

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 5, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 5, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 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

Mrs. Scarfe left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Audience Presentations –

Mrs. Trisha Beaty, 133 S. Oklahoma, Morton, distributed invitations to the Board of Education and Dr. Hall to an upcoming meeting of The Heartland Against Common Core.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request received August 4. The request and [response](#) is available on the District website.

Administrative Welcome –

Dr. Hall welcomed back the Administrators for the 2014-2015 school year. She thanked Mr. Smock and the administrators involved in the hiring process for this year's new staff members. Dr. Hall thanked the Board of Education members for volunteering their time for the students and staff by serving on the Board of Education; she also thanked the owners of District 709, the residents, who provide the tax dollars for our schools to operate. She welcomed back the entire staff and offered her best wishes for a great school year.

Substitute Teacher Pay Report –

Mr. Smock reported he recently conducted a survey of surrounding school districts to collect substitute pay information. He noted that Morton School district falls in the average of the districts surveyed and he recommended that the rate of \$80.50 per day (plus board paid TRS) remain the same for the 2014-2015 school year.

Morton Pumpkin Festival –

Dr. Hall reminded board members that they and the Leadership Team will be volunteering in the Pumpkin Grille at the festival on Thursday, September 11, from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m.

Facilities Update –

Mr. Rodney Schuck, Director of Operations, reported on the status of summer projects around the district:

- Elementary Schools –
 - Brown – Canopy roof redone
 - Grundy – Bathroom remodel and electrical work
 - Jefferson – Blacktop/concrete project will be completed by the end of the week; intercom installation is complete.
 - Lincoln – Two new serving line doors installed
- Jr. High and High School –
 - Jr. High – Life Safety issues completed
 - High School – Offices will move in on Friday of this week. Custodial and maintenance staff will work over the weekend to ensure that teachers can get in their classrooms on Monday, August 11. Minimal work will still need to be completed on the heating project after school starts, but will be in areas that do not effect students or will be done during 2nd shift; the press box has been reinforced and has new steps.

Dr. Hall reported that:

- Keach Architectural design has been asked to prepare preliminary plans and ideas for addressing space issues at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln Schools.
- As a follow-up to a report given to the Board at the June meeting, Dr. Hall conducted a survey of area 5-8 middle schools seeking input of pros and cons of this type of grade level configuration.
- She will be setting up four meetings in the fall of 709Connect on the topic of facilities only. The four meetings will be identical and will allow community members to attend a meeting and give input about long term facilities planning.

Board members discussed ideas for engaging large numbers of the community. They agreed to proceed with plans for the four 709Connect meetings on facilities.

President's Report –

Mrs. Bernier reported that the Communications Committee met recently to discuss the 709Connect meetings and the Policy Committee met concerning revising Policy 7:180. There was a first reading of the policy during Discussion Items.

Discussion Items –**Review Task Board for Upcoming Year -**

Dr. Hall reported that a few adjustments have been made to the Task Board for the upcoming year.

Board Process Policy Compliance -

Dr. Hall reported that all sections of the Board Process policies are being met and the board is in compliance. She and Mrs. Bernier will sign off in the Board Compliance binder.

1st Reading and Discussion of Board Policy 7:180 –

Dr. Hall reported that a revision to Policy 7:180 is being made to reflect the recent legal revisions made. This is the District's bullying policy. The recommendation is being presented to the Board of Education for discussion and a first reading. It was recommended that the Board review the suggested changes/additions and bring it back for a 2nd reading and approval at a future meeting. Mr. Smock noted that due to the legalities involved, the district is using wording from the recommended policy from the Illinois Association of School Boards for the revised policy.

Board Goals Discussion – Achievement –

Dr. Hall noted the Board will continue the discussion of each of their five goals by addressing one goal per month. This month's focus was on the goal of "Achievement" with updates regarding objectives and action statements associated with the goal. At the Board's planning meeting in June the following statement was added to this goal:

In a climate of increased emphasis and time spent on standardized testing, the board recognizes that the ultimate goal of a K-12 education is learning, achievement, and acquisition of the skills and knowledge needed to be a successful and contributing member of our society after graduating from high school.

Technology - Dr. Teater reported that iPads were distributed to students at registration on July 31. He noted he appreciated the opportunity to connect with parents. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the iPads were distributed to the 5 – 8 grades and $\frac{2}{3}$ to the high school students. Overall the distribution has gone very well. The public library has been helpful with support and training.

Curriculum – Dr. Teater reported that the district has curriculum guides, state guidelines, a list of textbooks and a list of assessments. There was a focus this summer to put all this information in one location. It was decided that the mapping software the district has been using is the best place for this information. For K-6, a 5-year plan was developed

for the reading, literature and math curriculums. Over the next year, teachers will diary map what is being taught in the classroom. At the Jr. High and High School, teachers will spend this next year diary mapping every course. Next summer a master map will be developed for every subject to be used for comparing what is being taught to the curriculum.

Action Item –

Approve Tentative 2014-2015 Budget and Schedule Public Hearing –

Dr. Hall noted that the tentative budget was presented to the Board at the July 8 meeting. There has been one change to the Tentative Budget that added a \$71,000 IEMA grant to the Operations and Maintenance budget revenue and added \$171,000 to the Operations and Maintenance budget expenditures. There is the expectation to spend \$171,000 for access control systems at all school buildings. The IEMA grant will cover \$71,000 of the cost.

Dr. Hall noted that a public hearing will be held at the August 19 meeting to move monies from the Education fund to the Operations and Maintenance (O & M) fund. The board will be asked at that meeting to approve two resolutions – one to move monies from the Ed. fund to the O & M fund and one to move monies from the working cash fund to the O & M fund.

The Tentative Budget will be on public display at the district office and a public hearing will be held at the September 16 meeting with approval also at that meeting.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget, place it on display for thirty days and schedule a budget hearing for September 16, 2014, at 7:15 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Personnel Report

Approve June Treasurer's Report

Approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2014, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session

Minutes of the July 8, 2014, Regular Meeting

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Bill, Secretary

Michelle Bernier, President