

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 16, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 16, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 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 –

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

Lincoln Science Fair Showcase –

Students from Lincoln School demonstrated their projects from the recent 5th/6th Grade Science Fair. Dr. Hall and Mr. Neeley thanked the students and their parents. She also commended their teachers Mrs. Blanco, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Mills and Ms. Garretson.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley commented on the county wide facilities sales tax referendum failure at the recent municipal election. Dr. Hall noted she is gathering the results by precinct and will have them available for next week's board meeting. Mr. Smock commended Dr. Hall for her efforts to educate the electorate on the benefits of the sales tax. She spent a great amount of time prior to the election meeting with community groups and the Tazewell County Board.

Mr. Neeley noted that 75% of Illinois schools are deficit spending. School boards need to continue to work with legislators for education funding. He will be attending a legislative event in Springfield with the Morton Chamber of Commerce in May.

Discussion Items –

Discipline Handbook Changes -

Dr. Teater reviewed recommended changes to the 2013-2014 discipline handbook for the elementary, jr. high and high school. Changes include tightening up the dress code and

dealing with bullying and sexual harassment in the high school handbook; tardy language, dress code at dances, school hours for students in the building , fire drills and aligning language with the high school in the jr. high handbook; eliminating language that included outdated technology devices, aligning language with jr. high and high school in the elementary handbook.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Teater and the discipline committee for their work keeping the handbooks up to date. The changes will be brought for approval by the board at the next meeting.

Legal Agreements with the Village of Morton –

Dr. Hall noted that the legal agreements with the Village of Morton are posted on the District website. They will be brought to the Board for approval at next week’s meeting. The agreements are a collaborative effort with the Village and Dr. Hall thanked Mayor Durflinger, Jeff Kaufmann, Craig Loudermilk and village attorney, Tom Davies for assistance in reaching consensus on the agreements.

Highlights of the agreements include the school district leasing village owned property next to the fire station on Courtland Avenue to house the buses; first right of refusal for the Village if the school district ever decides to close any of its buildings; district owned property on Harding Road will be annexed into the village; and leasing school district land for the Pumpkin Festival.

Mr. Neeley commented that the school district has been looking for another place for the buses for many years. He thanked the Village officials for their assistance.

Live Streaming of Board of Education Meetings –

Dr. Hall reported that with the availability of Play on Sports and MP-TV, there would be a very minimal cost for live streaming of school board meetings on the internet. The cost would involve approximately \$250 per month to pay someone to run the camera. The board tables will have to be reconfigured in order that all board members would be visible on camera. All agreed to start at the May 7 meeting.

Action Items -

Approve Health Plan Consulting Services Agreement -

Dr. Hall explained that since 2009 the District has received health plan consulting services from a company that helped bid and negotiate our reinsurance, pharmacy and third party administrator contracts. For the year 2012-2013, the company was paid a commission of \$29,600 on the District’s reinsurance premium.

The passage of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 and the

corresponding phased implementation of this act has significantly complicated the administration of health insurance for the District and it was determined that greater expertise in this area was needed. Services involve assisting in compliance and reporting changes as a result of the Health Care reform Act, evaluating our health insurance plans and design, preparing bid specifications and helping place contracts with vendors.

After interviewing representatives from two companies, it was determined that James Unland & Company had the most expertise in dealing with the Health Care Reform Act, particularly as it applies to school districts. A consulting services agreement was negotiated for the period March 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$30,000. At the end of this 15 month period, the agreement will automatically renew annually, at a rate of \$150 per hour not to exceed \$25,000 annually, unless either party decides to terminate the contract. The reinsurance contract was renewed on March 1, 2013, with no commission charges included. As a result, the district is saving the previously paid commission charges of \$29,600 and replacing these costs with the \$30,000 cost of the health plan consulting services agreement.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education enter into a Health Plan Consulting Services Agreement with James Unland & Company, Inc.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstain 1

Motion carried.

Approve K-6 Elementary Math Textbook –

Dr. Hall reported that a K-6 Elementary Math textbook was presented to the Board of Education at an earlier meeting. The textbook has been on display at the public library for 30 days and she is now recommending approval by the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the K-6 Math textbook for a total cost of \$143,445.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve High School Stat Textbook –

Dr. Hall reported that a High School Stats textbook was presented to the Board of Education at an earlier meeting. The textbook has been on display at the public library for 30 days and she is now recommending approval by the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Stats textbook for a total cost of \$13,568.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve High School Geometry Textbook –

Dr. Hall reported that a High School Geometry textbook was presented to the Board of Education at an earlier meeting. The textbook has been on display at the public library for 30 days and she is now recommending approval by the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Geometry textbook for a total cost of \$21,812.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Neeley thanked everyone that served on the textbook selection committees for their time and commitment to the task.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve February Treasurer’s Report
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the March 19, 2013, Regular Meeting, and the Closed Session Minutes of the March 19, 2013, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 03-22-13	Bills 03-28-13	Payroll 03-29-13
Ed. Fund	\$148,474.69	\$30,515.42	\$427,434.69
Bldg. Fund	95,167.01	99.29	32,500.62
Trans. Fund	24,143.53	35.67	13,630.39
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	223,535.68
Fire & Safety	3,530.00	--	--
Tort Fund	3,360.81	--	--

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Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Taylor, 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. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, 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 8:30 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President