

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JULY 25, 2017

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 25, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

SPECIAL MEETING -

President Tom Neeley called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Action Item –

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Personnel Report be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Review District Goals and Discuss Future District/Superintendent Goals -

Following are the board members' suggestions of strategies and actions for the Board goals of Achievement, Facilities, Finance, Climate and Communication.

Board Goals 2017-2018

Achievement: In order to ensure all students have opportunities to achieve their potential, our academic programs will maintain the highest standards and expectations for learning. (Measurements that are a test score and measurements that are more than a test score)

Board members discussed what a measurable goal for "Achievement" would be. Suggestions for rewording this goal will be discussed at a future meeting.

Strategy

- Increase participation in vocational skills
- All day kindergarten across district
- Collaboration between teachers where appropriate

Actions

- Increase education opportunities in coding, computer science, sciences at higher level
- Find ways to increase student's ability to take classes.
- Increase dual credit and vocational programs

- PARCC testing....not taking will not be punitive
- Find the best way to monitor achievement
 - Struggling students, high achieving students
- Track technology how it is being used, how it has improved education and changed teacher instruction.
- Look for new ways to measure technology usefulness
- STEM course....articulation between high school and junior high
- Review and evaluate present curriculum, projection for curriculum needs and effectiveness of current programs

Other

- Too much testing
- Testing needs to yield benefits
- How to prepare children for the trades
- Students with disabilities should perform at the same level as all students
- Further co-ops or partnerships with schools, colleges, universities.
- Entrepreneur course at the high school
- Fresh look at what has been working with the curriculum and what hasn't
- Catch up on backlog of drivers education.
- Research regarding technology, benefits, measurements, concerns, use by grade level, total cost.

Facilities: Provide facilities conducive to student learning and growth, based on evolving needs, with the support of the community.

Strategy

- Provide safe/secure, well maintained space. Plan for years 1,2,5,10,20
- Facility work at MJHS
- Examine a 6-8 concept for middle school
- Definitive plan for facilities
- Remain flexible on space utilization between buildings and enrollment....ebbs and flows, peak shaving
- Facilities plan for 10-years
- Establish facility cleanliness goals consistent with 5S
- Long term plan....needs vs. wants. Fiscally responsible

Actions

- Fresh look at utilization and pressing needs of district
- Do facilities support areas of vo-tech, trades, engineering

Finance: Support student learning (which includes achievement, climate, facilities, communication) in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Strategy

- Create cost reduction goals

Actions

- Private funding sources

Other

- Evaluate our balance sheet....how assets being used.

Climate: Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.

Strategy

- Highest level of equality and fairness in hiring...extra duty for teachers
- All projects should be aligned with high levels of board goals and have a measurable result.
- Discuss performance ratings....merit pay.

Actions

- Hire, recruit, train and retain high quality staff
- Merit pay

Other

- How do we measure culture and how we treat each other
- Hire more Morton grads
- Fill coaching spots from within

Communication: Provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.

Strategy

- Develop a dashboard for finance, climate and facilities, including performance related to districts

Actions

- Increase bi-directional communication with community
- Re-ignite town hall meetings.

Dr. Hill reviewed administrative strategies and actions from the past year for the goal of **Achievement:**

Strategy #1 – The district administration will monitor the use of data and specific benchmarks in the district to measure academic progress at various grade levels and subject matter, providing district level support, professional development and resources.

School Actions:

- Articulation meetings and curriculum mapping at all grade levels
- Review and align curriculum both vertically and across grade levels to ensure consistency of instruction
- Implement and maintain a continuum of services to meet the needs of all students:
 - RtI
 - Special Education
 - ELL
 - Challenge
 - Honors
 - Dual Credit
 - Career and Technical education offerings
 - Advanced Placement Classes
 - Broad and varied extracurricular program
- Identify meaningful data, set benchmarks and measure progress

Strategy #2 – Teachers will gain a working understanding of the seven components of “709 Above the Line” and how these components can improve and transform instruction and learning.

The components are:

- Student Engagement
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Quality of Creation
- Meaningful Outcomes
- Problem Solving
- Higher-Order Questioning

School Actions:

- Roll out “709 Above the Line” to all faculty
- Faculty meetings with “709 Above the Line” emphasis
- Book study – “The Innovator’s Mindset”
- Survey of staff
- Use of social media to promote “709 Above the Line”
- Using “SAMR” as a model for technology integration, move teachers from Substitution/Augmentation to Modification/Redefinition
- Link to school improvement (LEAP), teacher evaluation and professional development (staff meetings and inservice days)

Board members discussed vocational offerings at MHS. Dr. Hill will gather information on offerings at similar school districts for comparison.

Dr. Hill reviewed administrative strategies and actions from the past year for the goal of **Facilities:**

Strategy #1 – The district will discuss a long term facilities vision to accommodate projected growth and future needs.

Staff Action:

- A construction grant application to the Capital Development Board will be started in FY17. Status – started, not completed.
- Five year facilities improvement plan updated 2017.
- Demographic and feasibility study report completed 2014.
- Facilities committee recommendations made to Board in 2014.
- Facilities cost, area study and urgent needs identified 2015.
- Referendum passed in 2016, addressing urgent needs and resulting in three additions to elementary schools and other improvements.

Results:

- Jefferson window project complete in 2018.
- Grade school additions completed in 2017.
- Land purchase completed in 2017.
- Intergovernmental agreements with the park district for baseball, softball, tennis as well as other agreements for cross country and soccer.
- High school athletic facilities completed in 2015.
- Transportation facility completed in 2015.
- Grade school additions completed in 2012.

Board members discussed the need for a long range plan. Needs at the Jr. High were discussed. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be scheduled as a separate meeting in October for this discussion.

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of Student Discipline and Purchase/Sale of property.

(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Dr. Cross, 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 9:25 p.m.

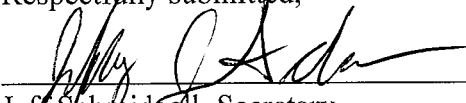
Adjournment -

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

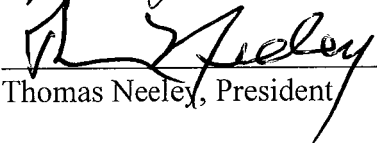
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President