

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**October 6, 2020**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 6, 2020, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

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

President Shad Beaty called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

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

#### **Reports –**

##### **Administrative –**

##### **Freedom of Information Requests -**

Dr. Hill reported there have been two freedom of information requests. The district has responded to the requests.

##### **Recognition of Principal Appreciation Week –**

Dr. Hill reported that National Principal Appreciation Week is October 18 - 24. He and the Board expressed their appreciation for the principals and administrators for all they do for their staff and students each day. This year they have been called upon to step up like never before and their “can-do” spirit is appreciated. Dr. Hill read a proclamation from Governor Pritzger recognizing National Principal Appreciation Week.

##### **MHS Student Presentation – Chloe Schonert –**

MHS Student Chloe Schonert gave a presentation of the revamp of the MHS girls locker room project she led over the course of Summer 2020. The completion of the project gave her the opportunity to achieve the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in the Girl Scout program. As the locker room was in desperate need of some updates, she chose this project to boost students’ morale.

##### **Superintendent’s Report –**

Dr. Hill reported that:

- video recordings of “Potter Points” will continue with a 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter recap coming soon. It may be viewed on MP-TV when available.
- The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will have a Virtual Summit on

November 20 to replace the Joint Annual Conference that was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Registration is required.

- Responses to a questionnaire conducted by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) concerning leadership approaches and challenges this school year have been submitted and will appear in Leadership Matters, a monthly publication.
- the Finance and Facilities Committees have scheduled meetings to review the 2021 Levy (finance) and 2021 projects (facilities).
- the MHS Madrigal Dinner will go on this year as a virtual event. Participants will enjoy a four-course meal from The Cookery while watching the medieval entertainment online from the comfort of their homes. This is another example of staff continuing annual events as safely as possible.

Dr. Smock reviewed an attendance report he put together that compares August/September 2019 attendance with the same time period this year. The report includes the number of students not in attendance due to healthy quarantine this year and then adjusted the percent present if those students could have been in attendance. The result was attendance very similar to last year.

### **President's Report –**

Dr. Beaty noted there are currently no positive COVID-19 cases in the district. He attributed the success to the Administrative team and to the teachers doing what is best for students. Dr. Smock noted he works daily with the Tazewell County Health Department and the staff there has been very helpful and supportive. Mr. Neeley mentioned he is in contact with many school boards around the state and not all work together as well as Morton's board. He thanked his colleagues for their cooperation and support in the interest of the students.

### **Action Item -**

#### **Approve Amended 2020-2021 School Year Calendar –**

Morton District 709 originally eliminated the early dismissal day on November 4<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday created by the State of Illinois for Election Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. As the year has developed and we begin to better understand the challenges for students, staff, and administration, we realize we need time to better plan and develop skills in the area of blended learning. Administration has proposed that Monday, November 2, be a Remote Learning Planning Day for certified staff, with no school for students. Tuesday, November 3, is the state mandated Election Day holiday, and that Wednesday, November 4, be a regular day of school for all. There will be no Early Dismissal Day in November. Remote Learning Planning days are counted toward student attendance days, so it is not necessary to add a day at the end of the school year.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the

amended 2020-2021 calendar making Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Remote Learning Planning Day.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Morton District 709 Strategic Plan –**

The District Strategic Plan for the 2020-2021 school year will have a markedly different focus as a result of the procedures and processes needing to be in place due to COVID-19. As we pursue a safe and normal school year, our priorities of student and staff health and safety, in-person instruction, and continuity will be paramount and evident through our strategic plan. Dr. Hill presented this plan at the September 22, 2020, Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the District 709 Strategic Plan for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Hill noted there will be a Dashboard presentation of Student Achievement at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Consent Agenda –**

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Austin, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve August Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the September 22, 2020, Regular Meeting; and the September 22, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 9-25-20</b>	<b>Bills 10-2-20</b>
Ed. Fund	\$167,985.79	\$9,218.49
Bldg. Fund	209,001.66	--
Trans. Fund	16,060.82	--
TORT	8,317.00	13,216.00

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session -**

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:20 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:04 p.m.

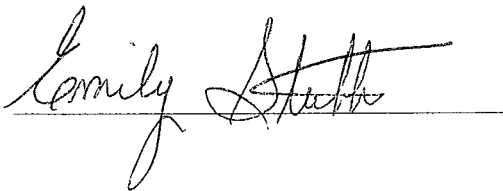
**Adjournment -**

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

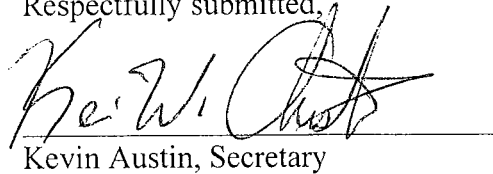
Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

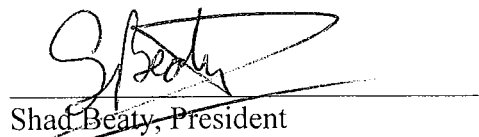
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin Austin, Secretary

  
Shad Beaty, President