

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

November 7, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 7, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tom Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hill noted there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Recognition of National Merit Scholar Student –

High School Principal, Michael Gourley, reported that there is one National Merit Commended student this year. Bryan Himmel scored in the top 34,000 students in the nation that took the PSAT last year.

Recognition of Tommy Kuhl – Golf State Champion

MHS Golf Coach Jamie King introduced Class 2A State Golf champion, Tommy Kuhl. Coach King listed his many accomplishments over his 4-year career at MHS including state champion his Freshman year as well as senior year; 4 years all conference; 3 years Journal Star Golfer of the Year; University of Illinois golf scholarship. Coach King noted Tommy plays with grace, humility and class – he cares more about his team than himself.

Mr. Neeley expressed the pride the board and school district have for him. He is a great role model on and off the course. Mr. Neeley noted Tommy's relationship with special needs students.

Recognition of MHS Marching Band – Class 2A State Champions -

MHS Band Director Jeff Neavor recognized the MHS Marching band and its list of accomplishments this fall including Class 2A State Champions at the ISU Invitational. The band made the finals at the Bands of America in Toledo, OH and St. Louis, MO. He noted

the compliments the band received at every competition for the students' polite behavior exhibiting "Pride in Performance" on and off the field.

Senior band members were at the meeting representing the band.

Recognition of Courtney Eddleman –

Dr. Teater recognized Courtney Eddleman and her student, Erin Klopfenstein, for teaching "Above the Line." This was demonstrated by the quality of creation expected from students in Mrs. Eddleman's Expository Writing class. A portion of a video created by Ms. Klopfenstein was shown.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley noted the Board will be meeting with the staff and hosting an Open House next week at Lettie Brown School. Due to a shortened agenda, the Board meeting will take place at Lettie Brown.

Mr. Schmidgall reviewed four of the resolutions being considered by the delegate assembly at the upcoming school board conference. He is our district's delegate to the assembly and sought the board's direction for the resolutions.

Mr. Neeley recognized the Boy Scouts in attendance at the meeting working on merit badges.

Discussion Item –

Board Compliance – Board/Superintendent Relations –

Dr. Hill reported that he has reviewed the Board/Superintendent Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. He and President Neeley will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goals Discussion – Facilities –

Mr. Neeley asked for discussion from Board members for thoughts on the facilities meeting held on November 2. Board members discussed the idea of a capital campaign that had been brought up at the facilities meeting. Dr. Beaty expressed that, though he would not turn down a benefactor, the board need not be pursuing outside funds. Mr. Austin, Dr. Cross and Mr. Schmidgall concurred, adding that the focus of the board at this time should be on maintaining our current buildings. Mr. Rinkenberger asked to table the idea of a capital campaign at this time noting if the board is not behind it, it will not work. Mrs. Bernier added she does not see a down side to seeking outside funding and the door should not be closed. Mr. Neeley noted his desire that the focus at this time be on student achievement. He agreed that now is not the time for a capital campaign.

Discussion continued on the 5-year plan and focusing on current needs throughout the district. Dr. Hill noted items listed on the 5-year plan are prioritized in the fall by working with building Principals, the Director of Facilities and the Chief Financial Officer. The work is then typically completed in the summer.

Board members agreed that solving space and maintenance issues at the Jr. High should be a priority. Mr. Neeley expressed his desire for a fresh set of eyes to look at the Jr. High.

Action Items –

Approve 2018-2019 Tentative Budget and 2017 Tentative Levy –

The administration has completed the initial tentative budget for the 2018-2019 school year and the tentative Levy for 2017. Details of that information were provided during the October 17 Board meeting. A public hearing will be held for the purposes of inviting public comment at the December 7, 2017, meeting. Final approval of the Levy resolution will be sought at that meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 proposed budget and 2017 tentative levy.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Tuition Student –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the MHS student’s tuition request to attend Morton High School for the 2017-2018 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve September Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the October 17, 2017, Regular Meeting and the October 17, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-20-17	Bills 10-27-17	Bills 11-3-17	Payroll 10-27-17
Ed. Fund	\$298,364.57	\$21,875.74	\$77,062.76	\$474,152.33
Bldg. Fund	102,307.53	--	21,802.90	32,673.32
Trans. Fund	15,009.25	783.17	4,840.42	13,191.23
Capital Projects	632,426.79	--	--	--
Tort	2,775.00	--	2,779.23	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	473,710.38

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Safety, Negotiations and Personnel per statute. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Bernier, 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 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

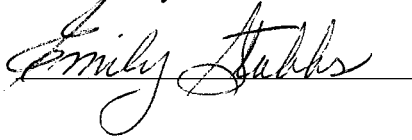
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

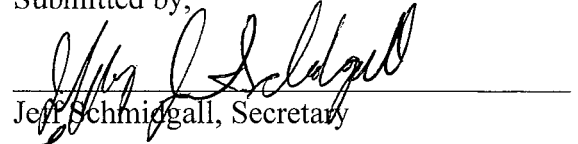
Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

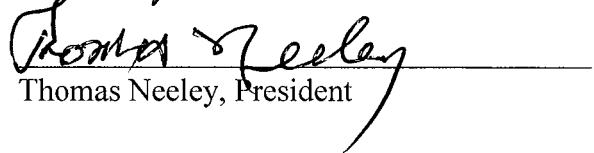
Recorded by:



Submitted by,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President