

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 13, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 13, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31 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

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that Mr. Scott Reeder requested:

- Provisions within the district's collective bargaining agreement providing for compensation (pay and or benefits) for union officials while performing union-related activities.
- The pay record of the employee(s) who receive this benefit.
He was directed to the district's website for the collective bargaining agreement and since District 709 does not have a provision to compensate union officials, there were no records to release.

Recognition of 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Team –

The 7th grade girls' basketball team was recognized by the Board of Education for being the IESA State Champions this year. Mr. Carter noted that this was Coach Swearingen's 13th season as the girls' basketball coach. Coach Swearingen praised the girls' for their hard work and determination. Mr. Carter and Coach Swearingen both acknowledged the parents for their support.

Recognition of Ryan Hale, MHS Student, Work on United Way Campaign –

The Board of Education recognized 11th grade student, Ryan Hale, for his campaign within the school district to increase giving to the United Way by the staff. Dr. Hall noted that Ryan approached her with the idea and personally collected prizes last summer for the fall campaign. She reported that contributions increased 100% over the last two years.

Ryan thanked all those that donated and thanked the principals for their help and support within their buildings. He also thanked Dr. Hall for mentoring him throughout the process.

Student Ambassadors Report –

Members of the MHS Student Council Executive Board Emily Pitzer and Ian Hopkins updated the Board of Education on recent activities. Emily reported on the “VING Project.” Teens 14-18 from across the country are invited to make a video and answer the VING question: *If you had \$1,000 to give to a person in need, who would you VING it to?* Every month, teens behind the most inspiring videos get to do just that: Be the giver of \$1,000 to a person in need and change their life. She noted that students at MHS are very excited to get involved in this project. Ian reported on the different ways Student Council raises funds for St. Jude throughout the year culminating in the summer during the St. Jude telethon.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that she is hoping to bring bids for the MHS athletic facility work to the March 3rd Board meeting for approval. Alternate venues are being sought for spring sports by the Jr. High and High School Athletic Directors.

Erin’s Law Training Update –

Dr. Smock reported that the Illinois State Legislature passed Erin’s Law in 2013. The law requires school districts to provide staff training for child sex abuse and assault awareness education. He noted that the staff has been trained and the curriculum will be taught this semester to students EC-12. It will be taught in the health classes at the Jr. High and in the PE classes at the high school by the counselors. Dr. Smock noted there will be education nights for parents of elementary students prior to presenting the material to the students. There will also be a letter sent to parents with information and giving the opportunity to opt out. Dr. Smock commended the committee members that met and planned the curriculum. By law, the curriculum must be taught annually.

Vision 20/20 Update -

Dr. Hall reported she has been representing our region along with others from across the state for the past year on Vision 20/20. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the initiative pointing out the priorities which are to recruit and retain highly effective educators; invest in policies proven to link all schools to 21st century learning tools; share accountability with the legislative process; and improve equity in the funding model. The Board of Education will be asked later in the meeting to approve a resolution supporting Vision 20/20.

Board Reports –

President Bernier reported that there will be a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 15, at the MEAC.

Discussion Item –

Board Compliance – Instruction Policies –

Dr. Hall reported there are some policies in this section that need to be updated due to changes in state tests. The policies will be brought to the board for a 1st reading at an upcoming meeting.

Board Goals Discussion – Achievement –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of achievement which states that in order to ensure all students have opportunities to achieve their potential, our academic programs will maintain the highest standards and expectations for learning. She reported that results have been received for the ASPIRE test that was given to 7th – 10th graders in the fall. This test replaced MAP, EXPLORE and PLAN. The scores include detailed feedback including ways for improvement, not just numbers. Practice tests are taking place this week for the upcoming PARCC test. The test will be given online, so students are being familiarized with the online tools. Dr. Hall reported that work continues on curriculum mapping by the staff. This brings consistency to curriculum throughout all grades. There was a discussion concerning activities students participate in that are not measured by tests including fine arts, clubs and community service.

Board of Education Code of Conduct –

President Bernier noted there are 12 points on the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members. One point per month will be reviewed beginning in January. The first one states: “I will represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.”

Action Items –

Approve Contract With Farnsworth for Softball Facility at Birchwood Park –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education table this item until the intergovernmental agreement is signed between the school district, park district and the MGSA. Dr. Hall noted that the agreement should be signed within the next three weeks.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Phonics Textbook –

The Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers have been reviewing phonics materials to supplement our current reading series. Through data being collected in Elementary RtI, some common trends in student data were noted in the area of phonics. A review of the scope and sequence in the first and second grade Storytown Basal series was done to analyze the alignment of the systematic, sequential development of phonics skills.

The Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers compared the district’s current series presentation of phonics to two additional publishers. The proposed materials would be used to supplement the current reading series, not to replace it. The recommendation and report was approved by the Curriculum Advisory Committee and Leadership team. The text was presented to the Board of Education at the December 2, 2014, meeting. It was placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. There was one comment thanking District 709 for allowing the public to review materials prior to adoption.

The recommended text is *Pearson (2012) Words Their Way – supplemental materials*.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the phonics textbook *Words Their Way* for a cost of \$6,000.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

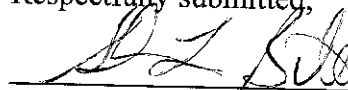
Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2014, Special Meeting; Minutes of the December 18, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meeting and the December 18, 2014, Committee of the Whole Closed Session Minutes; Minutes of the January 5, 2015, Special Meeting and the January 5, 2015, Closed Session Minutes; Minutes of the January 8, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting and the January 8, 2015, Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve November, 2014 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Overnight Trip for MHS Key Club
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

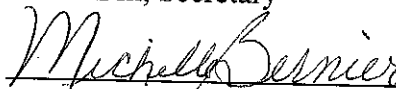
January 13, 2015

7

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President