

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

December 2, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 2, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

## Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

Member arriving at 6:30 p.m. - Mr. John Applen

Member present via telephone at 5:42 p.m. - Mr. Clint Heinold

## 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 5                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 5:35 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:29 p.m.

## Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

**LEVY HEARING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Michelle Bernier called the Levy Hearing to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

Member present via telephone: Mr. Clint Heinold

Mrs. Bernier declared the Hearing open for the purpose of public comment and/or questions concerning the 2014-2015 Levy.

David King of 1984 E. Jefferson St., asked the Board of Education to defeat the recommended tax levy.

Mrs. Bernier declared the public hearing closed at 6:40 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING –**

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

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

Member present via telephone: Mr. Clint Heinold

**Audience Presentations –**

David King, 1984 E. Jefferson St., feels there is no need for artificial turf at the MHS athletic facility. He believes the community does not want the middle school concept of 5<sup>th</sup> – 8th grades in one building. He also feels there will not be community support for a future referendum. He is looking forward to the upcoming town hall meeting.

**Reports –**

**Administrative –**

Dr. Hall acknowledged the passing of:

- Kay Reardon. Mrs. Reardon has served as a bus monitor since 1995.
- Jim Klopfenstein. Mr. Klopfenstein and his wife have been MHS marching band supporters and volunteers for the band boosters for many years.

Dr. Hall conveyed condolences to the families of both on behalf of the Board of Education, Administration and staff of District 709.

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Hall reported that David King’s request for “all materials that will be presented by the Morton 709 group at the School Board Convention has been fulfilled. The response is posted on the district website.

Another request by Vincent Di Donato for information related to a door project at Lincoln Elementary is in the process of being fulfilled. The response will be posted on the district website when completed.

**Presentation from Anne Noble, Stifel Nicholas –**

Anne Noble, Managing Director of Stifel Nicholas, gave a presentation on financing alternatives for Illinois school districts – “Bonds 101.” The complete presentation can be viewed on MP-TV beginning at the 12:38 point of the meeting.

**Rising Star Updates –**

Presentations were heard from the principals of Brown, Grundy, Lincoln, Jr. High and High School on the Rising Star Continuous Improvement process. Each reported on the progress of the indicators their teams chose to focus on beginning last school year and the new indicators chosen for this school year. The complete presentation can be viewed on MP-TV beginning at the 50:31 point of the meeting.

**Vision 20/20 Update -**

Dr. Hall reported she has been representing our region along with others from across the state for the past year on the Vision 20/20 initiative. Vision 20/20 was introduced publicly over the past two weeks. The priorities of the initiative are to recruit and retain highly effective educators; invest in policies proven to link all schools to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools; share accountability with the legislative process; and improve equity in the funding model.

**Drug Testing Update –**

Dr. Hall reported that 110 students have been tested with 0 tests coming back positive for illegal drugs. There were five positive tests due to prescription medication.

**Dress Code Update –**

Dr. Hall noted that all building principals have reported that students are complying with the dress code with few infractions.

**Building Tours –**

Dr. Hall reported that public tours of all of the school buildings will be scheduled in January.

**Board Reports –**

President Bernier reported that the District 709 presentation given at the State School Board Conference on community engagement went well. There has been good feedback and follow-up from those that attended the presentation.

Board members shared information from sessions they attended at the conference.

President Bernier thanked the district for giving board members the opportunity to attend the conference.

President Bernier distributed a copy of the Illinois Association of School Boards' "Code of Conduct" for school board members. The Board will focus on one topic per month beginning in January.

**Discussion Item –**

**Board Compliance – Personnel Policies –**

Dr. Hall reported that she and President Bernier have reviewed the personnel policies and have determined that the district is in compliance. They will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

**Board Goals Discussion – Climate –**

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of climate that states that the Board of Education will maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates/fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff. At the Board's goal setting session this past year, the following was added: "The board will collaborate and work toward unity of direction and purpose." She noted that the administration has open lines of communication with the MEA. They are currently working together on the student growth component of the evaluation instrument. The administration and board of education meet regularly with the MEA in Labor Management meetings. A recent meeting was held with Dr. Wellenreiter and a group of teachers to address concerns and issues with personal devices. Dr. Hall noted her appreciation for the relationship the administration has with the MEA.

Mr. Neeley noted the need to continue to reach out to the community and recognize there are many views within the community.

**Proposed K-2 Phonics Supplement –**

Dr. Teater reported the Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers have been reviewing phonics materials to supplement the current reading series. Through data being collected in Elementary RtI, some common trends in student data were noted in the area of phonics. A review of the scope and sequence in the first and second grade Storytown Basal series was done to analyze the alignment of the systematic, sequential development of phonics skills.

The Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers compared the current series presentation of phonics to two additional publishers. The proposed materials would be used to supplement the current reading series, not to replace it. The recommendation and report was approved by the Curriculum Advisory Committee and Leadership team. The texts will be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days.

Mr. Taylor noted his appreciation that staff saw a need and acted on it. Dr. Hall acknowledged the work of Jill Lyons, elementary RtI coordinator.

**Proposed Space Science Dual Credit –**

Dr. Teater reported the Morton High School Science department is recommending that the current Space Science Honors course be offered as dual credit. Credit would be given by Illinois Central College as PHYSC 114-Introduction to Astronomy. The curriculum is very similar to the current Space Science Honors course, with slightly more rigor.

In addition to the dual credit change, the course would also need to use the approved textbook from ICC. Backman & Seeds. (2013). Foundations of Astronomy. Cengage Learning.

The dual credit course proposal was presented and approved at both CAC and the Leadership team.

Both proposals will be on the January 13, 2015, agenda for approval by the Board of Education.

**Action Items –****Approve 2014-2015 Levy Resolution –**

Dr. Hall reported she has reviewed the Fund Balances and the expected needs for the next year based on the proposed FY 16 tentative budget presented previously to the Board of Education. The expenses for this levy were calculated based on projections.

Mr. Bill noted that school districts are allowed to raise the levy up to the current CPI (consumer price index) which reflects inflation. School districts are affected by inflation and raising the levy to the CPI keeps funding levels even.

Mr. Neeley noted his reasons in favor of the levy proposal. Due to the uncertainties facing the school district concerning state funding and pending legislation concerning teacher retirement, the district could be deficit spending in five years. The board has been prudent with spending over the years and does not waste money.

Mr. Applen noted that 100% of the taxes from the levy stays in Morton.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the 2014 Levy Resolution.

Roll Call:                                  Yea 5                                  Nay 2 – Taylor; Applen

Motion carried.

**Approve Contract with Farnsworth Group for Work on MHS Athletic Facilities –**

Dr. Hall noted that in order to move ahead with construction drawings, bid documents and other work affiliated with the repairs/upgrades to the MHS Athletic Facilities as discussed in several previous meetings, the Board of Education must approve a contract with Farnsworth Group.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education approve the contract with Farnsworth Group for work on the MHS athletic facilities.

Roll Call:                                  Yea 7                                  Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Partial Asbestos Abatement High School Tunnels –**

Dr. Hall reported that in September of 2014, the Village of Morton performed a survey of the gas services to each of the District 709 buildings. One of the issues that arose from the survey was the inability to access and inspect gas pipe lines in sealed tunnels at the High School. These gas pipe lines should be periodically inspected for pipe integrity. The sealed tunnels at the High School contain abandoned steam piping with asbestos based pipe insulation. The tunnels were sealed off several years back to prevent airborne asbestos fibers. In order to comply with the Village request to be able to inspect the pipes, the District needs to have the asbestos removed in a section of the tunnel so the pipes can be inspected.

Five companies submitted bids – Abel Plus Services, Freeman Environmental Services, Kinsale Contracting Group, Schemel-Tarrillion and Valor Technologies. The bids for the project ranged in price from \$75,000 - \$144,000.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Schemel-Tarrillion, Inc. of \$75,000 to remove asbestos from a portion of the high

school tunnel.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Facility Access System –**

Dr. Hall reported that in order to provide a more secure environment to the students and staff, the administration applied for and received a School Security Grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$71,000. This grant is to be used at the high school and junior high school to install a card access control system. The administration would like to have the same level of security and accountability in all school buildings and is recommending installation of a proximity card access control system for each school building. The card access control system will be installed on specific doors and will be used to maintain accountability on who is entering the buildings. The doors without the access control system will be monitored for unauthorized entry through a switch that will alert office staff when a door is opened or propped. Initially staff only will have card access to the buildings, but this system can be expanded to student card access in the future.

In order to keep the equipment cost of the system as low as possible, a system was designed that would fully integrate the card access control system with the existing video camera system. As a result, the bidders were prequalified by the architects and engineers (Keach Architectural Design and Midwest Engineering Professionals) based upon their ability to provide compatible equipment.

The work for this system is scheduled to begin in December 2014 and be completed in all buildings by the end of April 2015.

Two companies submitted bids – MidCo Systems in the amount of \$261,982.71 and Tech Electronics in the amount of \$430,931.83. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency grant of \$71,000 will partially offset this cost.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the bid of \$261,982.71 from MidCo Systems to install an access control system at all six school buildings.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve AP Physics Courses –**

Dr. Teater explained that the Morton High School Science department is recommending that the current Honors Physics course be offered as two AP Physics courses starting in the 2015-2016 school year. AP Physics 1 would cover Newtonian mechanics, rotational

motion, work energy, power, mechanical waves, sound and simple circuits. AP Physics 2 would cover fluids, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, optics and modern physics.

The proposal for AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 was presented and approved at both CAC and Leadership team.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the change from Honors Physics to AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Roll Call:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Advanced Strength and Conditioning Course –**

Dr. Teater explained that the Morton High School Physical Education department is recommending a new course, Advanced Strength and Conditioning. The purpose of the course would be to give students an opportunity to focus on strength and conditioning as a course. While other PE courses incorporate these skills, this would be the sole focus of this course.

Students would initially have their strength and endurance tested, and then a personal conditioning plan would be developed. Final assessment for the course would be based on participation, technique and fitness testing.

This course proposal was presented and approved at both CAC and the Leadership team.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education approve the Advanced Strength and Conditioning course for the 2015-2016 school year.

Roll Call:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Course Name Changes –**

Dr. Teater explained that at the November Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting, some proposed course changes were presented and approved. These changes were also presented and approved at the Leadership team meeting.

- Name Change: Standard Physics to Conceptual Physics. The new name is more reflective of the course than its current name. Standard physics focuses more on the concepts of physics than mathematical computations.



- Name Change: Applied Math to Pre-Algebra. The new name is more reflective of the course than its current name. Students in Applied Math need to be prepared for Algebra, so there is a greater emphasis placed on this preparation.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the name changes for the 2015-2016 school year of Standard Physics to Conceptual Physics and Applied Math to Pre-Algebra to better reflect the content of each course.

Roll Call:    Yea 7    Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Art I and II Courses –**

Dr. Teater explained that as the Art program at MHS is rebuilt and gains in popularity, it is recommended that introductory Art classes be offered to our students. The recommended courses are better to take prior to taking 2D and 3D Art. These courses will be pre-requisites to 2D and 3D Art for those students that have not taken any art courses.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the addition of Art I and Art II classes at MHS.

Roll Call:    Yea 7    Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 School Calendars
- Approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2014, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes of the November 18, 2014, Regular Meeting.
- Approve October Treasurer's Report

Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 11-21-14	Bills 11-25-14	Payroll 11-21-14
Ed. Fund	\$7,627.60	\$131,115.16	\$429,409.76
Bldg. Fund	--	56,458.07	33,961.83
Trans. Fund	--	16,568.08	12,942.41
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	401,555.94
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Scarfe, 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 9:35 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, 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 10:05 p.m.

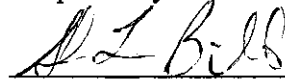
Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

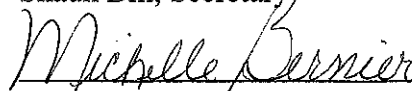
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shaun Bill".

---

Shaun Bill, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Bernier".

---

Michelle Bernier, President

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

## PERSONNEL REPORT

December 2, 2014

- I. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**
- A. RESIGNATIONS**
- B. APPOINTMENTS**
- C. REHIRES**
- II. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSED FACULTY**
- A. RESIGNATIONS**
- B. VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS**
- C. INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS**
- D. APPOINTMENTS**
1. **Jessica Doble** – Substitute Teacher
  2. **Laura Scherbing** – Substitute Teacher
  3. **Lauren Cordon** - St. Charles, Illinois  
 Education: B.S., Illinois State University  
 Major: Mathematics Education  
 Experience: 5.5 yrs, Normal Community High School, 1 yr Minooka Jr. High  
 Assignment: Math Teacher, Morton High School
- E. REHIRES**
- F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- G. RETIREMENT**
- H. DISMISSALS**
- III. EXTRA-DUTY**
- A. RESIGNATIONS**
- B. APPOINTMENTS**
1. **Rosie Durand** – Math Team Sponsor at Morton High School effective for the 2014-2015 school year.
  2. **Brittany McNulty** – WYSE Team Sponsor at Morton High School effective for the 2014-2015 school year.
- IV. SUPPORT STAFF**
- A. RESIGNATIONS**
1. **Rebecca Henry** – Resigned from her position as Band Instructional Aide at Morton Junior High School and Morton High School effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year.
- B. VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS**
- C. INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS**
- D. APPOINTMENTS**
- E. REHIRES**
- F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- G. RETIREMENTS**
- H. DISMISSALS**