

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 19, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 19, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Michelle Bernier

Reports –

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board had a very good meeting with the Jefferson School teachers earlier in the evening. Besides meeting collectively with the teachers, each grade level and special services had a Common Core Math demonstration. He thanked Ms. Grzanich for hosting the meeting and for having Jefferson's student ambassadors as greeters and servers.

Mr. Neeley reported that the directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) met recently. He noted that:

- the Association will be sending a letter to the Illinois Speaker of the House concerning the unfunded mandates that have been enacted in recent years.
- the *Alliance Report* lists initiatives based on resolutions that were passed by the delegation at the statewide conference in November.
- resolutions passed by the IHSA were included in his report. He mentioned that only 58% of the member schools in the IHSA vote on the resolutions noting that Mr. Prichard does take the resolutions seriously and votes.
- a new law is being proposed concerning how school districts with incorporated and unincorporated areas select school board members from these areas. The proposed law would no longer require passage in each jurisdiction; it would have to pass by a 70% majority of each jurisdiction combined. This law is currently in the draft stages.

The Board agreed to have Dr. Hall take the information gathered from the 709Connect meetings and put it into a strategic plan template.

Discussion Items –**Schoolwide Title I at Jefferson Elementary School -**

Ms. Grzanich reported on the plan to move Jefferson School from a Targeted Title I school to Schoolwide Title I. She explained that as a Targeted Title I school there is a select group of students who specifically receive extra support. Monies all must be aligned with that group of children and must be supplemental to any of the district's general funding for the school. The primary focus for Title I monies is on mathematics. Schoolwide Title I becomes available to schools with 40% or more free and reduced lunch. A schoolwide program allows for:

- Flexibility – schools may combine resources, serve all students and redesign the school and its services. All students are eligible to use materials and resources.
- Coordination and Integration – schools will have a reduction in curricular and instructional fragmentation.
- Accountability – school efforts are clear and coordinated; all students are responsible for achieving the same high standards.
- Unified Goals – schoolwide programs bring parents, the community and the school together to redesign and improve the school.

Due to changes in support designations with Medicaid and State Aid, Jefferson's free and reduced lunch designation has met the 40% threshold. The consultant for Title I from the Illinois State Board of Education has recommended that the district move forward on the schoolwide application. If accepted, the schoolwide status would last a minimum of three years even if the school drops below the threshold number.

Dr. Hall noted that the District will not receive increased funding, but that the funds received can be used to reach more students.

Action Items -**Approve Jr. High Wheelchair Lift -**

Dr. Hall explained that the wheelchair lift at Morton Jr. High School is in need of replacement. The current lift was purchased in 1989 and requires regular maintenance and parts are increasingly difficult to obtain. Three bids were received with the two lowest bids being very close.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Garaventa Lift of \$33,106 to purchase and install an inclined wheelchair lift at the Jr. High School.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

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Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:35 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President