

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 6, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 6, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Clint Heinold called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Tim Taylor, Mrs. Michelle Bernier,
Mr. John Applen, Mr. Shaun Bill, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe

Re-Organization of Board –

Elect President –

Mr. Heinold asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Heinold nominated Mrs. Bernier to serve as President of the Board of Education. Mr. Applen nominated Mr. Taylor. By a show of hands, 5 for Mrs. Bernier and 2 for Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bernier was declared President by Mr. Heinold. Mrs. Bernier assumed the chair of President.

Elect Vice President –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Bill nominated Mr. Taylor to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Taylor was declared Vice President by acclamation by Mrs. Bernier.

Elect Secretary –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mrs. Scarfe nominated Mr. Bill to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Bill was declared Secretary by acclamation by Mrs. Bernier.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Regular Board of Education meetings for the 2014-2015 year will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Morton Education and Administration Center. Board members were asked to hold Tuesdays open for special meetings that may be scheduled throughout the year.

Audience Presentations –

Tanya LaSota, 1255 Wheatfield Dr., first spoke to the board at the April 22 meeting and

continued at this meeting with her suggested action plans for District 709 to consider for dealing with dyslexic students.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request to report from Nicholas Jack. He requested information related to the analysis to compare previous Illinois Standards to the new Illinois Standards. He also requested the complete pre common core standards and the complete common core standards. Resources used by the school district to transition to the new standards were provided for Mr. Jack.

Recognition of High School Math Team –

Dr. Hall reported that the High School Math Team recently earned a third place finish at the state finals. MHS was the only public school in the top six finishers. Dr. Hall conveyed the district's congratulations to the team and its coaches, Lucas Allen and Joel Zehr.

Teacher Appreciation Week –

Dr. Hall reported that this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. She thanked all teachers for the integral part they play in the success of the students and the district.

Recognition of Tom Neeley –

Dr. Hall recognized board member, Tom Neeley, as he has been named the recipient of the Central Illinois Valley Region of the IASA Presidential Citation Award. This award goes to a non-educator who has significantly contributed to the field of public education. Tom will be recognized at the next IASA regional meeting on May 15th. He has served on the school board for 25 years and as its president on multiple occasions. Since 2007, he has served on the IASB Board of Directors, lobbying for education at the state level and is an advocate for veterans. Mr. Neeley responded that it is a privilege and an honor to be a part of Morton School District.

Recognition of Morton Food Service –

Dr. Hall reported that on May 7, Tazewell County Health Department will be presenting the Tazewell County Excellence Award for 10 consecutive years of excellent inspections of our kitchens in the Morton Schools. Plaques will be given to Becky Goldman, our Food Service manager.

Rising Star School Improvement and Goals Updates –

Principals from each school gave an update on their Rising Star Plan.

Principal Faith Waterfield of Brown School reported that:

- The Brown Rising Star Team monitored the indicators that were implemented initially in November 2013.
 - Focus on writing
 - All teachers engage all students
 - Wrote the Lettie Brown Parent-Student-Staff Compact. This will be distributed, discussed and signed at the beginning of next school year.

Principal Michael Saunders of Grundy School reported that:

- The Grundy Rising Star Team implemented its three indicators begun in November 2013.
 - Team will serve as a conduit of communication to the faculty and staff. The team developed a survey for both teachers and aides regarding the roles and responsibilities of paraprofessionals. The team analyzed the survey data and began the process of developing a paraprofessional training program which will be implemented in August, 2014.
 - Team regularly looks at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and used it to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs. The team analyzed the fall and winter MAP data and presented its findings to the faculty. Next year they will analyze and present ISAT data, fall-winter MAP data in January and fall-spring MAP data in May, compare it to data collected this year and look for trends.
 - Team developed a school Compact. The team drafted a school compact and sought input from staff and a select group of parents. They finalized the compact and developed a plan to implement it in August of 2014 at Meet the Teacher Night.

Principal Susan Grzanich of Jefferson School reported that:

- The Jefferson Rising Star Team has the following indicators either in monitoring, completed or started process.
 - Team structure is in place and partially implemented. The team is established and in place. The parent group has five parents participating now with a goal of 8 – 10.
 - Team data review is partially implemented and is an ongoing process.
 - The school Compact is completed and has been shared with the staff. It will be disseminated at Meet the Teacher Night in August, 2014.

Principal Julie Albers of Lincoln School reported that:

- The Lincoln Rising Star Team implemented its three indicators:
 - Yearly learning goals will be set by the school for the team, utilizing student learning data. Teachers and grade level teams determine their professional growth needs through formal/informal observations by

the building principal through analysis of MAP data, and review of teacher goals. This data is used to determine appropriate professional development opportunities that will support classroom instruction and student growth. The team created a form for all teachers to use to highlight professional development activities. Teachers will be expected to share new knowledge and strategies from professional development activities at teacher meetings.

- Principal will monitor curriculum and classroom instruction regularly utilizing the Danielson Framework. During teacher meetings the principal used time to specifically review the new teacher evaluation tool based on this framework. The team created a document in which the principal documents informal classroom visits, formal observations and pop-in visits.
- The team is continuing to work on the School Compact. This will be shared with teachers prior to the end of the school year and shared with parents at Meet the Teacher Night in August, 2014.

Principal Lee Hoffman of Morton Jr. High School reported that:

- The Morton Jr. High Rising Star Team has implemented the following indicators:
 - Outcomes that represent rigorous learning for all students will be present in all classes. Goals include a rigorous classroom and evidence of “highly intellectually engaged” students by demonstrating ownership of learning and students challenging themselves. Next steps before the end of the 2013-2014 school year include:
 - Designing criteria outlining how honors classes are higher level than standard classes.
 - Develop department plans for increasing rigor in classrooms.
 - Develop a method for measuring engagement in classrooms.

Principal Marjorie Johnson of Morton High School reported that:

- The Morton High School Rising Star team is in its second year of the Rising Star process. The 2013-2014 indicators are:
 - Teachers differentiate assignments (individualize instruction) in response to individual student performance on pre-tests and other methods of assessment. RtI training was provided along with training on differentiation. Teachers are currently adapting the training to the classroom on an ongoing basis.
 - School Leadership monitors and evaluates the implementation of Learning Supports’ programming through an on-going data collection system. Data team provided teacher training to introduce “Inform” (available through PowerSchool) in January.
 - For the remainder of this school year, the Internal Review Team will monitor progress on the goals from 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 and begin the process of determining next year’s goals.

Dr. Hall thanked the principals and their teams and noted that this process will continue next school year. The principals will report in the fall on the indicators chosen for the

2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Scarfe commended Dr. Hall for implementing the Rising Star process at all buildings.

Aspire Testing –

Dr. Teater reported that the Aspire Test, developed by the ACT company, will be replacing the MAP testing (grades 7 and 8), the EXPLORE test (grades 8 and 9) and the PLAN test (grade 10) for the 2014-2015 school year. The EXPLORE and PLAN tests will be discontinued by ACT and are being replaced with Aspire. Morton 709 7th and 8th grade students' high performance makes many of their MAP growth targets within the error of measurement. The Aspire test will provide better tracking of student growth from 7th through 11th grade. It will be administered in the Fall testing window, allowing teachers to use the assessment for instruction.

Physical Education Update –

Dr. Teater noted the goal for the daily physical education committee is to create a proposal for implementing elementary daily PE in the 2015-2016 school year that is beneficial to our students and minimizes the impact to other programs. He stressed that this proposal is a temporary option until a more beneficial, long-term solution can be implemented. The proposal includes:

- Facilities – quality space-areas that allow for a rich PE curriculum:
 - Challenge for all buildings
 - Can be met in three buildings with adequate space (activity rooms instead of gyms). Adequate space limits range of curriculum.
 - Lincoln School does not have adequate space – moving programs to create adequate space creates space issues at other buildings.
- Staffing – quality staff that has expertise to provide a rich PE curriculum:
 - Ideally taught by certified PE teacher.
 - Can be met 1st – 6th grade by combination of PE teachers four times per week and classroom teacher one day per week.
 - A final decision will be made after the facility is defined.
- Curriculum – quality curriculum promotes physical activity in students and other life-long benefits:
 - Dependent on facilities and staffing.
 - Illinois PE Standards – curriculum will be developed around these standards.
 - Final curriculum will be decided when other variables are in place.
- Additional Considerations:
 - Half-day Early Childhood and Kindergarten classes have limited instruction time.
 - Loss of contact time for 1st – 6th grade classroom teachers (75 minutes per week).

Dr. Teater noted he, Dr. Hall and Mr. Smock have met recently with the Kindergarten

teachers to discuss options for P.E. for their classes. They are currently formulating ideas and will have a follow-up meeting prior to the end of the school year.

School Safety Grant –

Dr. Hall reported that Barb Getz and Bill Schock recently applied for and received a safety grant in the amount of \$71,000. The grant will be used to install keyless entry systems at the Jr. High and High School.

Crisis Management Plan Update –

Dr. Teater reported that the District Crisis Management team held its annual meeting on May 1. Team members include some administrators, a board member, teachers, the school resource officer, the Fire Chief, Bill Schock and himself. Discussion included evacuation drills held this past school year for Brown, Grundy and MJHS and shooter drills held after school with teachers but no students present at Jefferson, Lincoln and MHS. Additional considerations include holding drills during non-traditional times (lunch/recess); review the procedure for a fire alarm during a hard lockdown; review procedures for new teachers outside of the first days of orientation. Future considerations are evacuation drills for MHS, Lincoln and Jefferson Schools; shooter drills at MJHS, Brown and Grundy Schools; completing the ROE School Safety Drill Report; updating crisis kits with fresh batteries and food items as needed; and make sure every classroom has the safety plans.

Annual Life Safety Survey Report –

Dr. Hall noted the current 10 Year Survey/Life Safety Work submitted by Rodney Schuck, Director of Operations.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall gave an update of the following:

- MHS Athletic Facilities – Farnsworth Group will be at Morton High School on May 7 to meet with coaches, teachers, administrators and booster groups to secure feedback about athletic facility work.
- Bus Facility – Open House was well attended on April 29 with positive feedback, in particular from the transportation department employees.
- MHS Heating System – some asbestos abatement work was completed over spring vacation. When possible, other work is being completed with students in the building, such as removal of ceiling tiles.
- Softball Facility – the need for this project is evidenced through the current inequity between baseball and softball facilities in our district. By partnering with the Morton Park District and Morton Girls Softball Association, we can collaboratively achieve the goal of providing the appropriate facilities for our

softball program. By utilizing space at Birchwood Park, a softball complex that is comparable in size and use to that of baseball, we can bring our MHS softball facility up to the level it needs to be from an equity standpoint. This project is possible due to the moving of the current parking lot to a new location. The old parking lot will become the fourth field and serve as our varsity softball facility. The Park District is looking at the following timeline after the MGSA summer season is over in late July:

- June – parking lot bid approve by Park District commissioners
- August – begin work on parking
- October – parking lot completed

The same model of financing used to build the baseball field at Westwood Park will be utilized for softball. This was a combination of school funds, donations, volunteer work, fundraising by the MYBA, and Morton Park District support. In the case of softball, the Morton Park District's contribution is an upgrade in the parking lot at Birchwood Park.

For Softball:

- Morton CUSD 709 will bid on equipment/supplies
- Flow through fund—will be set up at Morton Community Foundation
- Morton Community Foundation Grant—written collaboratively between 709, Park District and MGSA, we received \$2500 toward a new scoreboard.
- MGSA is planning a fundraising drive

Next steps:

- Civil engineering study (District 709 cost, approximately \$5,000)
- Completing this study will provide more accurate information that will assist in developing accurate costs and a budget as well as contribute to the site planning.
- Finalize details of use, draft an intergovernmental agreement similar to the agreement executed with the Park District, MYBA and District 709 for the baseball facility.

Creek Study –

Dr. Hall reported that Village Director of Public Works, Craig Loudermilk, will put together the scope of a study on the Prairie Creek that runs through the District's property on South Fourth Ave. District 709 is currently in talks with the Village on sharing costs of infrastructure for the land.

President's Report -

President Bernier recognized and thanked Clint Heinold for his service to the Board of Education this past year serving as president. She also noted that committee and building

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Amend 2013-2014 School Calendar
- Approve BFPAC Fees
- Approve Auditors
- Approve March Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Abatement of Working Cash Fund
- Approve 2014-2015 School Board Meeting Calendar
- Approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2014, Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- Minutes of the April 22, 2014, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 4-25-14	Bills 5-2-14	Payroll 4-25-14
Ed. Fund	\$6,831.06	\$196,017.98	\$394,712.76
Bldg. Fund	--	428,837.53	32,121.64
Trans. Fund	--	132,281.46	10,022.04
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	380,171.26
Fire & Safety	--	152,577.00	--

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Abstain 2 (Bernier, Taylor)

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, 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 8:52 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, 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 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Neeley noted that in the past, it has been the practice of the board to invite former, long-serving board members to hand diplomas to their children at graduation. All agreed to ask Joyce Kaiser this year, as she has a child graduating.

Board members commended co-directors Heather Berger and Liz Rebmann and the cast of the high school spring musical, "Charlotte's Web." As in the past, the production was excellent with much hard work by the cast, crew and directors.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Bill, Secretary

Michelle Bernier, President