

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**November 6, 2012**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 6, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **School Board Member Recognition –**

Dr. Hall reported that November 15 is set aside by the State of Illinois to recognize school board members. She noted that being a school board member is a volunteer position. All of our school board members have contributed in many ways to the success of the school district. She offered her thanks for all they do.

##### **National Merit Recognition –**

Marjorie Johnson reported that the National Merit Semi-Finalists are the top 16,000 of 1.5 million students taking the PSAT test last year. Morton High School student, Sophie Katz, is a National Merit Semi-Finalist this year. She is the daughter of Seth and Barb Katz and is now eligible to compete for scholarships.

The National Merit Commended Students are the top 32,000 of 1.5 million students tested. Morton High School students Gayane Nersesyan, Alex Thomas, Mitchell Lutz and Jeff Rajkumar are National Merit Commended Students this year.

Mr. Neeley congratulated the students and offered the Board's gratitude to the students, teachers and parents.

##### **Recognition of MHS Teams and MHS Band –**

Dr. Hall reported that the Girls Golf Team, members of the Girls Tennis Team and the Girls Cross Country Team all qualified to compete at state competitions this year. She noted it is the first time the Girls Cross Country team has gone to state. The marching band placed first in their class at the state competition. Congratulations were offered to all of the competitors.

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Hall reported there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

**709Connect Update –**

Mary Jane Johnson reported that the November 1 709Connect meeting was well attended. The topics were curriculum, technology, all-day kindergarten, high school scheduling, and technology and career courses and electives. She thanked Dr. Hall, Mr. Smock, Dr. Teater, Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Jankowski for their time spent on this presentation. The meetings have made a positive impression on the community. The last community meeting will be on November 29. A set of recommendations will be prepared at that meeting to bring to the Board at their December 11 meeting.

Mr. Neeley thanked her for her time spent on the core committee.

**Arbor Update –**

Dr. Hall introduced Becky Goldman and Kathy Carter of Arbor Management, the school district's new food service manager this year. Dr. Hall reported that overall, she has received positive comments from the building principals. Along with the new food service manager, the district also began a new point-of-sale system this year. Due to new federal guidelines, there have been changes in food offerings and portion sizes, as there are limits to the number of calories that can be served. Arbor Management is committed to provide a top quality product and is open to feedback from students and parents. They may offer a survey sometime this year to Jr. High and High School students and parents.

**FFA National Convention Report –**

Ms. Johnson reported that she and Mrs. Ripka recently attended the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis for a day. They spent most of their time at the Expo visiting with college representatives concerning post high school experiences available for agriculture students. They were assured that students can major in agriculture studies in college with little or no high school ag. experience.

Mr. Eucker reported that he and Mr. Cox accompanied a group of students to the convention for one day. Their focus was on the Expo as well. The students were able to talk with college representatives and get a sense of the variety of career fields available.

**President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Hall recognized three staff members earlier in the day for their voluntary involvement in the district's Special Olympics program. Those recognized included Abby Everett, Jackie Herr and Chris Carter, all at the Jr. High. Cindy Andrews was recognized for her dedication and commitment to keeping the District website fresh and up to date.

**Discussion Items –****Board Compliance – Board/Superintendent Relations –**

Mr. Neeley reported that he has reviewed the Board/Superintendent Relations Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. He will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office. Dr. Hall reported that the Administrative Procedures have been revised and administrators are deciding the best format for them to be stored.

**IASB Conference Selections –**

The upcoming IASB School Board Conference is an excellent opportunity for school board members to obtain training and professional development now required by law. The conference includes workshops, general sessions and an exhibit hall. The board members discussed individual workshops they are interested in attending in order to coordinate attendance to maximize exposure to the information available at the conference.

**County Wide Facilities Sales Tax –**

Dr. Hall shared the Power Point presentation on the county wide facilities sales tax recently given by Anne Noble at a 709Connect meeting. She explained that revenues from the sales tax can only fund school facilities costs. The sales tax allows county voters to approve a sales tax to fund school facility costs for all districts in the county. The maximum tax is 1% in ¼% increments (one cent of every \$1). The sales tax can be used for:

- new facilities
- additions and renovations
- land acquisition
- ongoing maintenance
- architectural planning
- durable equipment
- fire prevention and life safety
- disabled access and security
- energy efficiency
- parking lots
- demolition

Morton School District's estimated annual revenue would be \$1.6 million. When school boards representing more than 50% of the resident student enrollment in the county adopt resolutions, the Regional Superintendent certifies the question to the County Clerk to be placed on the ballot at the next scheduled election. Dr. Hall shared the timeline for getting the question on the ballot for the April 9, 2013, municipal election. She will report to the Board in December on a plan of how our district would use the funds from the tax.

**IHSA-TV –**

Carol Jankowski reported that the school district will begin implementing IHSA-TV soon. For those in the community that do not have access to Channel 20, they will soon be able to see events taking place by streaming live on the Internet. The district will be able to provide live programming from anywhere there is Internet access. Graphics can be used to enhance the program.

Mrs. Jankowski reported that iTV-3 will have a public access channel, also. The Channel 20 name will be changed to MP-TV for all three (Comcast, iTV-3 and IHSA-TV). All programs will be archived for later viewing through the district website.

The cost for IHSA-TV is \$1,500 per year which includes a laptop and software.

**School Climate/Illinois 5Essentials Survey –**

Dr. Hall reported that a component of PERA (Performance Evaluation Reform Act) requires school districts to administer a survey next spring to measure the climate in our school buildings. We are required to have 6-12 grade students and teachers take the online survey. Dr. Hall noted this will be an effective tool with helpful information provided to school districts. Information from the survey will be shared on the new version of the school report cards next fall.

**Life Safety Work at District Office/Facilities Planning –**

Dr. Hall reported that 10 year life safety surveys were completed on all of the school buildings in July, 2011. Administrators are working with the maintenance staff and Mrs. Getz to prioritize projects. The district will be using the recently awarded \$50,000 maintenance grant for heating and duct work at the high school. Dr. Hall noted that a life safety survey will likely need to be completed on the MEAC, as it is used on a daily basis by students in the Life Skills program and in the evenings for student programs.

Dr. Hall reported that architects Jeff Keach and Sam Johnson presented a report on the condition of the district's buildings at the October 11 709Connect meeting. A recommendation from the 709Connect committee for a long term plan for the buildings will be presented to the Board at their December meeting.

**Action Items –****Approve 2013-2014 Tentative Budget and 2012 Tentative Levy –**

Dr. Hall reported there have been no changes to the tentative budget presented at the October meeting. Recall that the maximum rate allowable under tax caps is 5% or the CPI, whichever is lower. Last year the CPI was 1.5%. We have received a preliminary indication from the county assessor's office that the change in the assessed value for the District as a

result of new construction for the year will be approximately \$4.9 million or approximately .96%. However, this amount does not reflect decisions on tax objections or additional property added since the date of the estimate. In order to protect the District without this data, levy calculations are made on the high side to allow the District to access all potential new construction. The law requires that if the proposed levy represents a 5% or more increase over the prior year's extended taxes, the District must publish notice and establish a hearing. This year the proposed levy is under that threshold and the notice and hearing are not required.

The Education Fund expenses for this levy were calculated based on projected salaries and benefits, the two largest components of expenditures in the Education Fund. The details of the documents have been reviewed with the Finance Committee. The proposed levy will be brought back to the Board of Education on December 11, 2012 for final approval.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Heinold that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 proposed budget and the 2012 tentative levy.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 1

Motion carried.

**Approve Resolution for Tax Abatement – BSI –**

Dr. Hall reminded the Board of Education that in July of 2012, they gave informal approval to a five year, 50% tax abatement for Bradley Services Incorporated, a subsidiary of Nelson Global Products. Due to a fire at the BSI plant in Morton, operations had been moved to Mapleton, IL. The decision has now been made to rebuild and relocate back to Morton, after considering other locales. This relocation back to Morton will include \$4.5 million in construction, the purchase of an existing building and 10 additional acres, for a capital investment of \$7.5 million. This retains 260 jobs in the area, and creates approximately 40 new jobs.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaiser that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to provide a 50% tax abatement to Bradley Services Incorporated for five years: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Abstain 1

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

Approve September Treasurer's Report  
 Approving and Signing Minutes of the October 16, 2012, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes of the October 16, 2012, Regular Meeting.  
 Approve Personnel Report  
 Approve Bills and Payroll

|                     | <b>Bills<br/>10-19-12</b> | <b>Bills<br/>11-2-12</b> | <b>Payroll<br/>10-26-12</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ed. Fund            | \$160,473.01              | \$204,283.84             | \$392,146.67                |
| Bldg. Fund          | 184,049.67                | 16,170.53                | 30,726.40                   |
| Trans.Fund          | 23,338.56                 | 8,139.15                 | 12,773.26                   |
| Payroll Accts. Pay. | --                        | --                       | 387,347.94                  |
| Fire and Safety     | --                        | 178.75                   | --                          |
| Tort Fund           | 300.00                    | --                       | --                          |

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:30 p.m.

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

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Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:20 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

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Thomas Neeley, President