

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 21, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 21, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Clint Heinold called the regular meeting to order at 7:25 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

Audience Presentations –

Mr. Heinold explained the new process that will be used for those wanting to make an audience presentation. There will be index cards available at all meetings to fill in with contact information and presentation topic. Cards should be given to the Board of Education recording secretary prior to the start of the meeting. This process should offer better organization for all involved.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

Task Board Update –

Dr. Hall recommended some updates for the Task Board:

- Add one goal per month from February through June, 2014
- June 2014 – remove curriculum review since already reviewing one goal per month
- May 2014 – add State of the District presentation by Dr. Hall (2nd meeting - recommendation from 709Connect)

The Board of Education agreed to the recommendations and the revisions will be made to the Task Board.

Overview of Demographer/Enrollment Studies –

Dr. Hall gave an overview of the recently completed demographic/enrollment studies. She noted that two companies were retained this fall to conduct the studies of our school district. Mr. Matthew Cropper, President of CropperGIS, will be in attendance at

the February 4, 2014, Board of Education meeting to present more in depth findings from his company's study, as well as answer any additional or further questions that the Board of Education or administration might have. She asked the Board to keep in mind that enrollment forecasts are just that—forecasts and predictions based on statistical analyses of various demographic factors, and that a number of uncontrollable factors can be introduced to scenarios at any given time (example: natural disasters).

Information Management Systems: This company completes enrollment projects by utilizing live birth rates from our county and also our past actual enrollments. There are three methods calculated in the report, and our circumstances in District 709 most closely align with Method #1. Each method is fully explained in the report. This report also calculates teacher/pupil ratios based on various desired class sizes. While this is helpful information, it is not totally relevant to our situation as we do have recommended class size limits written into our collective bargaining agreement. Overall, our enrollment, utilizing Method #1, is projected to slowly and consistently increase over the next five years.

CropperGIS: The report provided by CropperGIS is much more in-depth and utilizes data from a wide variety of sources, including but not limited to District 709, the IRS, the 2010 Census, the Village and Tazewell County. An explanation of methodology is provided, as well as foundational information regarding the overall population in the Morton School District. A helpful feature of this report is the dividing of the information into the attendance boundaries for our elementary schools. This informs some of our current needs for information, but should boundary changes be necessitated in the future, this information will be extremely helpful in decision making. Also included are enrollment forecasts and “live attend” analyses, which map out, student by student, the enrollment at each of our schools as of today. According to CropperGIS's findings:

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that:

- the bus facility is nearing completion. Phone and internet are being installed this week and move-in will be soon.
- the next Facilities Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 30. The meeting will be posted as a “Committee of the Whole” so all board members may attend if they wish.

President's Report –

Mr. Heinold reported that:

- he and Mrs. Bernier met today with the Policy Committee. Some policy additions and revisions are forthcoming at future meetings.
- the Board of Education met earlier in the evening with the Jefferson School teachers. Great information was shared and he noted the teamwork within and across the grades by the teachers.

Dr. Hall explained that emergency days that have been used will be made up at the end of the school year. She recently emailed staff with this information and the January “Communicator” includes emergency day information. Dr. Hall emphasized that the last day of school is yet to be determined and will be announced after the Board amends the 13-14 calendar at the first meeting in May.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bernier, Secretary

Clint Heinold, President