

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

AUGUST 4, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 4, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Audience Presentations –

Linda Menold of Morton addressed the Board of Education concerning the budget. She asked the Board to “step back” and look at what is “wanted” and what is “needed.” She is concerned at the possibility of adding debt without voter approval.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that Morgan Polikoff requested copies of public records that detail all adopted mathematics and science textbooks currently used in the Morton School District. Information is currently being gathered and will be posted to the district’s website.

Administrator Welcome–

President Bernier welcomed the administrators back for the 2015-2016 school year. She noted the New Teacher Dinner was held earlier in the evening and the administrators introduced their new staff to the Board. Dr. Hall thanked the Board of Education for continuing to support the dinner.

Morton Pumpkin Festival– Volunteers –

Dr. Hall reminded Board members of the District’s time slot to volunteer at the Pumpkin Grille during the upcoming Pumpkin Festival. They and Administrators will be volunteering on Thursday, September 17, from 4:15 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilities Update – Farnsworth Group -

Mr. Bruce Brown of Farnsworth Group gave an update on the MHS athletic facility renovations. He reported that the addition of lime to the soil (needed due to the amount of

rain in June and July) has paid off. The project is now on schedule. The football field and bleachers will be completed by the end of August in time for the first home football game. All other renovations will be completed soon after.

Financing Presentation – Stifel Nicholas/PMA –

Anne Noble and Tammie Beckwith from Stifel, Nicholas and PMA Securities respectively, gave a report to the Board on different financing options using the issuance of bonds. Areas covered included:

- Bonds 101 – the definition and types of bonds available
- Borrowing scenarios
- Method of sale/financing roles
- Costs of issuance
- Financing timetable

The entire presentation is available on MPTV online streaming.

Driver Education Vehicle Update –

Dr. Hall explained that the district will now be purchasing driver education vehicles instead of leasing. Neither the auto company nor the district insurer desire to lease driver education vehicles going forward. The district will be purchasing the two previously leased vehicles from Lighthouse Automotive.

President's Report –

Mrs. Scarfe reported on the meeting she recently attended for the IASB Resolutions Committee. She detailed the seven resolutions brought before the committee and noted they will be voted on at the Joint Conference in November.

President Bernier reported there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting preceding the regular Board of Education meeting on August 18. The topic will be Facilities/Finance.

Discussion Items –

Review Task Board for Upcoming Year –

Dr. Hall noted there have been a few minor revisions made to the Task Board. In trying to find the best time to give an overview of the State of the District, she suggested the second meeting in September.

Board Process Policy Compliance –

Dr. Hall reported that all sections of the Board Process Policies are being met and the board is in compliance. She and Mrs. Bernier will sign off in the Board Compliance binder.

Code of Conduct Review #7 –

President Bernier noted there are 12 points on the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members. The seventh point was reviewed this month. It states: "I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in school board meetings."

Facilities Update: Urgent Needs–

Dr. Hall reported that administrators from the Jr. High and High School have met with Mr. Keach and have compiled a list of urgent needs for their buildings. It was noted that the needs on their list are those that will most affect students at this time. A more in depth discussion will take place at a Committee of the Whole meeting that will be scheduled prior to the August 18th regular board meeting.

Dr. Hall shared the up-to-date enrollment numbers. As of August 4 the total enrollment stands at 2,943 with Kindergarten at 1,596. All number have increased from last year at this time, but Dr. Hall cautioned that enrollment numbers change daily at this time of year. The official enrollment will be taken on the 6th day of school.

Action Items –**Approve Tentative 2015-2016 Budget and Schedule Public Hearing–**

The District Administration has prepared the Tentative Budget for 2015-2016 and reviewed the budget with the Board of Education on July 7, 2015. There have been several changes to the Tentative Budget since July 7th as follows:

- General State Aid was increased by \$100,000 after estimating the amount of aid using the State calculation formula
- The Girls softball field cost was increased by \$150,000
- The cost of adding lime to the High School Athletic complex was added at \$73,000
- Design fees were increased by \$396,000 as a result of the Keach Architectural Design agreement for additions to three elementary school buildings
- The driver education cars will be purchased instead of rented for an increased cost of \$20,700
- Appraisal expenditures were budgeted for \$10,000
- The budget for a small bus in the Transportation Fund was increased by \$5,000

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Tentative Budget, place it on display for thirty days, and schedule a budget hearing for September 22, 2015, at 7:15 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Admission of Non-Resident Student Per Board Policy 7:60 –

Per Board Policy 7:60 (page 2), the Board of Education can approve a request for a non-resident student to attend the Morton Schools and pay tuition. It is the recommendation of the superintendent to approve the request that the Board of Education has received, per the guidelines and parameters outlined in this policy.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the non-resident student per Board Policy 7:60.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Admission of Non-Resident Student Per Board Policy 7:60-2nd Yr. Request

Dr. Hall reported that the Delavan Unit School District's Special Education Coordinator requested that Morton CUSD 709 consider accepting a tuition student for our high school life skills program for the 2014-15 school year. Delavan does not have enough population to operate their own life skills program. The Board approved this and the student attended MHS last school year. The recommended tuition rate is based on the per pupil cost to operate the life skills program during the 2013-14 school year, as reported to ISBE through program cost centers and personnel reporting. Tuition cost to Delavan Unit School District is recommended at \$12,960.00/year.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mrs. Scarfe that the Board of Education approve the admission of a Delavan High School student with special needs into Morton High School for the 2015-2016 school year at a tuition rate of \$12,960.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

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Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President