

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**June 3, 2014**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 3, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Dr. Hall acknowledged the passing of Henry Ort. Mr. Ort taught Industrial Arts at MJHS (1955 – 1963) and was principal of MJHS from 1963 – 1987.

The Board of Education recognized brothers, Grant and Trent Reiman, who placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Doubles at the State Tennis Tournament. This is a 1-class tournament, so they were up against everyone in the state. This is the first time in MHS history to have medalists at state. Their record overall this year was 39 – 1. Assistant Coach Jon Wheat noted the Reiman brothers are the best representatives the District could have at the tournament.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request to report from Nicholas Jack. He requested a complete list of all fourth grade textbooks and supplemental materials. The [response](#) is available on the District website.

##### **District Office Summer Hours –**

Dr. Hall reported that District Office summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

##### **Drug Testing Update –**

Dr. Hall reported that a total of 268 high school students were randomly tested for drug use this past school year. Four students tested positive for THC (marijuana). Their parents were notified and given avenues for treatment options. All were recommended to Walt Nunnally of Illini Family Counseling with parent permission.

**Dress Code Update –**

Dr. Hall noted that the principals submitted a year-end report on student compliance with the dress code. All reported little to no problems.

**External Counseling Report –**

Dr. Hall reported that Walt Nunnally of Illini Family Counseling is an external counselor used by the high school. He had 881 total student contacts over the past school year. In addition, Mr. Nunnally gives presentations to the health and ARC classes at the high school. He sees students and families for anxiety, depression and suicide/self-harm screenings and makes mental health and substance abuse counseling referrals. Board members agreed this is a service worthy of continuation.

**Physical Restraint Update –**

This report was provided after a recent change in Board policy due to a change in law. Ms. Ashby reported there were three incidents involving two students this past school year that required physical restraint. The students were in Early Childhood and Kindergarten.

**MPTV Update/Viewership Data –**

Dr. Hall noted that Board meetings have been live streamed on MPTV for a little more than a year. A report was provided on the number of live and archived views. She recommended continuing to live stream meetings. She commended Lynn Coverstone and Carol Jankowski for their part in making MPTV a success .

**PARCC Pilot Update –**

Dr. Teater reported that students from Jefferson, Jr. High and High Schools took the end-of-year PARCC test pilot. This test will replace the ISAT test in spring of 2015 for the entire state of Illinois. Feedback included:

- Poor directions – the state is aware of this and working on revisions.
- Online version went well, but found that iPads worked better with the test than PC's.
- The test itself if very challenging with higher expectations.

**Dyslexia Report –**

Special Education Director Dana Ashby and Elementary RtI Coordinator Jill Lyons gave an overview of dyslexia and interventions the district implements through RtI. Dr. Hall reviewed that in April, the Board heard from parents of students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. She thanked the parents for sharing their experiences and frustrations along with providing information, suggestions and ideas. Dr. Hall noted

challenges and concerns, available opportunities outside of the school district for additional help and future District actions. The entire [presentation](#) is available as an archived meeting on MPTV beginning at the 24:14 point of the meeting.

### **Facilities Configuration Report –**

As a first step in researching various options for future building needs and as a result of the recommendations given to the Board by the Facilities Advisory Committee a few months ago, administrators presented advantages of a K-4, 5-8 configuration. Options for utilizing the current high school as a 5-8 middle school were also shared. This [presentation](#) is available as an archived meeting on MPTV beginning at the 2:14:45 point of the meeting.

### **Facilities Utilization/Capacity Study –**

Dr. Hall reported she has received a proposal from CropperGIS to do a 3-phase study for facilities utilization:

- Phase 1 – School capacity study – assessment of school facilities within the district to determine a useable capacity figure per building.
- Phase 2 – School capacity needs assessment – school buildings and feeder patterns will be studied and examined to determine how efficiently the schools are operating. Schools analyzed in terms of enrollment vs. capacity and programs at the schools.
- Phase 3 – Alternative exploration, if necessary, to address any imbalances in utilization.

There is a minimum cost of \$13,000 up to \$20,000 if Phase 3 is needed. This will be a Discussion Item at the July 8 Board meeting.

### **Discussion Items –**

#### **Board Policy Compliance – Community Relations**

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Community Relations policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Bernier will sign the forms and place them in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office

#### **Board Goal Discussion: Climate -**

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of climate. She noted the district strives to:

- recruit, hire, train and retain high quality staff
- continue to foster a climate of collaboration, teamwork and trust with the MEA and educational support personnel
- maintain and expand opportunities for parental involvement and support
- And, the Board will cultivate an environment of trust and respect with the

community.

Upcoming items include working with the MEA on negotiating a new contract and continuing work on the teacher evaluation instrument.

#### **Proposed Tax Abatement Agreement –**

Dr. Hall reported that due to a desire to bring consistency to the process of offering incentives for businesses to locate within the District 709 boundaries, and with the realization that growth of our Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV) is essential to the financial health of our school district, especially in the area of commercial property growth, the Business Recruitment Committee, a sub-committee of the Morton Economic Development Committee, has been working for approximately the last 10 months on a matrix of criteria that addresses this issue. The result of this work is the proposed tax abatement agreement between the local taxing bodies. Models of other municipal agreements were examined, as well as strong consideration being given to local issues. The superintendent's Finance Committee reviewed this agreement on April 7, 2014, and recommends approving the agreement as written. Other taxing bodies have reviewed this agreement and support its adoption. Jennifer Daly and Kim Uhlig of the Morton EDC were in attendance to answer questions and give background on tax abatements. This item will be on the July 8 meeting agenda for approval.

#### **Action Item –**

##### **Resolution Concerning School Funding in the State of Illinois –**

In light of the current economic and financial climate in the state of Illinois, the Illinois Association of School Boards has encouraged local school boards to consider passing a resolution regarding school funding. The resolution as drafted is a nonbinding document, but does clearly state our concerns regarding the need to find a consistent, stable, reliable and predictable model for funding public schools in Illinois, as well as the need to refrain from placing unfunded mandates on school districts.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution concerning local school funding.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda –**

Mr. Bill asked that Consent Agenda Item A be pulled from the consent agenda for a separate vote.

Mr. Applen asked that Consent Agenda Item J be pulled from the consent agenda for a separate vote.

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

- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Authorize Submission of General State Aid and Transportation Claims
- Approve Treasurers for 2014-15 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
- Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
- Approve Complaint Manager
- Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
- Approve Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Gift Acceptance Report
- Review Closed Session Minutes
- Approve April Treasurer's Report
- Approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2014, Regular Meeting
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	<b>Bills 5-22-14</b>	<b>Bills 5-30-14</b>	<b>Payroll 5-23-14</b>
Ed. Fund	\$3,477.62	\$185,039.70	\$ 427,408.38
Bldg. Fund	25.14	472,439.06	34,964.79
Trans. Fund	--	3,131.10	14,294.07
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	403,734.22
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Abstain 1 (Taylor)

Motion carried.

**Approve Personnel Report –**

Mr. Applen asked for clarification on hiring the Title I funded kindergarten teacher. Dr. Hall reported that she was recently notified that the TRS surcharge that was to be lowered to 8% beginning next school year is not being lowered. It will remain at 35% for certified teachers being paid out of federal funds. Though this is disappointing and indicative of the unstable, inconsistent planning by the state of Illinois, the district is in a position to

