

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 3, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 3, 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 6:33 p.m.

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

Member arriving at 6:41 p.m. – Mr. John Applen

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that two Freedom of Information requests have been received and are in the process of being fulfilled. She will report on them at the March 3 meeting.

Recognition of Greg Prichard, MHS Athletic Director –

MHS Principal, Marjorie Johnson, announced that Mr. Greg Prichard, MHS Athletic Director will be inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame. He has also been awarded the IWCOA Division Athletic Director of the Year and is now eligible for the State Athletic Director of the Year to be awarded in April. Mr. Prichard is retiring at the end of this school year after serving Morton High School as a Spanish teacher, wrestling coach and athletic director since 1987.

Recognition of Coach Matt Yarcho –

MJHS Athletic Director, Chris Carter, highlighted the career of Coach Matt Yarcho, who is retiring after 28 years as 7th grade boys' basketball coach. Highlights of his career as coach are:

- Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee
- 9 times Coach of the Year
- 26 winning seasons
- 18 regional championships

- 12 state appearances
- 8 state trophies
- 3 state championships
- 500th win this year with a final career record of 507 – 121

Game Ball Run Update –

Dr. Hall reported on Game Ball Run, the boys' varsity basketball fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Central Illinois. The miracle families from each building will be honored at the game on Friday evening along with the sponsors of the event. Also that evening, a check will be presented to representatives of the hospital. She thanked all of those who served on the committee this year.

MHS Summer School Offerings –

MHS Principal Marjorie Johnson gave a presentation to the Board of Education concerning a new opportunity for high school students to take additional courses during the school year. Given the limited number of opportunities students have to choose elective courses due to graduation requirements and a seven period day, Morton High School would like to provide a summer learning opportunity for students at each grade level. Summer courses would include Communication for 2015-16 Freshman, Speech for 2015-16 Sophomores and Consumer Education for 2015-16 Juniors and Seniors. Summer School is planned for May 27 – June 23 from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Tuition will be \$200, which will cover the majority of the cost. This opportunity will be communicated in numerous ways including the MHS Newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, MHS website main page, counseling page and the MHS daily announcements with a live link to registration. It will also be promoted at the Jr. High for incoming freshman.

ASPIRE Testing Results –

Dr. Teater reported on the results of the ASPIRE test that was given in October to 7th-10th Graders. ASPIRE replaced 7th grade MAP testing and 8th grade Explore/Plan test and was created by ACT to test English, Math, Science, Reading and Writing. The test is diagnostic in nature and each student gets a report with their ability and suggestions of skills for improvement. Dr. Teater compared Morton's results with national results. All grades and subjects were greater than the 60th percentile with Text Complexity and STEM (combination of math and science) needing improvement. Administrators are in the process of examining the results further to discern how best to assist those in need of improvement.

PARCC Update -

Dr. Hall reported the issues experienced during recent infrastructure testing for the PARCC assessment are being sorted out prior to the actual testing window that opens on

March 9. She explained that school districts across the state risk losing federal Title I funding if they choose not to administer the test. She noted that area Superintendents have together sent a letter to State Superintendent Chris Koch asserting their concerns that test administrator Pearson and the State will be ready to administer the test this spring. They also noted their concerns for school districts unable to administer the test online. They are awaiting a response from Dr. Koch.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reviewed the utilization assessment study completed by Cropper GIS. This study is an extension of the Capacity and Utilization study done in September 2014. The Planning Model is available for viewing on the District website.

Board Reports –

President Bernier reported that the policy committee met recently to review the policies that will have a first reading later in the meeting.

Discussion Item –

Board Compliance – Student Policies –

Dr. Hall reported she has reviewed the Student Policies and determined the district is in compliance with the exception of Policy 7:40. That policy is being revised and having its first reading later in the meeting. She and Mrs. Bernier will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goals Discussion – Facilities –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of facilities which is to “provide facilities conducive to student learning and growth, based on evolving needs, with the support of the community.” She reported that the Leadership Team has drafted statements as to the impact of each objective on our students.

Dr. Hall noted that the February 24th Board of Education meeting will include a long term facilities discussion.

1st Reading and Discussion of Policies 6:280, 6:300 and 7:40 –

Dr. Hall reported that the Policy Committee met recently and reviewed revisions to policies 6:280, 6:300 and 7:40. Policies 6:280 and 6:300 reflect the most recent legal updates in policies regarding state assessments in public schools. The revision of policy 7:40 reflects the elimination of class rank at Morton High School. These policies will be brought to the board for final approval at the March 3 meeting.

Board of Education Code of Conduct –

President Bernier noted there are 12 points on the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members. The second point will be reviewed this month. It states: “I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.”

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve December, 2014 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2015, Regular Meeting; and the January 20, 2015, Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 1-23-15	Bills 1-30-15	Payroll 1-30-15
Ed. Fund	\$96,925.59	\$24,205.41	\$466,768.32
Bldg. Fund	103,546.11	147,624.78	38,675.75
Trans. Fund	6062.09	218.82	13,590.93
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	232,389.25
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:17 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Scarfe, 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 9:17 p.m.

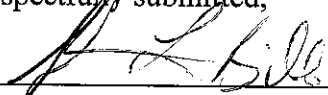
Adjournment -

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

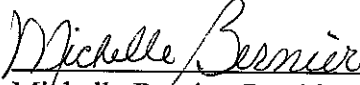
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President