

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 4, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 4, 2020, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### REGULAR MEETING

#### Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Beaty called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Kevin Austin

#### Reports –

##### Administrative –

##### Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hill reported there were no Freedom of Information requests.

##### Recognize MHS National Merit Scholar Students –

The Board of Education recognized the seven National Merit Scholars from MHS. Those in attendance at the meeting were Alexandra Cigelnick-National Merit Commended; Kristen Canopy and Kyle Davis – National Merit Semi-Finalists. Those unable to attend were Adam Darlington, Tristan Parker, Kelly Schaffnit, and Evan Schick – all National Merit Commended.

##### Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reviewed the District Strategic Plan on the District Dashboard.

Two new safety measures have been implemented:

- *Raptor* is a visitor management system being piloted at MHS. When a visitor checks in using their driver license or state issued ID, the sex offender registry is scanned. Administration will determine its usefulness after piloting and decide whether to use it district wide.
- A revamped hotline system has been implemented on each buildings website. A Hotline Form can be used to report issues including bullying, selfharm, or a school threat.
- The District is applying for a School Maintenance Grant as part of the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital Program. The grant would provide up to \$50,000. If awarded, the monies would be used toward conversion of MHS classrooms to Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) classrooms.

**President's Report –**

**Agenda Building** – Dr. Beaty noted that the cell phone usage policies were reviewed and are currently being enforced. Data is being collected for a later discussion by the Board.

Mr. Neeley asked for a progress report to the board during the Phase 2 construction at MJHS.

**Discussion Items –****First Reading and Discussion of Policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8-**

A revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB PRESS services and legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board of Education for discussion and a first reading. Board members were asked to review the suggested changes and approve and/or adopt the newly revised policies at a future meeting.

**Proposed Music Curriculum Resource –**

The current music curriculum being used at the elementary K-6 is McGraw Hill, 1995. The national and state music standards have been updated multiple times since the current textbook was published. Much of the content is no longer relevant to the current standards due to advances in technology and the addition of 25 more years of music history. The music teachers have created much of the supplemental materials to achieve these standards.

The Music Curriculum Committee has reviewed curriculum resources for elementary music. A recommendation and report was presented to the Teaching and Learning Council and the Leadership Team. The recommendation is for *Quaver Music Curriculum* at a cost of \$8,575 per building for a total of \$34,300.

The materials will be available for the community to review and make comments at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the materials at its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Proposed Anatomy and Physiology Textbook –**

The MHS science textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for the new course being offered for the first time for the 2020-2021 school year – Anatomy and Physiology. A recommendation and report was presented to the Teaching and Learning Council and the Leadership Team. The recommendation is for *Pearson Human Anatomy and Physiology* at a cost of \$9,762.15 for 50 books along with 6 years of e-text and online resources. This includes teacher resources and exam view test generator.

The materials will be available for the community to review and make comments at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the materials at its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Proposed Biology Textbook –**

The MHS science textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for the Honors Biology class. In the last 10 years, there has been a significant shift in the methodology of teaching science. The current textbook from 1999 does not meet the needs of this teaching style and is also out of date concerning content, terms of technology, and online resources for the teacher and students. A recommendation and reports was presented to the Teaching and Learning Council and the Leadership Team. The committee is recommending *Norton Biology NOW* at a cost of \$10,842 for 100 copies plus 6 years of digital access.

The materials will be available for the community to review and make comments at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the materials at its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Schmidgall asked that evidence both supporting and refuting the theory of evolution be included, consistent with the most current standards in the teaching of science. Critical thinking should be encouraged using supplementary materials for a more complete picture.

#### **Proposed Nutrition Dual Credit Course –**

The dual-credit nutrition course *FCS 120 Principles of Nutrition* is being proposed for the 2020-2021 school year. Strategy #3 of the Morton Moving Forward Initiative is to increase focus on college/career readiness and post high school options. A goal within this strategy is to increase opportunities for academic rigor for all students, with the desired outcome being the adoption of AP/dual-credit courses. The nutrition course would be a partnership between Illinois Central College and Morton High School. The course is a requirement for many degree programs in the healthcare field, as well as degree programs in hospitality, food science, and human development.

The Board of Education will be asked to adopt this course at its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Action Item –**

##### **Approve Lease for Transportation Vehicles –**

The District has decided to lease five additional buses this year in a continuing effort to lower the average age of our vehicles and to lower maintenance costs. Presently the District owns 15 large buses (that range in age from 1 year to 12 years) and 17 small buses (that range in age from 1 year to 14 years). The average age of the large buses is 6

years and the average mileage of the large buses is 67,000 miles. The average age of the small buses is 6.9 years and the average mileage is 55,600. The annual bus maintenance costs are budgeted to be \$190,000 for this fiscal year. Bus pricing was obtained from Midwest Bus Sales and Midwest Transit and then lease quotes were obtained from three leasing companies to lease three 2021 84-passenger Thomas buses, one 2020 29-passenger Thomas bus, and one 2020 14-passenger Thomas Bus. The leases were all priced using a 5-year lease term and the District will own the buses at the end of the lease. The three large buses will be retained until the new buses are received. The following small buses are out for bid:

- Bus 24 – 2009– 83,000 miles
- Bus 25 – 2010– 97,000 miles
- Bus 28 – 2006 – 110,000 miles

The District received three lease quotes and recommends entering into a lease with American Capital for an annual cost of \$99,592.70/year at an annual interest rate of 2.93%. This annual payment is currently in the 2021 tentative budget and has been accounted for in the 5 year forecast as well.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education enter into a 5-year lease agreement with American Capital to lease three 2021 84-passenger Thomas Buses, one 2020 29-passenger Thomas Bus, and one 2020 14-passenger Thomas bus for an annual lease cost of \$99,592.70/year.

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Absent 1 (Austin)

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve November Treasurer’s Report
- Approve School Maintenance Grant Submission
- Approve Minutes of the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting, and the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

Approve Bills

	<b>Bills 1-24-20</b>	<b>Bills 1-31-20</b>
Ed. Fund	\$222,930.87	\$260,676.61
Bldg. Fund	363,641.68	25,808.89
Trans. Fund	419.45	7,765.82
IMRF Fund	--	--

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                                    Nay 0                                    Absent 1 (Austin)

Motion carried.

**Closed Session -**

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                                    Nay 0                                    Absent 1 (Austin)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                                    Nay 0                                    Absent 1 (Austin)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:10 p.m.

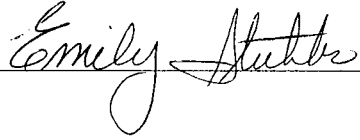
**Adjournment -**

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Braker, that the meeting be adjourned.

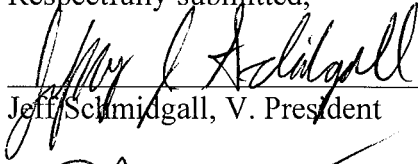
Voice Vote:                    Yea 6                                    Nay 0                                    Absent 1 (Austin)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

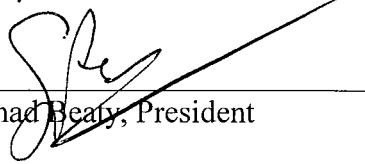
Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeff Schmidgall, V. President

  
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Shad Beary, President