

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 7, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 7, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. John Appen, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser,
Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold,
Mrs. Michelle Kaeb, Mr. Tim Taylor

Reports –

Administrative –

Substitute Teacher Pay –

Mr. Smock reported that our substitute teacher pay of \$80.00 per day is comparable to school districts in the area. The rate will be left at that amount for the 2012-2013 school year.

Community Engagement Update –

Co-Chair Mary Jane Johnson reported that the first community meeting of 709 Connect will be held this week on Thursday evening. Carol Jankowski will give a presentation on all the ways the district currently communicates with the community. Guest speaker Brett Clark will give a presentation on best practices and different means of communication other school districts use. Mrs. Johnson noted the upcoming meeting is receiving positive editorial and press coverage.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mrs. Johnson for stepping forward and taking a leadership role for this process. He noted the Board's appreciation for time she will spend this fall on this endeavor.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that great progress has been made on the new rooms in each building this past week. Inspections by the Regional Office will take place on Friday. The Jefferson window lintel work on the west wall has progressed and the classrooms affected are being cleaned and readied for the start of school. Dr. Hall acknowledged the maintenance and custodial staff for their roles in working in conjunction with the construction crews to make sure the buildings are ready to start school.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there are no Freedom of Information requests.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley surveyed Board members for their opinions on the idea of conducting as much business as possible at the first meeting of the month that is held at the MEAC and recorded for audio podcast. At the second meeting of the month that is held at the buildings, only bills and personnel reports would be approved. If at a given building meeting other business is needed to be discussed or other action items need to be approved, the meeting will be moved to the MEAC. The Board agreed to try this process for the upcoming year.

Mr. Neeley reminded board members of the upcoming self evaluation meeting with the administrators. A facilitator from ISBE will conduct the closed session meeting.

Discussion Items –

Task Board -

The Board reviewed the current Task Board for the 2012-2013 school year. All agreed it aids in keeping meetings organized and assures an annual task is not omitted.

Curriculum Loft –

Dr. Teater reported that *Curriculum Loft* is a cloud-based service that allows staff to store instructional resources in a structured environment that can then be shared with other staff and students. Since it is cloud-based, these resources can be accessed by anyone who has permission from anywhere that has an internet connection. Lecture notes, PowerPoints, supplemental reading and worksheets can be available any time for students to access.

While the *Curriculum Loft* can be accessed with any PC, MAC, tablet or smartphone, when paired with a *Kuno* tablet, teachers have the power to push resources out to students during the day and eliminate the need for internet access when students go home. *Kunos* also give teachers a high level of control over what content is available to the students on the tablet at any given time. *Kunos* are an android based tablet that has the internet filter embedded in its kernel providing internet protection no matter where the device is taken.

The initial setup of *Curriculum Loft* is \$16,000 for the district. This gives unlimited storage space for our curriculum materials. If the district ever decides to quit using the *Curriculum Loft*, our data is returned as electronic files.

The Administrative plan is to offer interested staff the opportunity to use Curriculum Loft and Kunos tablets this year. This item will be brought to the Board for approval at the August 21 meeting.

Action Items -**Second Reading and Approval of Various Policies from Sections 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 -**

Mr. Neeley reported that the first reading and discussion of policies 2:120, 3:40, 5:30, 5:220, 6:50, 7:20 and 7:190 was conducted at the July 10 meeting. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration for a second reading and adoption.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading of the selected Board policies from sections 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 and adopt those policies as presented and revised.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve High School Dual Credit Economics Text –

At the July 10 meeting, the Board was asked to consider the adoption of the recommended textbook *Economics Today: The Micro View* for the business department at the high school. The text is a requirement of the dual credit Economics course offered by ICC. The textbook has been on display at the public library for 30 days

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board approve the purchase of the Dual Credit Economics textbook for a total cost of \$5,003.71.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve High School Foods Text –

At the March 20, 2012, meeting, the Board was asked to consider the adoption of the recommended textbook *Food for Today* for the foods class at the high school. The current text is nine years old and does not provide much of the new updated nutritional information. The text has been on display for 30 days.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Foods textbooks for a total cost of \$5,436.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Tentative 2012-2013 Budget & Schedule Public Hearing –

Dr. Hall presented the tentative 2012-2013 budget. She thanked Barb Getz, as the budget was for the most part in place when Dr. Hall began her new position on July 1. She reviewed the assumptions for revenues and expenditures.

Education fund revenue is budgeted to be down approximately \$370,000 due to the timing of State payments for Special Education, declines in General State Aid and the elimination of the ARRA Education Jobs Funding. In 2011-12 the district received five payments from the State of Illinois for Special Education payments. This puts the State only one payment behind for Special Education funding. The 2012-13 Tentative Budget, however, assumes we will receive four payments as has been the past practice. In addition, General State Aid is expected to decrease approximately 5% and the ARRA Education Jobs funding was eliminated in 2012-13. The State of Illinois is expecting General State Aid payments to be at 89% of the gross claim amount as compared to last year when General State Aid was paid at 95% of the gross claim amount. The District received \$110,000 of ARRA Education Jobs funding in 2011-12. This ARRA Education Jobs funding, which was not used to employ new personnel, was established as a one year stimulus and will not be replaced by another source. A solid local tax base continues to cushion the reduction in state commitments.

Total salaries for all funds are expected to increase by \$600,000 or 4% over actual costs for the prior year and 1.3% over last year's budget. Benefits from all funds are expected to increase by \$1,400,000 over 2011-12 actual costs and \$1,000,000 over last years' budget. Health insurance claims for 2011-12 were unusually low. Since the district is self-funded for health insurance, claims can fluctuate greatly from year to year. Due to the low level of claims incurred in 2011-12, the 2012-13 costs were budgeted 7.5% higher than the 2011-12 budget and these health insurance costs account for approximately 95% of the budgeted increase. Even with these increases and state funding reductions we are able to balance the Education Fund budget through the local tax extension.

State funding for transportation is expected to decline by 15% in 2012-13. This is largely an issue of the timing of payments. The district received five payments in 2011-12 and are budgeting the receipt of four payments. However, this budget assumes State transportation funding will have declined by approximately 50% from 2010-11 levels. As a result we have reduced the amount available for purchasing new vehicles by \$37,000. This budget allows for the purchase of one large bus.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education approve the 2012-13 Tentative Budget, place it on display for thirty days, and schedule a budget hearing for September 18, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Morton Education and Administration Center.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

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

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the July 10, 2012, regular meeting, and the July 27, 2012, Special Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Administrative Reports –

Dr. Hall reported that:

- CAC is in need of another Board representative.
- the AYP reports are back from the state. There will be a full report in the fall.
- the administration is moving ahead with the plan for the 3rd grade initiative. An aide is being hired for the 3rd grade at Lincoln School for enrichment activities using the RtI framework. The focus will be on math. There will be two phases of professional development:
 - 1st phase will be with 3rd grade teachers at Lincoln School
 - 2nd phase will be with all 3rd grade teachers in the districtThis plan will be communicated to 3rd grade parents at Lincoln School.
- she has communicated to the Chamber of Commerce that the district will not be entering into a sister relationship with the high school in the Chinese sister city of the Village of Morton at this time. She would like to learn more about what the relationship would entail and to give the new administrators at the high school time to adjust to their new positions.

August 7, 2012

7

Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President