy and Lincoln Schools. She noted that Mark Graham, Construction Manager from CORE Construction was in attendance at tonight's meeting along with Jeff Keach, architect for the entire project and Rob Houchin, Assistant Regional Superintendent. Mr. Houchin supervised inspections of the building additions upon completion of the project.

Dr. Hall explained the construction project was subject to a high level of inspections, which took place throughout the process. The inspectors must be certified by ISBE and be approved by the State of Illinois. B & F Technical Codes Services were used for the inspections. A final report had to be signed by Mr. Neeley, Dr. Hall and Regional Superintendent Gail Owen prior to a certificate of occupancy being issued by Mr. Houchin.

Mr. Graham assured board members that he was on site daily overseeing construction and making sure specifications were being followed.

Mr. Neeley expressed his appreciation for the work and that the rooms were ready for use on the first day of school.

Dr. Hall reported that the replacement of the window lintels on the west side of Jefferson School is complete. There was significant structural work done to replace iron lintels with galvanized steel. She thanked the Jefferson staff for their patience in being able to get their rooms together for the start of school.

**Overview of Administrative Evaluations –**

Dr. Hall explained PERA – Performance Evaluation Reform Act signed into law by Governor Quinn that takes effect this school year. The law brings major changes to both teacher and principal evaluations. By October 1 a collaborative goal setting meeting will be held between she and each principal. Throughout the year, observations will take place with a minimum of two formal observations. By February 1, principals will complete a self assessment and by March 1, the evaluator completes a written summative evaluation and a conference will be held.

The final rating is determined by student growth (25-50%) and professional practice (50-75%). Administrators decided that since this is a new process, 25% will be used for student growth for two years and then raised to 30%. The measure for student growth is yet to be determined, but could include MAP scores. It was pointed out that ISAT testing would not be completed by the March 1 deadline. Formal observations could include staff meetings, an evaluation between principal and teacher or any time a principal is exhibiting leadership.

Dr. Hall noted that the administrators took part in mandatory training over the summer for teaching evaluation training, as well as principal evaluation training for Dr. Hall, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Hoffman.

**Action Items -****Approve Curriculum Loft -**

At the August 7, 2012, Board of Education meeting, Administration presented information on Curriculum Loft. Dr. Teater reviewed that he and other staff have researched one-to-one devices for a year and a half. He visited with teachers last year about the use of such technology and had an inservice to introduce Curriculum Loft and gage if there was any interest.

Mr. Heinold expressed the need to be transparent as to how many tablets are being purchased at this time.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the implementation of Curriculum Loft district wide at the cost of \$16,000, which includes maintenance and licensing for the first year and \$3,200 in the second year for licensing; and, coordinate Curriculum Loft with the purchase of 100 Kunos tablets at \$500 per tablet in 4-6 selected classrooms across the district, with the goal of seeing how 1-to-1 devices work practically.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

Approving and Signing Minutes of the August 7, 2012, Regular Meeting  
 Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 8-10-12</b>	<b>Payroll 8-17-12</b>
Ed. Fund	\$197,622.88	\$336,652.00
Bldg. Fund	96,262.47	48,910.93
Trans.Fund	10,625.63	4,870.15
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	289,648.08

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mr. Taylor, 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.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaeb, 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 8:45 p.m.

**Approve Personnel Report –**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Closed Session Minutes –**

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the August 7, 2012, regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Administrative Reports –**

Dr. Hall reported that:

- there will be a meeting with Representative Keith Sommer on Monday, August 27, and a meeting with Senator Bill Brady on Wednesday, September 5. Agendas will be posted.
- she will be attending staff meetings next week at all of the buildings. The Board representative of each building is encouraged to attend with her.
- Mrs. Waterfield has been exceptional in dealing with the death of Mrs. Horner at Brown School. Her background in social work has been helpful.

Mr. Neeley noted that this would be the year for board members to rotate building representation. Board members decided stay with the current building assignments this year and to change next year.

Mr. Neeley noted it has long been the practice to have a balanced budget, but that there is no policy requiring it. Board members agreed to continue with the current practice.

The board agreed with Mr. Neeley that there are problems with drugs and alcohol at the Jr. High level that need to be confronted.

Election packets will be available for pick up in September in time for the first day for circulation of petitions, which is September 25.

Mr. Neeley informed board members of the dates they are assigned to attend the pre-meetings and the 709Connect meetings, although all are invited to attend any meeting.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

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Thomas Neeley, President