

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**MAY 7, 2013**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 7, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

**REGULAR MEETING –**

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Members absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

**Action Items -**

**Canvass the 2013 Board of Election Results -**

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Bernier that the Board of Education declare Shaun Bill, Clint Heinold, Tom Neeley, and Kelly Scarfe elected to serve four-year terms on the Board of Education: further that the “Abstract of Votes” received from the County Clerk be accepted.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Seating of New Board Members –**

Mr. Neeley asked the newly elected Board members to affirm their duties as Board of Education members by repeating the Oath of Office.

Mr. Neeley acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Kaiser and Mrs. Kaeb for their service to the district as board members.

**Adjournment sine die -**

Mr. Neeley adjourned the meeting sine die at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

---

Thomas Neeley, President

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**MAY 7, 2013**

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 7, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING –**

President Thomas Neeley called the reorganizational meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Shaun Bill,  
Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Tim Taylor

Members absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

Mr. Neeley noted that Dr. Hall would serve as President pro tem until new officers are elected.

### **Organization of New Board –**

#### **Elect President –**

Dr. Hall asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Taylor nominated Mr. Clint Heinold to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Heinold was declared President by acclamation.

#### **Elect Vice President –**

Dr. Hall asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Neeley nominated Mr. Applen to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Bernier nominated Mr. Taylor to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Applen; there were two. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Taylor; there were four. Mr. Taylor was declared Vice President.

#### **Elect Secretary –**

Dr. Hall asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Taylor nominated Mrs. Bernier to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Bernier was declared Secretary by acclamation.

In the absence of Mr. Heinold, Mr. Taylor served as President for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –**

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2013-2014 year

the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

**Reports –**

**Administrative –**

Dr. Hall recognized Mrs. Sheila Taylor and Mr. Adam Eucker for their years of service to Morton School District. They have resigned their positions effective at the end of the school year to take administrative positions in other districts.

Dr. Hall reported that tonight's meeting is live streaming on the Internet on MP-TV/Play On Sports Network.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Green Team Update on Technology –**

Dr. Teater introduced the Green Team teachers including Jennifer Rabe, Caitlin Kelly, Ben Vandenberg and Brandon Parrott. He noted that they volunteered to pilot the KUNO devices starting 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of this school year. Each teacher reported how the KUNO devices were used in their classroom and some of the challenges they encountered. Uses included:

- Ability to bring in recent articles on subject matter at a quicker pace.
- More annotation of the text by scanning in texts for students to annotate on device.
- Mass emails about upcoming dates and assignments.
- Guided notes during lessons.
- Completed notes after the lesson.
- Worksheets displayed on KUNO.
- Practice websites.
- Use of Google Earth in Geography.
- Textbook enhanced with more up to date resources.
- Less paper usage by having assignments submitted online.
- Streaming audio.
- Improved writing scores because of more examples (Common Core).

Challenges included:

- Using device to replace rather than enhance.
- Durability of devices.
- Student responsibilities – forgetting to charge, save, bring to class.
- Teachers learning the devices alongside the students.
- Typing on tablet (lag time).

Dr. Teater noted that professional time will be allowed over the summer to better develop a one-to-one curriculum, which will enable using the devices more to their potential. Also, by starting the KUNO implementation at the beginning of the school year, students

will be more practiced in how to treat the device and what responsibilities they have with them. He reported that the company has redesigned the case and will be replacing damaged cases at no charge.

Mr. Neeley thanked the teachers for their presentation. Dr. Hall noted her appreciation for their willingness to take the risk of piloting the devices and making it a tremendous learning experience for students.

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

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

#### **Annual Life Safety Survey Report –**

Dr. Hall reported on the life safety projects scheduled to be completed this summer including:

- Grundy – door replacement
- Jefferson – east wall window lintels, east and west side window wells; replacement of fire alarm system and emergency lighting; masonry work on chimney.
- Lincoln – replacement of kitchen serving line roll up door.
- Jr. High – asbestos abatement and ceiling and floor tile replacement in band and chorus rooms; replacement of fire alarm system and emergency lighting; door replacement.
- High School – replacement of fire alarm system and emergency lighting.

The approximate total for life safety work is \$673,000 and the district is in the process of seeking bids.

#### **Crisis Management Plan Update –**

Dr. Teater reported the crisis team recently held their annual meeting to update the Crisis Plan. Also attending were the fire chief, school resource office and some first responders. He noted that three evacuation drills were held this spring for the high school and Lincoln School to Grace Church and Jefferson School to the MEAC. All students involved were exceptionally well behaved and the drills went smoothly. Areas for improvement were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Neeley acknowledged and thanked Grace Church for opening their facility to the school district for this purpose.

#### **Facilities Update –**

Dr. Hall reported that the Village Board had recently approved the inter-governmental agreement with the school district. Plans for the new bus facility will be presented at the next school board meeting. She noted that the agreement for use of Jefferson School grounds for Pumpkin Festival is being drawn up between the school district and the Morton Chamber of Commerce.

**President’s Report –**

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Neeley, Mr. Applen and Mrs. Kaiser for their service as officers for the school board this past year. He noted the many hours outside of board meetings they spent planning meetings and agendas.

Dr. Hall reported that she and Mr. Neeley recognized Ms. Grzanich earlier in the day for her community service work with the American Red Cross. She recently spent many hours outside of her work day assisting with flood relief victims.

Dr. Hall reported that Eli’s Coffee Shop is donating 10% of each day’s earnings to different areas of the Community Foundation funds. On Friday, Eli’s will be donating on behalf of the Morton 709 fund. Representative from the district will be at Eli’s all day Friday to greet patrons.

**Discussion Items –**

**2011-2012 Student Fees –**

Dr. Hall reported that the administration is recommending a slight increase in lunch prices for the 2013-2014 school year. Lunch prices will continue to increase each year not only due to food costs, but also due to the federal requirement that we close the gap in the difference between our lunch prices and the federal reimbursement rate for free/reduced lunches. The recommended increase is:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>2012-13 Price</u>	<u>2013-14 Price</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Elementary	\$2.05	\$2.10	2.5%
Junior High	\$2.15	\$2.20	2.3%
High School	\$2.25	\$2.30	2.2%
Adult & Visitor Lunch	\$2.60	\$2.65	1.9%

No fee increases are being recommended this year, but the administration would like to change the Junior High School textbook rental and supply fee to eliminate the difference between 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year the 7<sup>th</sup> grade fee was \$111.00 and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade fee was \$118.00. The recommendation for 2013-14 is to change this fee to \$115.00 for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The 2013-2014 fee changes will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 21, 2013, meeting.

**BF Performing Arts Center Fees –**

Dr. Hall reported that the administration is recommending that the cost of operating Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center and the rental rates be held at current amounts.

In past years the rates were increased in an effort to move the rental rates closer to the actual cost and the targeted rental recovery by category. Current estimates reflect that those adjustments now closely reflect our costs.

The Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center rates will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 21, 2013, meeting.

### **Bus Leases –**

Dr. Hall reported that the Administration is recommending the District lease buses this year in an effort to lower the average age of our vehicles and to lower maintenance costs. Presently the District owns 15 large buses (that range in age from 1 year to 15 years) and 15 small buses (that range in age from 1 year to 11 years). The average age of the large buses is 7 years and the average mileage of the large buses is 85,300 miles. The average age of the small buses is 6 years and the average mileage is 51,000. The annual bus maintenance costs are budgeted to be \$195,000 for this fiscal year. It is anticipated that by keeping the average age of our fleet newer, we can recover costs related to maintenance and fuel efficiency.

Bus pricing was obtained from Midwest Bus Sales and then lease quotes were obtained from three leasing companies to lease three 2014 84-passenger Thomas buses and two 2014 29-passenger Thomas Buses all using a 5-year lease term where the District would own the buses at the end of the lease. The following buses are being traded for the new vehicles:

- Bus 3 – 1998 – 161,085 miles
- Bus 10 – 1999 – 140,435 miles
- Bus 14 – 2000 – 140,435 miles
- Bus 15 – 2002 – 106,708 miles
- Bus 16 – 2002 – 104,647 miles

Following are the lease quotes received, net of trade in. These quotes are the annual lease cost to the District for five years.

- Midwest Bus Sales - \$96,242.14/year – 3.389% interest rate
- Midwest Leasing - \$94,130/year – 2.27% interest rate
- Commerce Bank - \$93,133.20/year – 1.72% interest rate

Dr. Hall noted this recommendation will be brought back for Board approval on May 21, 2013, as these bids are good until May 24, 2013. Dr. Hall thanked Mrs. Getz and Mrs. Weigle for their work on the proposal and Mr. Applen for initiating the idea.

### **Action Items –**

#### **Second Reading and Approval of Board policy 2:180 –**

Dr. Hall noted policy 2:180 was brought to the Board for discussion in October. A





May 7, 2013

8

Mr. Taylor asked Dr. Hall for a report on the last five years cash flow showing reserves.

Dr. Hall reported that Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Bernier will be speaking at the high school graduation on May 19.

Special meeting dates were set for board self evaluation facilitated by Mr. Dean Langdon of IASB for May 23 and for goal setting on June 20 also with Mr. Langdon.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:            Yea 6                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Michelle Bernier, Secretary

---

Tim Taylor, Vice President