

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 15, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 15, 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 6:34 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 –

709 Above the Line Recognition –

Kristin Henrichs, Language Arts teacher at Morton Jr. High School, was recognized for 709 Above the Line - Student Innovation for her work with the “Passion Project.”

Recognize MPTV Volunteers –

MPTV volunteers were recognized for assistance in broadcasting live sporting events throughout the school year. MPTV is mostly staffed by volunteers. Without them running cameras and announcing the games, there would be no broadcasts. Four of the sixteen volunteers were present – Tim Cooper, Sean Mikel, Lee Hall and Rachel Henderson, intern. Those not present include – Marcus Greiner, Blake Hochstettler, Ralph Mattia, Jeff Stephens, Pete Altenberger, Todd Bisping, Jonathan Farrell, Brian Gordon, Jeff King, Ryan Lindley, Greg Prichard, Llew Smith and Craig Wright.

ELL Report –

Dayrim Sheehan, ELL Coordinator, gave an update on the English Language Learners services available in the district. There are currently 19 English Language Learners participating in the program. These students represent 13 different language backgrounds and originate from 10 different countries. Individualized instruction is provided based on the student’s English proficiency. She noted that classroom teachers and ELL staff collaborate to meet the academic needs of the students.

Crisis Management Plan Update –

Dr. Smock reported that the Crisis Committee met recently to review the current crisis plan and discuss areas of concern. The Crisis Committee consists of Dr. Smock, Bill Schock and representatives from administration, first responders from the police and fire departments, teacher representatives from each building, and two board members. Agenda items included physical security assessment, fire alarm protocols, intruder defense systems, smartphone apps and crisis plan review.

School Improvement Goal Update –MJHS/MHS –

JH Principal Lee Hoffman reported on the “Potter Way” student self-assessment that was introduced at the beginning of this school year. The self-assessment is given twice per quarter. He reviewed the “MJHS Playbook” that spells out the objectives for students and the roles of Administrators, teachers and support staff to meet those objectives. Objectives defined:

- Teachers will utilize the “Potter Way” language and tool
- Students will complete the “Potter Way” self-assessment in each class
- Implement team and school-wide recognition of positive academic culture
- Teachers will only accept students’ best work

Operative objectives:

- Consistent high-quality instruction in the classrooms
- Higher standardized test scores
- Engaged and motivated learners
- Positive staff morale
- Students prepared to be successful as freshman

MHS Principal Michael Gourley reviewed the goals for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Goal #1 – Improve the four-year graduation rate over the next three years from 91% to 95% or higher. The four-year graduation rate in 2014 was 94%, 2015 – 93%, 2016 – 92% and 2017 – 91%. He noted this is a trend that needs to be reversed.
 - Strategy – revamping how RtI services are implemented.

This goal is linked to the district goal of achievement.

- Goal #2 – 100% of MHS teachers will focus on development and implementation of both existing and new technologies as they relate to “709 Above the Line.” Students are digital natives. Technology literacy is an essential part of 21st century skills. This is a continuation of a school improvement goal from previous years.
 - Strategy – educational technology based walk-throughs; discussions between individual teachers, department chairs and administrators regarding their focus and assistance needed.

President’s Report –

President Neeley reminded board members of the facility planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

Discussion Item –**MJHS Overnight Band Trip –**

Dr. Hill reported that the MJHS band has been invited to compete at the Heritage Festival in Chicago next school year. This is a nationwide contest for both middle school and high school bands. The contest will provide the students and directors with feedback from 3 adjudicators as well as an onstage clinic with one of the judges. This would give MJHS students the opportunity to receive instruction from some of the best band directors in the country. The band department would select 48 jazz band and concert band students for this honor. The cost for each student would be around \$380, which includes food, lodging for two nights, transportation, and a few additional activities. The band booster club would help with some of the cost, and Mrs. Fitzpatrick would work with them and possibly the Morton Community Foundation to assist students who have the desire, skill, and behavior to be selected as one of the 48 but not the family finances. Though an overnight trip is an unusual request for Jr. High students, there is value in this type of trip. The Board of Education will be asked to approve this request at the meeting in June.

Action Items -**Approve Student Handbook Revisions -**

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Jr. High and High School student handbooks as presented. Mr. Neeley thanked the parents, teachers and administrators who worked on this committee.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Early Dismissal for Professional Development –

Dr. Hill reported that the leadership team is recommending that the professional development opportunities be increased for our teachers by providing a time that does not interrupt instruction and is continuous throughout the year. This concept was discussed at the May 1st Board meeting and is part of the Morton Moving Forward initiative.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve early dismissal once per month beginning the 2018-2019 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Asbestos Abatement 2018 –

Dr. Hill reported that in conjunction with the contracted work for the summer of 2018, there is asbestos abatement necessary for the completion of the work at Morton Junior High School (MJHS), Lincoln Elementary School and minor amounts at Morton High School and Grundy Elementary School. The majority of the work is hard plaster abatement in the MJHS kitchen along with window abatement at MJHS and Lincoln. The bid specifications contained a base bid plus five alternates. The base bid was for asbestos abatement in the MJHS kitchen, sinks at Grundy, kitchen ductwork sealant at Morton High School and windows at Lincoln. The five alternate bids were for abating South facing windows at MJHS, a flexible start date, removal of window sills at MJHS, removal of window sills at Lincoln and insulation removal at MJHS.

Three bids were received with total prices (base bid plus three accepted alternate bids) ranging from \$82,700 to \$190,361. The lowest bid of \$82,700 was received from DEM Services, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education accept the bid from DEM Services, Inc. in the amount of \$82,700.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Title I Plan –

One of the requirements of our federal Title 1 program is the submission of a Title 1 District Plan. Title 1 funds must be used to enhance or supplement the program of instruction that the district provides to all students/schools. In the past Title 1 funds have been allocated to our two eligible elementary buildings (Grundy and Jefferson) and have been used to support full day kindergarten, and additional intervention services in reading and math--above and beyond our typical program.

Given some changes in district-wide services for the 18-19 school year (i.e. full day kindergarten district-wide, Reader's Workshop, Instructional Coaching, etc...), the administrative team has carefully reviewed and considered the best way to maximize the impact of this funding to serve a wider range of student needs. For the 18-19 school year, the funds have been reallocated to serve students in three of our eligible schools, Jefferson Elementary, MJHS, and MHS. Funds will be used to support math instruction at Jefferson (co-teacher, math aide, expanded aide support in Kindergarten). It is also proposed that funds will be used at MJHS and MHS to support Title 1 Counselor positions (0.5 FTE at MJHS, 1.0 FTE at MHS) and expanded intervention supports for eligible students.

The Title I District Plan was a discussion item for the board at its May 1, 2018, meeting.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the Title I District Plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Mr. Neeley asked that the Personnel Report be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion in closed session and approval after in regular session.

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

- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Out of State Trip Request – Girls Basketball
- Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2018, Regular Meeting and the May 1, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-4-18	Bills 5-7-18	Bills 5-11-18	Payroll 5-11-18
Ed. Fund	\$115,829.91	--	\$174,735.13	\$561,655.65
Bldg. Fund	28,709.47	\$4,003.00	20,037.17	33,461.83
Trans. Fund	13,761.92		2,526.53	18,488.00
Capital Projects	--		126,062.10	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	494,965.41

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

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, Student Discipline and Negotiations.
(SILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:20 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:54 p.m.

Action Item –

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Austin, second by Dr. Beaty that the personnel report be approved as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

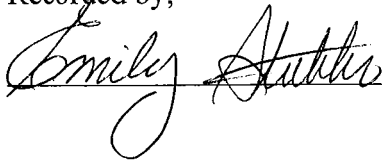
Adjournment –

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

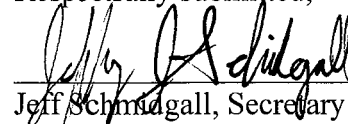
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

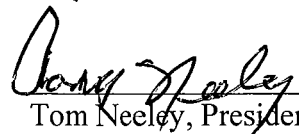
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President