

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**November 13, 2018**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 13, 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 7:00 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

**Audience Presentation** – Diana Krall, representing Grundy Moms in Prayer, thanked the Board members for their service to the community and children of Morton.

#### **Reports –**

##### **Administrative –**

##### **Board Member Appreciation Day – November 15<sup>th</sup> -**

Dr. Hill reported that Board Member appreciation day is November 15<sup>th</sup>. He thanked board members for their commitment to serving the students and staff of District 709.

##### **County Facilities Sales Tax Follow Up –**

Dr. Hill reported that though the County Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) referendum failed in the recent election, the results were much closer than in past elections in 2009 and 2013. He is encouraged by the results and that progress has been made in educating voters of the purpose of the CFST. He noted that other school districts in Tazewell County desire to put the issue on the ballot for the spring municipal election. A resolution must be passed by the Board of Education by January 14, 2019, in order to be placed on the ballot. Dr. Hill pointed out that the first Board meeting in January is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>. Board members agreed to make it a Discussion item at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and call a special meeting prior to January 14<sup>th</sup> to vote on the resolution.

##### **President's Report –**

President Neeley reported that the Board met earlier in the evening with the Special Education staff. He thanked Ms. Owens and her staff for the interactive and informational meeting.

President Neeley reported that the Policy Committee (Mr. Neeley, Dr. Beaty, Dr. Hill)

met recently to review some newly recommended policies and revisions to existing policies. These policies will be brought to the board at an upcoming meeting for a first reading.

### **Discussion Item -**

#### **Annual Conference Selections –**

The upcoming IASB School Board Conference is an excellent opportunity for school board members to obtain training and professional development now required by law. The conference includes workshops, general sessions and an exhibit hall. The board members discussed individual workshops they are interested in attending in order to coordinate attendance to maximize exposure to the information available at the conference.

#### **Jr. High Facility Discussion –**

Dr. Hill reviewed the process that has taken place since the May 23, 2018, meeting with a facilitator from IASB. At that meeting the Board prioritized facility needs at the Jr. High. Since then, various plans have been presented to the Board based on the prioritized list. With the updated enrollment figures from Cropper and the failure of the CFST, he is uncertain if the expense is justified. Option G (includes a new gym and office addition, off-street drop-off lanes, new parking lot, elevator, and parking lot on property north of Harrison with an estimated cost of 7 million) is not feasible and he is unclear if the cost for the traffic lanes/parking will actually be an improvement in that area.

Discussion by board members included:

- Mr. Austin and Mr. Schmidgall– increased enrollment and safety/security need to be addressed as soon as possible.
- Dr. Beaty – improvements have been put off too long. He agrees Option G is no longer feasible, but the district will be using the building for at least another 15 or more years.
- Mr. Rinkenberger – district may spend 3 – 7 million dollars and still have traffic and space issues.

Mr. Hoffman commented that the option with a new gym solves most issues, but agrees it is not an option at this time. The 3.7 million dollar option is safe and secure potentially solving traffic issues and adding a secure entry.

Dr. Hill recapped that his conclusions have evolved over the past six months. He wants to do what is right for the district and he is being as straightforward as he can be. Any improvements at the Jr. High will have to be done within a constrained budget. Even if the CFST had passed, the funds would not be available for five years.

President Neeley commented that the list of concerns continue to bother all. The timeline is where there is disagreement. Upon inquiry, Dr. Hill noted that as far as budgeting for

the project, monies would be moved from the maintenance budget and put toward the new plan.

President Neeley asked each board member for their opinion of how to proceed.

- Dr. Beaty – he would like to pursue Option G. If not, then another option without the addition of a fitness room
- Mr. Austin – Option G is his preference; without CFST he is torn between option G and J. He suggested to at least improve the traffic flow and then pursue building improvements if the CFST passes in the future.
- Mr. Rinckenberger – he would like to slow the process down and wait for the CFST to pass. He suggested pursuing private funding to build a new gym. If anything is done to improve traffic flow, he would like to keep the spaces on Third Ave. available for parking.
- Mrs. Bernier would pursue Option I without a fitness area; would like to improve traffic flow; does not agree with building a stand-alone gym.
- Dr. Cross agreed with Dr. Beaty. Especially need to improve traffic flow.
- Mr. Schmidgall – Option J; he would like to consider including a fitness area.
- President Neeley – issues with the existing gym need to be addressed. Handicap accessible areas in the gym are needed. The village is willing to work with us to get the most for our dollars. We owe it to our taxpayers to try to work together.

Dr. Hill recapped the discussion.

- Phase 1 would be either Option I without a fitness room or modified G (no new gym, but secure office addition and off street drop-off/parking; elevator
- Handicapped accessible seating in the existing gym
- Dr. Hill will have a conversation with the Village
- Phase 2 would include a new gym and/or possibly a fitness area

### Action Item –

#### Approve Tentative 2018 Levy/2019-2020 Proposed Budget –

The administration has completed the initial tentative budget for the 2019-2020 school year and the tentative Levy for 2018. Details of that information were provided during the October 23 Committee of the Whole - Finance meeting. A public hearing will be held for the purposes of inviting public comment at the December 4, 2018, regular meeting. Final approval of the Levy resolution will be sought at that meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 proposed budget and 2018 tentative levy.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the November 6, 2018, Regular Meeting and the November 6, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 11-9-18</b>	<b>Payroll 11-9-18</b>
Ed. Fund	\$29,059.29	\$546,874.31
Bldg. Fund	1,702.54	38,286.18
Trans. Fund	652.16	18,029.68
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	449,288.75

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:35 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:20 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

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

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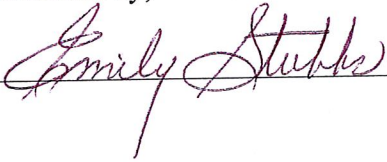
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

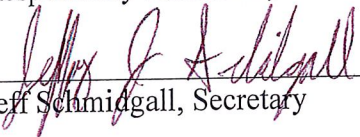
Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary

  
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Tom Neeley, President