

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 21, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 21, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Audience Presentations –

Greg and Kim Lauer, 526 N. Pennsylvania Ave., - high school athletic facility – an artificial turf field would aid in cleaning costs of band uniforms. Also, asked that the band practice field not be moved farther away from the building, as it would take students more time to get to and from the field which would cut into practice time during the school day.

Rod Richards, 2 Akron Ct., - high school athletic facility – Morton schools do a great job preparing students for college, but families moving into the area also consider the condition of the athletic facilities when choosing where to live. More and more, families are choosing to live in surrounding communities, which erodes home values in Morton.

Bill Seidel, 636 Northern Oaks, Groveland, - high school athletic facility – District 709 does an excellent job educating students, but the athletic facility is sorely lacking. He worked for school district for 25 years retiring in 2005 and the bleachers and press box have been a life safety issue since in 1995. He encouraged the board members to do something now and not put off repairing these problems any longer.

Reports –

Administrative –

Recognition of National Merit Semi-Finalist Student –

High School Principal, Marjorie Johnson, reported that there is one National Merit Semi-Finalist student this year from MHS. Elizabeth Rhode is one of the top 16,000 students in the nation for her score received taking the PSAT test last fall. It was also noted that she scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test.

Recognition of MHS Golf Team and Individual State Champion –

MHS Golf Coach Jamie King was introduced. He commended the members of the MHS golf team for their successful season and especially their 1st place finish in the Class AA

State Tournament. Members of the team include Tommy Kuhl (Fr.), Isaac Ingold (Fr.), Adam Christianson (Soph.), Pete Kuhl (Jr.), Jack Zern (Jr.) and Trevor Tompkins (Sr.). Tommy Kuhl took top honors as the individual state champion. The team competed in 21 events throughout the season and earned 1st or 2nd place in 20 of those events.

Recognition of Principals' Day –

Dr. Hall reported that October 19 – 25 is National Principal Recognition Week with October 24 being Principal Appreciation Day in Illinois. She acknowledged the work of the principals and the administrators that work with them. She thanked the entire Leadership Team for the tremendous job they do. They are key to the success of the students and staff.

Report on October 13, 2014, Inservice Day –

Technology Integration Specialists Don Sturm and Lauri VanDerVoorn reported on the Inservice Day held on October 13 for the certified staff. Mr. Sturm noted that the purpose of the day was to focus less on specific technology, and more about how things can be done differently in the classroom. The day was divided into three parts – 1) student component – 5th and 6th grade, JH and HS students with staff held panel discussions; 2) teacher discussion groups; 3) and workshopping – open rooms for teachers to work hands-on throughout the day.

Dr. Hall emphasized that professional development is very important. She noted that Mr. Sturm and Mrs. VanDerVoorn offer daily technology support for the staff.

District Rising Star Plan –

Dr. Teater reported on the District Office objectives as part of the Rising Star school improvement plan. The focus will be on training the staff for data collection as there is a new version of the MAP test this year, and both the ASPIRE and PARCC tests are new this year.

Dr. Hall noted the board will hear Rising Star reports from three buildings in November and three buildings in December.

Board Reports –

President Bernier reported that the first of four 709Connect meetings is tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. at the MEAC. The Board is hoping for good feedback from the community.

President Bernier reported on the meeting held earlier in the evening with the Brown School staff. Grade level iPad demonstrations were given by teachers and students at stations set up in the gym. Hearing from the teachers in this way was very encouraging

and gave board members an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the teachers and get their feedback on the iPad initiative.

Mr. Heinold, Mr. Neeley and Mr. Bill recently attended a Common Core presentation that featured Dr. Sandra Stotsky as the speaker. She spoke about her time on the Common Core Validation Committee and why she is opposed to the Common Core State Standards. All three board members felt that academics must be separated from the political concerns of Common Core. The Board of Education must do what is right for the students and make sure local control over the curriculum is maintained. Morton students will continue to be held to high standards.

Discussion Item –

MHS Athletic Facilities –

Board members discussed two options for the orientation of the football field and track – east/west and north/south. Discussion also included costs, if the project should be done in phases, and whether to have a sod or artificial field. The Board reached consensus to have Farnsworth Group design plans for an east/west orientation with a turf field. Many different school and community groups can benefit from the use of an artificial surface throughout the school day and year. The design will include all areas of the renovation with the option to pull items after bids come in that could be added at a later time. The entire discussion can be viewed on MPTV starting at the 48:00 minute point of the broadcast.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the October 7, 2014, Regular Meeting and minutes of the October 7, 2014, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve 2013-2014 Auditor's Report
- Approve September Treasurer's Report

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

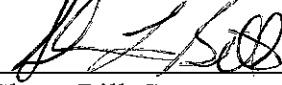
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

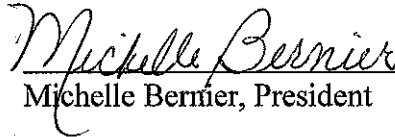
Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President