

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**December 11, 2018**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 11, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Neeley called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Rinkenberger

#### **Reports –**

##### **Administrative –**

##### **ENGIE Presentation -**

Board members heard a presentation from Sharon Uslan of ENGIE Services following their no-cost Opportunity Assessment of all of the District's buildings completed this fall. She explained that ENGIE forms partnerships with Illinois public institutions in order to help maximize achievement by transforming facilities, creating safer, healthier and more productive working and learning environments. A partnership with ENGIE provides a comprehensive alternative to the traditional, low-bid approach by custom tailoring programs to achieve client specific goals. ENGIE uses "Single Source Accountability" eliminating risks by being involved in planning, design and engineering (team with local architect), construction management, commissioning, financial, operations and maintenance, training and final completion.

Ms. Uslan recommended the district wait to see the result of the County Sales Tax referendum in April before making a decision to partner with ENGIE.

#### **Action Item –**

##### **Approve MJHS Facility Upgrade Plan –**

Mr. Keach reported that he and Dr. Hill met this week with officials from the Village to discuss the traffic study planned for the area around the Jr. High. The Village offered to split the cost of the traffic study with the school district. The study is a one-day event in January with the report available by the end of January or middle of February. The Village is pleased with our plan, but suggested waiting until 2020 to complete the parking lot on the north end

due to planned street work on Harrison.

Dr. Hill reviewed Option K that includes 2 phases:

Phase 1:

- Driveways for drop off and pick up
- Sidewalks
- New administrative office space and main entryway
- Remodeled classroom space
- Additional parking

Phase 2:

- Gymnasium
- Locker Rooms
- Storage Space

Mr. Keach suggested both phases could be bid at the same time or phase 2 could be bid as an alternate bid.

After board discussion, it was decided to bid phase 1 and include the addition of an elevator.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve Phase 1 that includes a new office area/entryway, classroom remodels and an elevator.

Roll Call Vote:            Yea 6            Nay 0            Absent (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

**Approval of Tazewell County Sales Tax Resolution directing the Regional Superintendent to certify to the Tazewell County Clerk the question of imposing a 1% county school facility sales tax for submission to the voters of Tazewell County at the April 2, 2019, consolidated election—**

Mr. Neeley noted that other county schools are approving the sales tax resolution for placement on the April 2, 2019, ballot. He polled the board members for their views:

- Dr. Beaty – yes, but with same resolution approved in the fall to develop a policy that mandates 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.
- Mr. Austin – yes, with same policy noted above.
- Mrs. Bernier – yes, but disagrees with freezing the CPI.
- Dr. Cross – yes, though the timing is not ideal.
- Mr. Schmidgall – no, timing is bothersome, but does support property tax relief if passed.
- Mr. Neeley – yes, other districts are committed to the referendum; would aid in

improving our buildings.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution directing the Regional Superintendent to certify the question of imposing school facility sales taxes in Tazewell County at the April 2, 2019, consolidated election.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 5 Nay 1 (Schmidgall) Absent (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

Approve Minutes of the December 4, 2018, Regular Meeting; and the December 4, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session.  
Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 12-7-18</b>	<b>Payroll 12-7-18</b>
Ed. Fund	\$33,253.82	\$511,028.88
Bldg. Fund	1,999.36	35,468.47
Trans. Fund	314.83	11,788.36
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	430,552.80

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

**Closed Session -**

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel and Purchase or Sale of Land. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:25 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent (Rinkenberger)

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

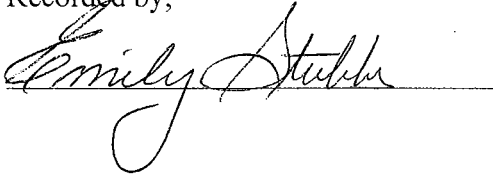
**Adjournment –**

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

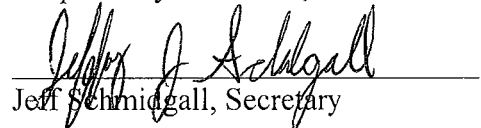
Voice Vote:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

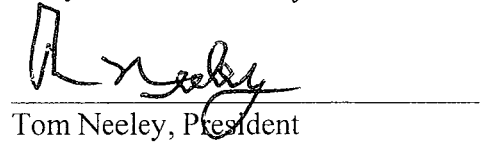
Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary

  
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Tom Neeley, President