

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 4, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 4, 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 6:35 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 reported that the District received and responded to two Freedom of Information requests. The requests and responses are posted on the district website.

##### Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported on several topics, including:

- Reminded Board members of their volunteer time at the Pumpkin Grille at the festival.
- Reading Workshop -- new this year. Teachers are getting to know their students and their reading skills.
- Literacy and Instructional Coaches -- new this year. They have a key role to play in implementing Reading Workshop and curriculum at the Jr. High and High School. They have hit the ground running and are doing a great job.
- A Robotics Team has been added at the high school this year. Volunteers started the team last year. A sponsor is being sought for the team this year.
- The Communications Committee that includes Kevin Austin, Michelle Bernier and Amy Greiner met recently. They discussed ways to communicate information concerning the Jr. High facility plans in order to receive feedback from the community. An interview is being planned to run on MP-TV.

##### 6<sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment Report –

Dr. Smock reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> day enrollment numbers. District wide there are 15 more students for a total enrollment of 3113. He pointed out the classes that are at or near capacity in the elementary schools.

**Communicable Disease Plan –**

Dr. Smock reported that the communicable disease policies are reviewed each year. The district is proactive in attempting to prevent outbreaks of disease. Board members asked the administration to review the head lice policies concerning notification of other parents in the school when a case is identified.

**Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –**

The annual report of textbooks and instructional materials used throughout the district was provided to the board.

**Illinois Youth Survey Results – JH/HS –**

Mr. Carter and Mr. Gourley reported on the IL Youth Survey administered to students in grades 8, 10 and 12 every other spring. It is part of a statewide survey designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including substance use patterns and attitudes of Illinois youth. The students' answers are anonymous and cannot be traced back to them. Student participation is encouraged but not required. Both Mr. Carter and Mr. Gourley expressed concerns with mental health issues conveyed by students taking the survey. They noted their appreciation to the Board for the additional counselors added at the Jr. High and High School this year.

**Extra-Curricular Offerings and Participation Report –**

High School Athletic Director Scott Jones provided an annual report to the Board on the number of extra-curricular activities and the number of participants for all of 2017-18 and fall of 2018-19.

Patrick Mainieri, Director of Student Engagement, reported on plans for increasing participation in activities. He will be tracking students from 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, finding their interests and finding a sport or activity for their involvement. He noted there are three new clubs this year – Robotics, Poetry and a Book Club. Ideas from students include the addition of an aviation club, environmental club and an anime (computer animation) club.

Dr. Hill thanked all of the presenters for their thorough reports.

**President's Report –**

President Neeley reported that the Central Illinois Valley Division leadership team met recently with Representative Darin LaHood. Their discussion included federal funding for public schools, student safety, the lunch program and college/career readiness.

**Discussion Item –**

**Jr. High Options H, I and J –**

Dr. Hill reviewed three additional options for upgrades to increase safety and security to the Jr. High. Michelle Bernier, Jeff Schmidgall and Tom Neeley will meet to narrow the options to three to present to the Board at a future meeting. Jr. High principal Lee Hoffman and a representative from Keach Architects will be included in the meeting.

**Action Items -**

**Approve Tuition Student –**

Approval is being sought for a student to continue attending Morton High School on a tuition basis for the 2018-2019 school year per board policy 7:60.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the tuition student request for the 2018-2019 school year.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approval to Develop a Policy for the Use of County Facilities Sales Tax Revenue -**

At the August 21, 2018, school board meeting, the Board of Education requested an action item for a resolution stating that the Board will develop a policy addressing the Board’s intent for use of the county facilities sales tax revenue should the referendum pass in November. Two resolutions were prepared for the Board to consider. Resolution A provides that the policy to be prepared will mandate that the Board utilize any county facility sales tax revenue to refrain from any increases to the District’s general real estate tax levy and use any excess amount to abate annual levies for debt service on outstanding construction bonds. Resolution B indicates that the Board intends to study the issue and will adopt a policy indicating that County Facility Sales Tax Revenues will be used in a way that both lessens the reliance on real estate tax revenues and maintains the fiscal health of the District long term.

The administration’s rationale for recommending Resolution B is that more time is needed to carefully weigh the impact of any scenario that holds Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 0% for one year due to the long term cost to the district. To carefully weigh this impact projections need to be developed using:

- Actual EAV for 2018 levy
- Actual new real estate growth for 2018 levy
- Enrollment projections

- Determination of MJHS addition plans
- Morton Moving Forward

Actual EAV and new real estate growth should be available during the first week of September at which time a variety of projections can be developed for the board's consideration.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve Resolution A.

Mrs. Bernier stated her reservations for 0% CPI. She cannot find the rationale for giving up a known stream of revenue for an unknown or declining stream (sales tax). She is concerned with the possibility of the state pushing pension costs to school districts or freezing property taxes. The Board cannot pay teachers or pension costs with the County Facility Sales Tax (CFST) revenues. She does agree with abating outstanding construction bonds.

Mr. Schmidgall and Dr. Beaty reiterated their desire to offer tax relief should the CFST referendum pass and believe the district will not be impaired by refraining from increasing the District's general real estate tax levy for one year.

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                                      Nay 1 (Bernier)

Motion carried.

The entire discussion can be viewed on [MP-TV](#) at the 1:44 point in the meeting.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve July 2018 Treasurer's Report
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Boys Golf Invite – Mattoon, IL
- Approve Out of State Trip – MHS Choir – St. Louis, Fox Theater
- Approve Minutes of the August 21, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting; the August 21, 2018, Regular Meeting; and the August 21, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 8-24-18</b>	<b>Bills 8-31-18</b>	<b>Payroll 8-20-18</b>	<b>Payroll 8-31-18</b>
Ed. Fund	\$225,549.31	\$273,330.08	\$204.06	\$591,522.73
Bldg. Fund	186,753.23	--	760.47	40,042.86
Trans. Fund	7,031.74	878.63	61.11	13,938.56
Capital Projects	2,076.93	--	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	392.04	280,147.40

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

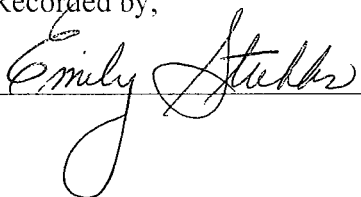
**Adjournment –**

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

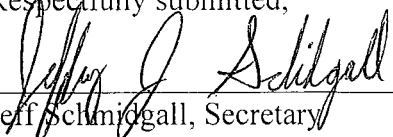
Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

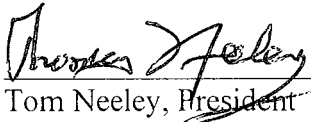
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary

Tom Neeley, President