

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 20, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 20, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Kevin Austin

Reports –

Administrative –

709 Above the Line Recognition -

Dr. Teater recognized Summer Geist for teaching “Above the Line” demonstrated through innovation by having her Jefferson School sixth grade students publish a poetry book of their original poems.

RtI Update –

RtI Coordinator Kristen D’Alfonso and Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens gave updates on RtI (Response to Intervention) services for grades K-6 and 7-12 respectively. They reviewed the purpose of RtI, which is a multi-level prevention system designed for improving outcomes for all students. They described the process for screening students and the number of students currently being served in Morton School District. The entire presentation may be viewed on MPTV beginning at the 2:50 point of the meeting.

President’s Report –

President Neeley noted there is a Central Illinois Valley Division meeting scheduled for March 22, 2018, hosted by Princeville CUSD 326.

President Neeley reported he was recently part of an advocacy group representing IASB in Washington D.C. beginning on February 2. The group met with legislators concerning public education.

Discussion Item –**Board Compliance – Student Policies –**

Dr. Hill reported that he has reviewed the Student 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 – Finance –

Dr. Hill reviewed the District Goal of **Finance**: *“Morton District 709 will maintain a financial position which supports all district operations in an efficient, cost effective manner, as well as providing long term stability for the district.”*

Dr. Hill noted there are currently many competing interests financially including Morton Moving Forward, negotiations, insurance, facilities and the potential cost shift of pension reform from the state to school districts. It is necessary to stay financially stable in order to provide programs and services to students. Morton District 709 has a history of financial stability and he offered his assurance that stability will continue to be a priority.

K-3 ELA Curricular Resource -

Dr. Teater reported that the Kindergarten through 6th grade teachers have been reviewing ELA curriculum resources to replace our current reading series, *Storytown*. The current reading series has a copyright date of 2008 and has been used close to 10 years. *Storytown*, was designed more for whole group instruction and doesn't easily lend itself to the Reading Workshop model.

The Kindergarten through 6th grade teachers reviewed six different series. Presentations from the publishers were made to a core group of teachers and then the materials were presented to all teachers through articulation meetings. At this time, the recommendation is to adopt the Fountas and Pinnell series for Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Next year a final decision will be made for 4th – 6th grades. This recommendation and report was approved by the Curriculum Advisory Committee and Leadership team. The texts will be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days.

Recommendation - *Fountas and Pinnell – “Classroom”*

TEXT - Resources: \$306,133

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:30 p.m.

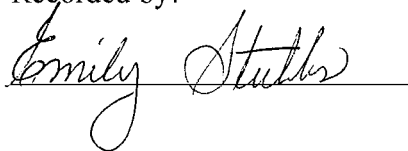
Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

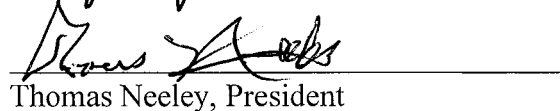
Recorded by:



Submitted by,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President