

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 20, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 20, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

PUBLIC HEARING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Mrs. Bernier declared the Hearing open under the provisions of the Bond Issue Notification Act to receive comments from the public regarding a proposal by the Board of Education to sell working cash bonds in the amount of \$2,350,000.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Public Hearing be closed.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Reports –

Administrative –

Recognition of Principals' Day –

President Bernier read a proclamation from Governor Rauner declaring October 19-23 Principals' Week with October 23rd being declared Principals' Day. She expressed her appreciation for the District 709 principals along with the assistant principals and Dr. Smock, Dr. Teater and Ms. Ashby.

Report on October 9, 2015, Inservice Day –

Dr. Smock reviewed the agenda of the recently held Inservice Day on October 9, 2015. Topics covered throughout the day included:

- Special Ed. Teachers – heard a presentation from Lisa Harrod, LMT Consulting, on alignment of special ed. goals and objectives with the new Illinois Learning Standards
- Building-Level Meetings – school improvement planning; JH/HS department meetings; SEL (Socio-Emotional Learning) Screener (Elementary); curriculum mapping
- ECE Teachers – play-based screening
- K-12 Teachers – Elementary – Reading Instruction and SAMR discussion:
 - K-2nd – Jen Crider, IWU Elementary Education Instructor – The 7 Syllable Types for Reading Instruction
 - 3-6 – SAMR Discussion led by Elementary Lead Teachers
- JH/HS-SAMR (substitution, augmentation, modification, redefinition) discussion and Google training:

Support Staff Training/Meetings included:

- Clerical Staff – Google Training
- Selected Instructional Aides – Facilitating Social and Emotional Skills and Sensory Needs in the classroom – facilitated by Social Workers and OT Staff
- All Support Staff – Message from Dr. Hall:
 - Board of Education Goals
 - United Way Campaign

Board Reports –

President Bernier reported that the Board of Education had a very good and informative meeting earlier in the evening with the staff at Jefferson School. Each grade reported on activities taking place in their classrooms. The staff also expressed their appreciation for Principal Kate Wyman.

President Bernier reported that several board members had recently attended the Central IL Valley Division meeting at Tremont High School. During the program each of the Morton school board members were recognized for various accomplishments. Mrs. Bernier thanked the board members for their interest and involvement in the work of the school board.

Mrs. Scarfe reported on the recently held Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Discussion at the meeting included feedback from the October 9th Inservice Day and SAMR implementation in the classroom. The group also heard a report from MHS Counselor, Deidre Ripka, on the Strong Start program at ICC that the high school plans to implement next school year.

Discussion Item –Financial Scenarios – PMA Securities Presentation, March 2016 Election –

Tammie Beckwith Schallmo, Senior Vice President/Managing Director of PMA Securities, presented two scenarios to the Board – one for issuing \$7.5 million referendum bonds for 7 years and the other for issuing \$7.5 million referendum bonds for 10 years. In summary:

- The sale of **Working Cash Bonds** will not increase the District's 2016 bond and interest tax rate.
- The increase in the 2016 bond and interest tax rate will be due to the sale of **Referendum Bonds** –
 - \$0.22 tax rate increase for the 7-year scenario
 - \$0.16 tax rate increase for the 10-year scenario

Dr. Hall reminded the Board that the school district has been issuing Working Cash Bonds for many years. To issue this type of bond does not need voter approval and does not raise the tax rate. She distributed information recently received from the ROE comparing tax rates within the region covered by the Tazewell/Mason/Woodford ROE. Dr. Hall pointed out that Morton School District has the 5th lowest tax rate on the list.

President Bernier polled Board members for their preference of scenarios for the sale of referendum bonds with all of them preferring the 7-year scenario. Though the 7-year scenario is a slightly higher tax rate, it would be paid off in a shorter time, thus paying less interest.

Action Items –Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Morton – Property at 225 E. Jefferson –

Dr. Hall reminded the Board that the purpose of the intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Morton is for the school district to contribute \$220,000 toward the Village's purchase of the property at 225 E. Jefferson St. (Apostolic Christian Church). This will allow the school district the continued use of the south side of the lot for parking for staff and activities taking place at Jefferson School.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Morton and Morton CUSD 709 regarding the property located at 225 E. Jefferson.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, 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 8:22 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 8:50 p.m.

Dr. Hall reported that Tremont High School may be interested in purchasing the greenhouse at the high school. It has not been used for several years by MHS students. She would like to get the opinion of the school district’s attorneys on the proper procedure for sale of school district property of this type. The board agreed that she proceed ahead in gathering information.

Dr. Hall reported that Mr. Jim Vernon will be recognized along with the MHS Golf Team and MHS Band at the November 3 meeting.


Adjournment -

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

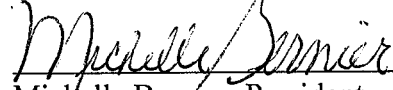
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President