

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 23, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 23, 2013, at Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

Reports –

Administrative Reports –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there were no Freedom of Information requests.

Special Education Update –

Ms. Ashby gave the annual Special Education profile based on the most recent data available from the state for the 2010-2011 school year. Student data was compared to our cooperative, Tazewell-Mason County Special Education Association (TMCSEA) and the State of Illinois. Data included:

- 15% of Morton students have an IEP
- 6.43% - Autism; 7.38% Dev. Delay; 4.76% - Emotional; 4.29% - Intellectual; 35% - Learning Dis.
- Meets or Exceeds on state testing data – 74.4% students with IEP's
- 90% of Morton students with IEP's are in general education settings for over 40% of their day

Ms. Ashby noted that:

- Morton has a very strong special education staff and programs
- Morton students with more intensive needs have strong life skill based programs and have strong peer support
- Proportionally, students receiving special education supports have more intensive needs than in the past (autism, intellectual, emotional)

Ms. Ashby explained that TMCSEA is decentralized, meaning districts within the cooperative can hire their own staff – it is locally controlled. IDEA dollars flow through the cooperative.

Mr. Applen complimented the special education staff on the great job that they do with the funding received from state and federal sources. He encouraged all to be aware and vocal to our legislators for fairer funding distribution throughout the state.

Dr. Hall and Mr. Neeley thanked Ms. Ashby for her presentation.

K-6 Articulation Update –

Ms. Grzanich gave an update on the elementary articulation of the common core standards that has been taking place this past school year. She reviewed the timeline for the new standards curriculum work:

- Spring 2012 – began work on Math
- Summer 2012 – Math K-12; Professional Development in June
- Fall 2012 – K-6 monthly articulation meetings for math began; ELA K-12 Professional Development in October
- January 2013 – ELA standards study began by committee
- August 2013 – ELA bi-monthly articulation meetings begin
- June 2014 – expected completion for Math and ELA curriculum studies

Ms. Grzanich explained that the focus of the articulation meetings is to discuss and break down what the standards really indicate for proficiency; discuss methods of instruction; and provide professional development. New math textbooks have been purchased for use beginning 2013-2014 and more informational text materials for ELA can be satisfied through existing resources with the addition of some student news magazines.

Ms. Grzanich complimented the teachers for embracing the new standards and also noted that there has been a great deal of communication with parents concerning the new standards.

Mr. Neeley thanked Ms. Grzanich for her presentation.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that plans are moving ahead for work on facilities this summer. She is recommending that work on the high school athletic complex be put on hold for this summer due to the work that is needed to move the buses to the new location. She stressed that the bleachers and press box will continue to be monitored for safety.

County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Results –

Dr. Hall reviewed the results of the sales tax referendum by precinct. She noted that the referendum passed in two Morton precincts. County wide, superintendents will have to discuss and decide whether to put it on the ballot in the future.

Mr. Taylor complimented Dr. Hall for her efforts to educate the community. He noted that there needs to be a county-wide effort to get the sales tax passed.

Dr. Hall thanked Mr. David King for information he sent her recently and agreed with Mr. Taylor that in order for the referendum to pass, there needs to be a more concerted county-wide effort.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley thanked Ms. Ashby for hosting the meeting earlier in the evening with the Special Education staff. It was encouraging to hear of all the ways teachers, social workers, speech therapists, occupational therapy assistants and psychologists use to ensure our students are the best they can be. He noted that a small percentage of monies are returned from state and federal funds and everyone needs to continue to advocate for our district to legislators. There are many good state and federal mandates, but most are unfunded.

Action Items -**Approve Discipline Handbooks -**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the changes for the elementary, jr. high and high school discipline handbooks for the 2013-2014 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Legal Agreements with the Village of Morton –

Dr. Hall noted that three of the agreements are being approved tonight. The agreement for lease of land for the Pumpkin Festival is on hold while working out some details. These agreements were brought to the Board at the April 16 meeting for discussion. The Village will bring the agreements before their Board for approval on May 6.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the legal agreements between the Village of Morton and Morton School District except for the agreement for the lease of land for the Pumpkin Festival.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Summer Maintenance Project Bids –

Dr. Hall explained that in order to complete the 2013 summer maintenance projects, the work had to be broken out into four different bid packages – asbestos, carpentry, masonry and fire alarm.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education accept the base bid 1, alternate bid 2 and base bid 2 from DEM Services for asbestos abatement for a total of \$32,275; that the Board of Education accept the base bid, alternate bid G1,

alternate bid L2, and alternate bid M1 from George H. Rump Construction for carpentry work for a total of \$329,200; that the Board of Education accept the base bid from Otto Baum Company for masonry work for \$310,950; that the Board of Education accept the base bid from Thompson Electronics for a fire alarm system for \$218,000.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-12-13	Bills 4-19-13	Payroll 4-12-13
Ed. Fund	\$4,801.56	\$195,527.99	\$367,594.76
Bldg. Fund	--	99,181.52	29,263.04
Trans. Fund	--	17,455.24	7,931.23
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	377,468.04
Fire & Safety	--	18,880.00	--

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Taylor, 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 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:20 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:55 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Kaeb, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President