

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 8, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 8, 2022, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger
Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Jerry Rudd

Audience Presentations – Eric Larson, Andrea Roth, and Chris Farris, all of Morton, thanked the Board for all they have done over the past two years related to COVID and ensuring in-person learning. Each asked the Board to stand firm in its attempt to maintain local control.

Tim Garrison of River City Roofing addressed the board concerning the district's bidding processes.

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

Dr. Hill reported there was one Freedom of Information request and it has been fulfilled and posted on the District's website.

Nania Energy Presentation -

Becky Thompson of Nania Energy Advisors presented concerning energy buying for public schools. Morton School District currently belongs to a cooperative whose board controls all purchasing decisions, supplier relationships, and contract obligations. Other ways to buy energy include sealed RFP (Request For Proposal). Suppliers respond blindly then bids are consolidated and summarized for review and selection; and Reverse Auction - suppliers openly bid against one another in a live event to drive down costs.

The benefits of a live auction are:

- Live competition; suppliers can bid multiple times over 15-20 minutes
- Extreme rate compression resulting in 3-5% savings
- Transparent process for long-term mitigation
- Flexibility to align buying strategy with District-specific changes, i.e. solar
- Paper trail for accountability and FOIA requirements

Next steps would involve a service agreement between Morton 709 and Nania Energy Advisors; Nania would conduct an initial analysis of accounts and qualifying RFP for

suppliers; and approval of auction price thresholds and execution of agreements on auction day. Nania Energy Advisors are paid by the suppliers, so there is no upfront costs for school districts to work with them.

This will be brought back to the Board as a discussion item at a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill:

- reported there are currently 9 positive COVID cases within the District.
- reviewed what has taken place since the Board approved the Return to School Plan on August 3, 2021.
 - August 4, 2021 – Governor Pritzker mandated masking in schools. Morton School District complied.
 - Dr. Hill advocated for local control before the IL State Board of Education, IL Dept. of Public health; placed op-eds in local news sources; joined with other Illinois school districts in an effort to “Make it Local;” worked with legislators advocating for local control. Last fall our district was named in a lawsuit filed by parents along with 145 other districts. The judge recently ruled with a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in favor of the plaintiffs. As a result, Morton School District had the opportunity to implement its local plan this past Monday, making masks inside the building optional for staff and students. He asked that everyone keep in focus care, concern, kindness, and respect for others. He noted his appreciation for the principals as they set the tone on the first day stressing to students to respect one another’s choices. Next steps will include a focus on the social/emotional aspect for students. He noted the IHSA and IESA have concluded that the home team for athletic events will determine masking requirements for participants and spectators.
 - MHS Principal Deidre Ripka reported on successes of student participation in apprenticeships this school year at various businesses in Morton and the Skills USA construction trades program. She commended teacher Chad McFarland for his leadership in implementing these programs.

President's Report –

Mr. Braker noted his appreciation for the return of some local control. He reiterated Dr. Hill's plea for respect for one another.

Agenda Building – Mr. Neeley asked that Social/Emotional Learning be a topic for discussion at a future meeting.

Action Items –

Approve MHS STEM Lab and Maintenance Projects Bid –

The bid opening for the STEM Lab and Maintenance project was held on January 27, 2022. The District received bids from three companies – George Rump Construction, Peoria Metro Construction and Zobrist Construction. The base bids ranged from \$1,528,000-\$1,653,000 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$1,690,100-\$1,824,700 with Peoria Metro Construction submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, the High School will have 2 newly renovated STEM Labs and an ADA compliant restroom for students with special needs as well as renovated office spaces. The Junior High will have a renovated orchestra room floor that is also ADA compliant for students with special needs, as well as renovation work on floors and ceilings. This project includes other maintenance projects at Brown (ceiling & lighting replacement) and Grundy (toilet partitions). This will also include a boiler replacement at Lincoln.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids A1, M1, M2, and M3 from Peoria Metro Construction in the amount of \$1,690,100.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Roof Projects Bid –

The bid opening for the High School, Jefferson and Lincoln Roof replacements was held on January 19, 2022. The administration requested a base bid and five unit prices. The District received qualified bids from two companies – Kreiling Roofing Co. and Western Specialty Contractors. The base bids ranged from \$314,553 - \$333,100, with Kreiling Roofing Co. submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, portions of the Jefferson, Lincoln and High School roofs will be completed.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education accept the base bid from Kreiling Roofing Co. in the amount of \$314,553.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Site Improvements Bids for MJS and Lincoln Schools –

The bid opening for the Lincoln and Morton High School Site Improvements was held on January 19, 2022. The administration requested bids to include a base bid and two alternate bids.

The District received qualified bids from two companies – Aupperle Construction and Knapp Concrete Contractors. The base bids ranged from \$199,399 - \$215,010 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$413,320 - \$469,035 with Aupperle Construction submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, the Lincoln and Morton High School Site improvements will be completed, including the renovation of the dock and removal/replacement of pavement at the High School. At Lincoln, there will be parking lot replacement.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids 1 and 2 from Aupperle Construction in the amount of \$413,320.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Minutes of the January 25, 2022, Regular Meeting, and the January 25, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 1-28-22	Payroll 1-07-22	Payroll 1-21-22
Ed. Fund	\$452,222.60	\$745,616.29	\$756,000.75
Bldg. Fund	182,404.78	47,080.86	48,111.10
Trans. Fund	14,692.60	10,588.59	14,910.47
TORT	258.00	--	--
IMRF Fund	--	29,147.40	31,263.76

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:50 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:17 p.m.

Dr. Hill and Mrs. Stubbs left the meeting. The Board discussed plans for celebrating Dr. Hill’s and Mrs. Stubbs’ retirement.

Adjournment –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rudd, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

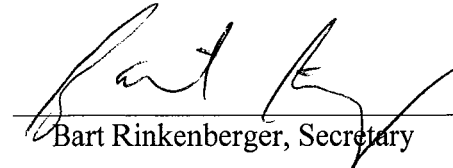
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Recorded by,

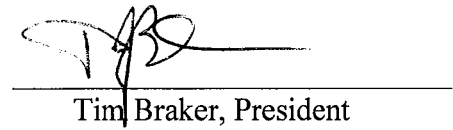


Emily Stubb

Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Tim Braker, President