

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 3, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING -

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Kelly Scarfe

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Bill, 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 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 6:24 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Kelly Scarfe

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that Aaron Seaman has requested information on Working Cash Bonds, athletic facilities, the land purchase and the 2011 referendum. He is seeking specific information related to who motioned and seconded and who voted for the motions. The request is in the process of being fulfilled and will be posted on the district website when completed.

Recognition of Jim Vernon –

Mr. Jim Vernon, a Morton resident and volunteer chess coach, was recognized for his act of bravery while fending off a knife attack on a home schoolers' chess club meeting at the Morton Public Library. Mr. Vernon is also a volunteer chess coach at Grundy and Lincoln Schools.

Recognition of National Merit Scholar Student –

High School Principal Marjorie Johnson introduced student Maria Feucht, National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist. Miss Feucht is one of the top 16,000 students in the nation. This honor is based on her score on the PSAT test taken last spring.

MHS Golf Team Recognition -

The MHS Golf team was recognized for its 1st place finish at the Class 2A State tournament. For the second year in a row, the team is the State champion as well as the Mid Illini Conference champion.

School Improvement Plans – Brown, Grundy, Lincoln, MJHS –

Faith Waterfield reported on the three goals set for Brown School:

- Reading Comprehension Strategies – teachers will research and utilize reading comprehension strategies in order to improve reading comprehension through whole group and small group instruction. Board Goal – Achievement

- Initial Implementation of the New Illinois Science Standards – define specific initial steps to implement the new standards in coordination with the district implementation efforts. Board Goal – Achievement
- 4th Grade Math Parent Night – Brown School will host an additional parent night during the 2015-2016 school year. Board Goal – Achievement

Michael Saunders reported on the three goals set for Grundy School:

- By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, all Grundy School teachers will be participating in the Character Counts program by issuing an average of one Character Counts slip per day. By the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, be fully implemented. Board Goal – Climate
- By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Grundy School will be using student achievement data to drive building level professional development. Board Goal – Achievement
- Student Engagement – by the end of the 2015-2016 school year, all Grundy School teachers will be using student engagement strategies on a daily basis. Board Goal - Achievement

Julie Albers reported on the three goals set for Lincoln School:

- Lincoln team and staff will create a completed matrix of whole school behavioral expectations in common areas to establish school wide consistency and common language. Team and staff will create guidance for office discipline referrals. Board Goal – Climate and Achievement
- All teachers will be able to effectively access and analyze MAP data to improve student growth and enhance instruction. Board Goal – Achievement
- Increase the complexity of both oral and written questions to provide opportunities for differentiated questioning. Board Goal – Climate and Achievement

Lee Hoffman reported on the two goals set for Morton Jr. High School:

- By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, a strategy will be developed that will help grading practices more accurately reflect students' mastery of objectives. Board Goal – Achievement and Communication
- By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, a communication document will be created that outlines expectations and guidelines regarding the roles of general education teachers and special education teachers/aides in collaboration classes. Board Goal - Achievement

Strong Start Program with ICC –

MHS Principal Marjorie Johnson explained the Strong Start Program offered by ICC to senior students that will be offered at MHS starting with the 2015-2016 school year. This is a dual enrollment program with MHS and ICC. Students will receive high school credit for the courses they pass at ICC. Eligible students are seniors who meet the following criteria:

- 3 or less credits remaining for graduation
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA

- No major disciplinary infractions (suspensions) during high school
- 7 or less absences during junior year

This program is for students who are responsible, organized, self-advocates who are comfortable talking to adults.

Courses taken at ICC cannot be courses that are offered at MHS during that current year. Students will not be able to enroll in selective or specialty programs and courses cannot start after 3:00 p.m. or end after 5:00 p.m.

There will be a monthly check-in with an ICC advisor (liaison to ICC professors)

- Students participating in IHSA activities will be monitored weekly

Students are responsible for:

- Completing the application process and meeting deadlines
- Completion of student and parent orientation at ICC
- Tuition, books and fees
 - Students who qualify for fee waivers in high school will qualify for a tuition waiver at ICC.
- Transportation
- Meeting all academic and attendance requirements at ICC

Ms. Johnson noted this program is another opportunity for students to earn college credit while still enrolled in high school.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported on the good attendance and participation at the Town Hall meeting held on Monday, November 2. She also noted the 50th Anniversary Open House being held at Lincoln School on Thursday, November 5, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Discussion Items –

Board Compliance – Board/Superintendent Relations –

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

Board Goals Discussion – Communication –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of communication. The goal of communication states: *“Provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.”* She noted this discussion is timely given the Town Hall meeting that was held the evening before. The Board should always be looking for ways to engage with all in the community, not just those with children/grandchildren in the schools. All are important stakeholders. Mr. Neeley asked to expound on some of the issues raised at the Town Hall

meeting at a future Board of Education meeting.

Code of Conduct Review - #10 –

President Bernier noted the 10th point on the Illinois Association of School Board Code of Conduct: *“I will strive for a positive working relationship with the superintendent, respecting the superintendent’s authority to advise the board, implement board policy, and administer the district.”* She noted it is important to keep the lines of communication open with the Superintendent.

Intergovernmental Agreement with ICC: Strong Start Program –

Dr. Hall reported that an Intergovernmental Agreement with ICC for the Strong Start Program is required to participate in the program. The agreement will be brought to the Board of Education for approval, with suggested changes at the November 17, 2015, meeting.

Action Items –

Approve 2015-2016 Tentative Budget and 2014 Tentative Levy -

Dr. Hall reported that no changes were made to the 2016-2017 proposed budget and the 2015 tentative levy that were presented at the October 6, 2015, Committee of the Whole meeting. She noted though the district is not required to hold a Public Hearing on the levy, one will be held at the December 8, 2015, Board of Education meeting in order to offer the opportunity for public comment. The levy resolution will be brought to the Board of Education for action at the December 8th meeting.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget and 2015 Tentative Levy.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

2nd Reading and Approval of Revisions to Policies 5:70, 6:310 and 7:50 –

These policies were presented for a first reading and discussion at the October 6, 2015, Board of Education meeting. The revisions are being recommended in order to update the policies to current practice related to review and advice from legal counsel.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading of the Board Policies from sections 5, 6 and 7 and adopt those policies as presented and revised.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Expulsion of Student 15/16-1 –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education expel Student 15/16-1 from the Morton CUSD 709 Schools for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year, and be placed at the Regional Safe School.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Ameren Easement
- Approve September Treasurer’s Report
- Approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2015, Regular Meeting; the Minutes of the October 20, 2015, Closed Session Meeting and the October 13, 2015, Committee of the Whole Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-19-15	Bills 10-23-15	Bills 10-30-15	Payroll 10-30-15
Ed. Fund	\$189.63	\$139,417.24	\$15,331.84	\$479,429.45
Bldg. Fund	--	71,830.49	\$463,728.32	\$37,550.56
Trans. Fund	--	18,060.16	\$342.76	\$14,369.60
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	\$236,618.26
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Neeley, 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 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Beaty, 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 8:41 p.m.

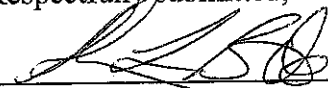
Adjournment -

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

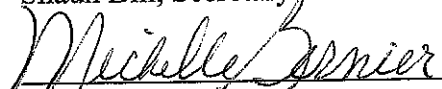
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President