

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 21, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 21, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Clint Heinold called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Due to Mr. Heinold's absence at the reorganizational meeting on May 7, 2013, Dr. Hall administered the Oath of Office to seat him as a re-elected member of the Board of Education.

Reports –

Administrative –

Dr. Hall made the following announcements:

- Master Potter Award will be given on Thursday, May 23, at 8:15 a.m. at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center. The Administrators will be serving breakfast to the staff beginning at 7:30 a.m. and board members are welcome to attend both events.
- The High School Math Team finished second at the state tournament – they were second only to the University of Chicago Laboratory School.
- The High School Girls' Track team won the Mid-Illini Conference meet; two relay teams qualified for the state meet.
- The Boys' Track team qualified a relay team for the state meet.
- The Boys' Tennis team won the Mid-Illini Conference; won sectional; qualified five individuals for state tournament.
- The Girls' Soccer team won their regional.
- The Girls' Softball team will be playing in the regional tournament tomorrow.
- IESA State Track meet recognition – Adam Baker – 2nd place – 100 and 200 meter dash; Tony Brown – 3rd place – high jump; many records broken this spring.

Dr. Hall spoke briefly about the hard lock down that took place earlier in the day at the high school due to a written bomb threat. A Morton High School student has been taken into custody. She commended the high school administration and staff, Morton Police Department and the high school students for the professional management of the situation. Dr. Hall also commended Janet Zehr and Barb Aberle for their professionalism in handling the phones during the lock down.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

Morton Community Foundation Grants –

Dr. Hall expressed the District's thanks to the Morton Community Foundation for the grants awarded this spring totaling \$10,050. A complete list of those receiving grants and the amounts can be found on the district website. Dr. Hall noted that she, Mr. Smock and Dr. Teater reviewed all of the school district grant submissions. Foundation Director, Scott Witzig, may possibly be holding some grant writing workshops for our staff in the upcoming year.

Mr. Heinold thanked the community members that make donations to the foundation making the grants possible.

Leadership Programs at Jefferson and Morton High Schools –

Ms. Grzanich reported on a new after school program at Jefferson School being planned for the upcoming school year. The program will focus on leadership and mentoring, careers and occupations, goal setting, service and project based learning, and social emotional learning. The mode of learning will be through technology, guest speakers, field trips and discussion. Students will learn about leadership from leaders in various career and job areas. The Morton Chamber of Commerce has agreed to aid in identifying business and community partners.

A grant was provided from the Morton Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,900 for the purchase of iPads which will allow students to do research and document their interviews, speakers, and trips.

Dr. Hall introduced Ms. Dina Emser, a leadership coach, who has extensive training and experience in the areas of leadership development, coaching and education. She explained the "Learn to Lead" or "L2L" program that will be implemented at Morton High School next year. The goal of L2L is to foster the growth of female leaders through identifying leadership strengths and styles, while also instilling confidence and discovery of talents. The book "Strengths Based Leadership" will be used as a guidance resource and the "Strengths Finder" leadership assessment tool will be utilized. The 90 minute sessions (5 times throughout the school year) will be facilitated by Ms. Emser. Approximately 24 students will be selected this summer to participate in the program after completing an application and interview process.

The program has been privately endowed by several member of the community through a grant from the Morton Community Foundation.

Technology Update –

Dr. Teater reviewed the vision statement for integrating technology into the educational system in the areas of telecommunication equipment and support for all communication tools; implementation of instructional technology throughout the district using research-based practices and the finest equipment; and implementing information technology to provide the most efficient and effective access to district data.

Areas that **telecommunication** equipment has been implemented:

- Constant Contact
- PowerCaller
- Android IOS PowerSchool Apps
- Website Review
- MyLunchAccount
- VoIP Phones
- Inform (Pearson database warehouse for comparison of test scores – MAP, ISAT, PLAN, etc.)

Areas that **instructional** technology will be implemented:

- 1 to 1
 - June 4th Strategic Planning Meeting
 - June 5th Beverly Manor School District Presentation
 - Increasing Wireless Density
 - Kuno – 2nd Year (Green Team at Jr. High will use again)
 - MyMath
- MJHS/MHS Hardware refresh (upgrading labs)

Areas that **information** technology will be implemented:

- Aesop – implementing next school year to track employee attendance
- ALIO Portal
- Inform

Dr. Hall noted she will likely be proposing a technology fee for students in the spring of 2014 for school year 2014-2015.

President's Report –

Mr. Heinold read the role of the school board from the publication “Board and Administrator” as a reminder as to what the function is of a school board member. He publicly thanked Mrs. Kaiser and Mrs. Kaeb for their service on the school board. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Neeley for his leadership as president.

Mr. Neeley reported on the CIRCLE legislative day in Springfield he attended with the Morton Chamber of Commerce. He spoke to legislators concerning pension reform and the impact of funding if the costs are shifted to school districts. Mr. Neeley also met recently

with the IASB leadership team concerning state mandates and their impact on school districts.

Mr. Heinold reminded the board of two upcoming committee of the whole meetings scheduled for May 23 and June 20. The May 23 meeting will be facilitated by an IASB field representative and will focus on “Starting Right” for a newly reorganized school board. The June 20 meeting will focus on goals, initiatives and priorities of the school board.

Mr. Heinold reviewed the committee and building assignments for board members:

- Mr. Heinold – Policy, HR; Morton High School
- Mr. Taylor – Facilities, Communication/PR; Jefferson School
- Mrs. Bernier – Finance, Policy; Brown School
- Mr. Appen – Transportation, Safety; Morton Jr. High School
- Mr. Neeley – Finance, Facilities; Grundy School
- Mrs. Scarfe – CAC, Communication/PR; Morton High School
- Mr. Bill – HR, Transportation; Lincoln School

Discussion Items –

Changes in Teacher Evaluation -

Dr. Hall and MEA President, Dr. Wellenreiter, reported that a committee of teachers and administrators met monthly during the past school year to formulate a new evaluation instrument to include all certified positions using the Charlotte Danielson model. Committee members included Steve Brenkman, Barb Blanco, Kim Johnson, Ashley Reinert, Gena Jones, Mary Mills, Craig Smock, Troy Teater, Michael Saunders, Josh Gschwend, Chris Carter, Dr. Hall and Dana Ashby. Dr. Wellenreiter noted that this issue was set aside during contract negotiations last year in order to be able to spend an adequate amount of time revising the instrument. The committee focused on uniformity. The instrument now includes all certified positions including teachers, psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists, counselors, librarians. Certified staff will be evaluated on all aspects of their job, not just work with students. Evaluations will include evidence-based decisions supported with documents for evaluation. Dr. Wellenreiter thanked the administration for the great collaboration between the MEA and administration that took place during the process.

Dr. Hall noted that the new evaluation instrument was necessary as a result of PERA (Performance Evaluation Reform Act) and Senate Bill 7. She reported that all administrators completed rigorous training during the summer of 2012 and will have more training in August on Domain 1 and Domain 4 of the Danielson model. Dr. Hall will introduce the evaluation instrument to the certified staff at the end of school year meeting on Thursday morning, May 23.

Mr. Heinold thanked the MEA and the administration for their work on this process and for maintaining their good relationship throughout.

Bus Facility Update –

Dr. Hall reported that work is ongoing on the design and layout for the relocated bus facility on Courtland Avenue. The next step will be to go out for bids. She emphasized that the costs outlined are estimates. Some board members expressed concern that the costs are too high and asked if there are areas that could be pared back. Architect Jeff Keach noted that safety was a consideration in the layout for bus parking and parking for the drivers' personal vehicles.

Mr. Heinold noted that operationally there needs to be a building at the facility for the employees and for storage of materials. He asked board members for consensus to continue work on the design in preparation to go out for bids. All board members agreed.

Action Items -

Approve Bus Lease -

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve leasing three 84 passenger and two 29 passenger buses for five years from Commerce Bank for \$93,133.20 per year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Heinold thanked Mr. Applen for his suggestion to research the possibility to lease buses.

Approve Pumpkin Festival Lease with Morton Chamber of Commerce –

Dr. Hall reported that this agreement was pulled from the inter-governmental agreement with the Village of Morton, as the Morton Chamber of Commerce is the administrator of the Pumpkin Festival that uses the Jefferson School grounds for the festival.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the Pumpkin Festival Lease with the Morton Chamber of Commerce.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Hall introduced Ms. Julie Albers, Mr. Kirk Edwards and Mr. Eric Lyons.

- Ms. Albers was hired at the May 7 meeting as principal of Lincoln School.
- Mr. Edwards is being recommended as the new assistant principal at Morton High School.

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Bill, 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 9:55 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bernier, Secretary

Clint Heinold, President