

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

DECEMBER 8, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 8, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

LEVY HEARING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Levy Hearing to order at 6:46 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

Mrs. Bernier declared the Hearing open for the purpose of public comment and/or questions concerning the 2015-2016 Levy.

There were no questions or comments from the Board members or the audience.

Mrs. Bernier declared the public hearing closed at 6:47 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:47 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 Presentation – Mrs. April Kern of Morton urged Board members to proceed ahead with the urgent needs. She specifically spoke to the crowded conditions in the band room at the high school.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that one request has been received and the response is posted on the District website. Mr. Steven Krakosky requested the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2015.

RtI update –

Jill Lyons, Katie Miller and Katharine Zwolinski reviewed RtI goals and interventions that have been implemented at the elementary and secondary levels. Reading has been the focus at the elementary level until last school year when a focus on Math was also started. At the Jr. High the focus is on Math, but there are Reading interventions as well. MASSA (Morton's After School Study Association) is used at the high school. They explained the referral process and data showing number of students in RtI at some level. The archived presentation can be viewed on MP-TV at the 7:10 point.

PE Update –

Elementary PE teacher, Jayne Eisenmann, reported that all-day PE is very popular with the students and beneficial, as well, but she noted that inadequate facilities are hindering the students from fully engaging in PE five days per week. She noted the benefits included:

- PE teacher's relationship/connection with students more meaningful
- More time to incorporate new activities
- More continuity with lessons
- More time to teach about lifetime fitness benefits
- Less student discipline issues
- Classroom teachers response is very positive
- Students are more focused in the classroom after structured exercise

Adequate facilities to properly implement daily PE are not available at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln:

1. Grundy:

- Utilizing a classroom for multiple PE classes/shared with math enrichment
- Classroom still has copier, printer, teacher desk, large storage cabinets, refrigerator, tables, etc.
- Some classes only get to be in the gym twice a week
- Gym is small (when combining classes, 60 6th graders is a lot in that space)

2. Lincoln:

- Utilizing a large classroom for many sections of PE
- Some classes only get to be in the gym once per week
- 31 5th graders is a lot of bodies moving in a classroom
- Activities become repetitive
- Used pedometers to see difference in steps taken in gym vs. classroom (average in gym over 900, in classroom 390)

3. Lettie Brown

- Utilizing the music room for several sections of PE
- Classroom still has student chairs, piano, music equipment, etc.
- Some classes only get to be in the gym twice per week

4. Jefferson

- Utilizing the gym and when necessary the cafeteria

Student Growth Design Team Update--

Dr. Smock reported on the status of the teacher evaluation process being formulated since Senate Bill 7 was passed. The PERA (Performance Evaluation Reform Act) Joint Committee, convened on November 16, 2015 in order to consider and approve the recommendations of the Student Growth Design Team (SGDT). The SGDT was an informal committee that met monthly beginning the fall of 2014 to discuss the advent of the student growth component to teacher evaluations that is required in the fall of 2016. Both PERA and SGDT consist of the same people with equal representation of teachers and administrators.

According to law, the PERA Committee has only 180 days from the time it first convenes to completely determine the process and procedures for utilizing student growth as a component for teacher evaluations. Since that is a relatively short period of time, the informal SGDT was formed last year to do much of this investigation, research, and discussion ahead of the onset of the formal committee this year.

Possible Changes to the Evaluation Plan from the PERA Joint Committee:

- The student growth portion of the evaluation will comprise 30% of a teacher's overall summative rating. This is the minimum. The professional practice part of the evaluation, which is based on classroom observations and other data surrounding planning and professionalism, will be 70%.
- The student growth rating will be determined by the results from two different assessments of student growth for each teacher. The teachers, with approval from the evaluator, will create the assessments and determine growth expectations for each student.
- The evaluation cycle for most tenured teachers will consist of a two-year period. The first year, the student growth rating will be determined. The second year, the professional practice rating will be determined and calculated with the student growth rating to determine the teacher's overall summative rating. So, there will no longer be an "off year" for teacher evaluations.
- Non-tenured teachers must have both student growth and professional practice ratings in the same year. Some teachers who are not "classroom teachers," (speech, librarian, social workers, etc.) are exempt from the student growth component for their evaluations.

The same people are on the RIF (Reduction-in-Force) Joint Committee. The RIF Committee meets annually to review, and possibly reconsider, the district criteria that determine the teacher RIF List, or Honorable Dismissal List. This list would be used to determine the order of honorable teacher dismissal in the event of a reduction in the teaching force. The order of dismissal is determined by a combination of each teacher's evaluation rating and seniority within the job category being reduced.

The RIF committee convened on November 16, 2015 to review the past criteria and plans to approve the criteria at the next meeting on December 14th, 2015. The types of criteria include the manner in which job categories are defined or determined and whether or not to alter aspects of the evaluation rating system and teacher grouping system that was proposed by the state.

After the work of the PERA Joint Committee is completed, The Evaluation Committee (same group) will work to blend the language into the professional practice part of the evaluation instrument and consider any other necessary changes in the language of the evaluation document. The committee will work to create one document that meets all of the required criteria for teacher evaluation. This document should be ready by spring and will be provided to the board at that time.

There will be professional development provided to the teachers starting in the spring to familiarize them to the changes.

Dr. Hall commended Dr. Smock and Dr. Wellenreiter for leading the committee in making the Student Growth factor a meaningful process.

State School Report Card -

Dr. Teater demonstrated the Illinois School Report Card that is accessible through the District website by clicking on "About Us" then "District Report Card." He noted that PARCC scores will be available on the site on December 11, 2015. Individual student scores will be sent home to parents on December 18, 2015.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported:

- The Policy Committee met recently and reviewed updates from PRESS, the policy service provided through the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). There will be some minor revisions brought to the board in the near future.
- Several board members attended the recent Central IL Valley Division Governing meeting.
- Board members will review the Annual Conference at the December 15th meeting.
- Mr. Neeley was elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors of IASB at the Annual Conference.

Discussion Items –

Board Compliance – Personnel Policies –

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the personnel policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Bernier will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goal Discussion – Climate –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of Climate – *Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates/fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.*

Dr. Hall noted the District has a great staff. She has been holding “Coffee and Conversation” periodically at each building to hear from the staff in an informal setting. There are many good things going on pertaining to student learning/achievement. There are continuing efforts to promote wellness among the staff. The board continues to find ways to engage and communicate to the community and have conducted themselves in a civil and respectful manner with each other in facility discussions over the last six months.

Code of Conduct #11 –

President Bernier reviewed the 11th point in the Code of Conduct for school board members – *“I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow board members to do the same.”* Board members attending the annual conference and taking advantage of professional development opportunities is a good example.

Action Items –

Approve 2015-2016 Levy Resolution -

Dr. Hall reported she has reviewed the Fund Balances and the expected needs for the next year based on the proposed FY 17 tentative budget presented previously to the Board of Education. The expenses for this levy were calculated based on projections. A public hearing was held earlier in the meeting. After passage, documents will be filed with the Tazewell County Clerk.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the 2015 Levy Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution to Rescind Resolution to Issue Working Cash Bonds –

Dr. Hall reported that on October 6, 2015, the Board of Education passed a resolution to start the process of issuing \$2.35 million in working cash bonds to assist with the financing of the identified urgent facilities needs. Since that time, a petition to force a “back door referendum”, followed by a formal objection to the petition, has been filed with the Tazewell County Electoral Board. The Board of Education does not wish to place the working cash bonds on the ballot in March of 2016, thus this resolution is necessary to rescind the original resolution passed in October of 2015.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education vote to approve the resolution to rescind the original resolution passed on October 6, 2015, to issue \$2.35 million in working cash bonds.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve October Treasurer’s Report
- Approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2015, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes of the November 17, 2015, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 11-20-15	Bills 11-24-15	Bills 12-4-15	Payroll 11-27-15
Ed. Fund	\$32,011.27	\$30,483.99	\$219,363.89	\$458,577.68
Bldg. Fund	\$86,178.05	\$567.82	\$78,617	\$34,842.26
Trans. Fund	\$13,951.07	\$3,916.35	\$1,946.06	\$12,755.86
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	\$425,496.51
Tort Fund	--	\$300.00	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, 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

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Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 8:40 p.m.

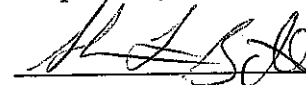
Adjournment -

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

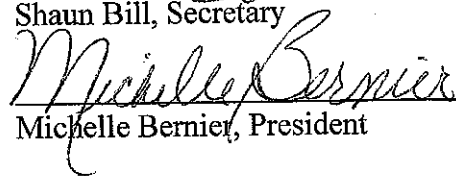
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President