

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 17, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 17, 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 6:32 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Kevin Austin, Mrs. Michelle Bernier

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hill reported there were two Freedom of Information requests in the past month. The requests and the district's response are available on the district website.

Recognize Jr. High State Wrestlers and Jr. High State Volleyball Team –

Coach Jordan Williams introduced the Morton Jr. High 8th Grade Volleyball team to the Board of Education. The team placed 4th at the IESA State tournament. Coach Dan Gashaw introduced the Jr. High Wrestlers who placed at the IESA State meet. State qualifiers included Cory Hoyle, Donnie Hidden, Zane Ely and Owen Gray. Mr. Neeley noted all of these students make Morton proud as athletes and in the classroom.

Gameball Run Recognition –

Dr. Hill recognized Dana Hobson, Coach Matt Franks, Stacy Litersky, Deidre Ripka and Andrea White as key leaders for Gameball Run. Mr. Neeley praised their efforts in getting the community and all students throughout the district involved.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported :

- Morton Moving Forward – Strategy 4 – Professional Development Activities – potential early dismissal - Principals are gathering input from their PTO's.
- The administrators are in the process of hiring the additional kindergarten teachers needed and the literacy coaches.
- The state allocation for the Evidence-Based Funding for FY18 will be \$56,234.
- Congratulations to all of the Morton School District music educators. Morton School District was recognized by The NAMM Foundation as one of 583 Best Communities in the nation for music education. The award program recognized outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. Dr. Hill thanked the Morton community for continuing to make the fine arts a priority in our schools.

President's Report –

President Neeley noted he recently attended the National School Board Conference and reported on sessions he attended.

Discussion Item –**Goals Discussion - Facilities –**

President Neeley noted that a Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, facilitated by Larry Dirks of IASB. He expressed his hope that as a result of the meeting, the board will have a long range vision for facilities for years to come. It is important that the community know the Board's vision concerning facilities, but to set measurable short term goals, taking into consideration programs currently taking place in our buildings every day.

2018-2019 Student Fees –

Dr. Hill noted the only changes being recommended to the 2018-2019 Fee Schedule be a slight increase in the lunch prices. Lunch prices will continue to increase each year, not only due to food costs, but also due to the federal requirement that the gap be closed in the difference between our lunch prices and the federal reimbursement rate for free/reduced lunches. No fee increases are being recommended for textbooks, technology fees, co-curricular activities, drivers' education, library fines, athletic gate receipts, I.D. replacements and marching band.

The 18-19 fee schedule will be approved at a future meeting.

Social Worker Position –

Director of Student Services, Carlie Owens, explained the need for an additional social worker for the 2018-19 school year. She noted that the added staffing approved by the Board for the 2017-18 school year has enabled the district to provide social/emotional intervention to students in a more proactive manner. Class-wide social skills and problem solving lessons occur on a regular basis for the majority of elementary aged students. Improved legal compliance in evaluation has also been a positive outcome of the addition.

There continue to be challenges though, including:

- Morton Academy students require school social work services that have not been considered into our staffing model in the past.
- Currently the Jr. High has 3 school social workers who each serve there one day per week. This staffing model meets legal compliance in serving the 7th and 8th grade students; however, this does not allow maximum benefit of services delivered by a consistent person.
- IDEA (federal special education grant) requires expenditure of a portion of the grant money to serve students with disabilities in the district boundaries who attend non-public schools (private schools and/or home schools). We now have requested School Social Work services at a private school utilizing these funds.

For these reasons, it is recommended that an additional 1.0 FTE School Social Work position be added for the 2018-19 school year. This position would serve MJHS 3 days per week and Morton Academy 2 days per week. Morton Academy reimbursement, IDEA Grant money and Title I Grant money would provide funding to offset 4/5 of the cost of the added position.

Action Item -**Approve Construction Bids –**

Dr. Hill explained that during the summer of 2018, the administration plans to complete a large portion of the remaining 10-year health and life safety work. This work encompasses multiple trades at every building. In order to take advantage of having multiple trades working in all of the buildings and to create efficiencies, some additional capital projects were added to the scope of work. The following list summarizes the project:

- Window replacement at Lincoln Elementary (south wing)
- Window replacement at Morton Junior High (south face)
- Masonry repairs at Morton Junior High (south face)
- Lighting upgrades at Morton Junior High and Bertha Frank Performing Art Center
- Door and frame replacement at Jefferson Elementary, Morton Junior High & Morton High School

- HVAC kitchen exhaust work at Grundy Elementary, Morton Junior High & Morton High School
- Ductwork revisions at East and West gyms of Morton High School
- Domestic water piping at Lincoln and Grundy upgrade.

Bids were received from two companies - Peoria Metro Construction, Inc. and N. Zobrist & Sons, Inc. The base bids ranged from \$1,123,900 - \$1,185,670 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$1,325,900 - \$1,412,370 with N. Zobrist & Sons, Inc. submitting the low bid for both the base bid and the base bid plus alternates.

The administration recommended that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids J2, L1, M1, M4, H1 and H2 from N. Zobrist & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$1,325,900.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids J2, L1, M1, M4, H1 and H2 from N. Zobrist & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$1,325,900.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Austin, Bernier)

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve February 2018 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve General Education Summer Reinforcement Program (S.O.A.R)
- Approve 2018-2019 Board of Education Meeting Schedule
- Approve Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Minutes of the March 20, 2018, Regular Meeting and the March 20, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-23-18	Bills 3-29-18	Bills 4-9-18	Bills 4-13-18	Payroll 3-30-18	Payroll 4-13-18
Ed. Fund	\$247,872.72	\$23,220.31	\$5,671.90	\$347,711.28	\$541,006.56	\$454,921.53
Bldg. Fund	102,438.15	--	1,592.40	114,066.83	39,159.97	33,577.56
Trans. Fund	23,675.49	--	127.02	213,599.47	17,264.91	9,249.85
Capital Projects	97,061.00	--	--	1,537.50	--	--
TORT	204.97	--	--	561.00	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	--	254,760.91	437,262.77

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Austin, Bernier)

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel, Sale/Purchase of Property, Student Discipline and Negotiations. (SILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Austin, Bernier)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Austin, Bernier)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:25 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

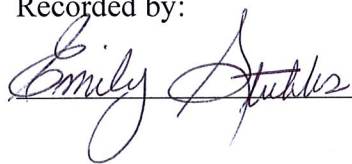
Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Austin, Bernier)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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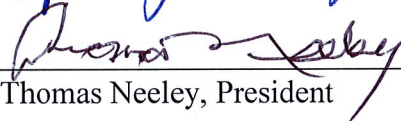
Recorded by:



Submitted by,



Jeffrey Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President