

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 3, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 3, 2016, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 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

Re-Organization of Board –

Elect President –

Dr. Hall, President Pro Tem, asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Tom Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education. Mr. Bill nominated Mrs. Michelle Bernier to serve as President of the Board of Education. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Neeley; there were three. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mrs. Bernier; there were four. Mrs. Bernier was declared President. She assumed her seat as President.

Elect Vice President –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Heinold nominated Mrs. Scarfe to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Scarfe was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mrs. Bernier nominated Mr. Bill to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Bill was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2016-2017 year the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced. Board members will meet prior to the second meeting of the month with staff at each building, September through April.

Order of Agenda -

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Action Items be moved on the agenda to after the Administrative Reports.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

Art Department Update –

High School Art teacher, Tiffany Wyse-Fisher, introduced MHS Senior Elizabeth Grimm. Ms. Grimm won the 18th Congressional Art Show hosted by Congressman Darin LaHood at the Peoria Public Library on April 25th. Her piece, titled “Emma”, is a line representation of a portrait in wire. It will be displayed in the United States Capitol for one year.

Mrs. Wyse-Fisher also reported that on Friday, May 6, a night of artistic entertainment will be held at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center. “Flight” will feature student musicians, artists, chefs and writers. Student artwork will be judged and for sale. She invited Board members to attend.

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week –

As National Teacher Appreciation week is currently underway, President Bernier thanked teachers for the positive impact they have on students’ lives every day of the year.

Recognition of MHS Students – Golden Apple Scholars –

MHS Seniors, Kayla Smock and Megan Weeks, were recognized for winning the Golden Apple Scholar Award. The scholarship program identifies talented high school seniors who have the promise and drive to be excellent teachers in high-need schools.

PTO President’s Report – Grundy, Jefferson, Lincoln Schools –

PTO Representatives Tiffany Parrot, Grundy President, Jill Akers, Jefferson President, and Beth Bradley, Lincoln President reported on their PTO activities and purchases throughout this school year.

Presentation about Bond Placement – Tammie Beckwith Schallmo, PMA –

Tammie Beckwith Schallmo of PMA shared the pros and cons of private versus public bond placement for the completion of the urgent needs that were approved with the passage of the March 15, 2016, referendum. Due to the timeline and less market risk, the Board agreed on private placement with a local bank (to be determined) rather than public placement.

School Improvement Plan Updates – Brown, Jefferson, MHS –

Updates were given by principals from Brown, Jefferson and Morton High school on their School Improvement plans.

Brown – Mrs. Waterfield shared the goals for Brown School for this school year.

- Reading Comprehension Strategies– Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – Teachers will research and utilize reading comprehension strategies in order to improve reading comprehension through whole group and small group instruction.
- Initial Implementation of the New Illinois Science Standards – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – define specific initial steps to implement the New Illinois Learning Standards at Lettie Brown Elementary in coordination with the district implementation efforts.
- Lettie Brown Elementary will host an additional parent night during the 20152016 school year – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – a fourth grade math night was chosen in order to increase parental understanding of 4th grade math standards and problem solving strategies and to provide an opportunity for parents to engage in a learning experience with their children.

Jefferson – Mrs. Wyman shared the goals for Jefferson School for this school year.

- Comprehension, Problem Solving and Character Development – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** and **Climate** - increase the number of students meeting growth targets by 10% on the spring reading and math MAP in all grades; incorporate weekly Math problem-solving lessons; behavior matrix and 5 Patriot Expectations – service to others within and beyond the building.

MHS – Ms. Johnson shared the goals for Morton High School for this school year.

- Teacher Classroom Walkthroughs and the discussions associated with them in order to gather information from their teaching peers that they can then use in their own classroom to improve teaching and learning.
- Year one of a three year plan focusing on writing improvement. Each department will work on agreeing on the attributes of good writing for the students

Food Service Update –

Dr. Hall referred to the 2015-2016 Food Service Update provided. Through April 2016, the program is operating smoothly with participation rates holding steady throughout the year at 42%. At the end of fiscal year 2014-2015, the food service program had revenues in excess of expenditures of \$58,000. The 2016-2017 school year will be the last year of the contract with Arbor Management, Inc. The process of putting together bid specifications for the

next contract will begin in January of 2017.

Action Items –

Approve Superintendent’s Contract Extension –

At the April 19, 2016, meeting , the Board of Education discussed extending Dr. Hall’s current contract one year through the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the contract extension of Superintendent Dr. Lindsey Hall through the 2018-2019 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 4 Nay 3 (Beaty, Neeley, Schmidgall)

Motion carried.

Approve iPad Lease –

Dr. Teater reviewed the Apple lease plan implemented 2 years ago. 5th – 12th grade students would each have access to a district provided iPad for use at home and school. The devices previously used would be repurposed for the EC – 4th grade students for use at school, not home.

2,200 iPad Air will be acquired through Apple Financing in a 3-year lease. All teacher iPad 4’s and 5th – 12th grade student devices will be swapped for the newer iPad Air. The iPad 4’s will be repurposed to the EC-4th grade classrooms. The yearly cost of the iPad Air lease is \$302,761.37. The difference in cost between the previous lease and this new lease will come from redistributing budgeted (anticipated budgeted) monies in the district technology budget.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the Administrative recommendation to proceed with the upgrade proposal at a proposed amount of \$302,761.37 and enter into a lease agreement with Apple Finance to purchase the equipment.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 1 (Schmidgall)

Motion carried.

Dr. Teater noted a buyer was found for the iPad 2’s and a number of iPad 4’s will be shelved to use for replacement parts.

Mrs. Scarfe reminded Board members this plan was started two years ago and the district is continuing to implement it in order to keep technology up to date.

2nd Reading and Approval of Policies from Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 –

A first reading and discussion of revisions of various board policies took place at the April 12, 2016, board meeting. The revisions are being recommended in order to update policies to current practice related to review and advice from Illinois School Board Association's (IASB) PRESS services and legal counsel.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading of the Board policies from sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and adopt those policies as presented and revised.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2016 General Education Summer Reinforcement Program –

Dr. Hall reported that in past years, general education summer school has been funded through Title I. There was a large reduction in Title I allocation for FY 16, making this funding stream no longer available. Due to the negative impact of summer regression for some of the district's students, it is felt that providing some type of reinforcement of academic skills over the summer is imperative.

Summer Opportunities for Academic Reinforcement (SOAR) will provide the opportunity for specifically identified students to receive reinforcement of academic skills. The program will be at Lincoln Elementary, and reinforcing of skills will be carried out by instructional aides. The approximate cost is \$4,000, money which is available in the district's FY 16 budget.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the SOAR program for the summer of 2016.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve IASB Policy Service Subscription –

Dr. Hall noted that on April 19, 2016, the Board of Education discussed policy services offered through IASB. The recommendation is to purchase a subscription to School Board Policy Online Services, Press Plus, as well as the policy manual customization services. The current subscription to Press would be discontinued.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve subscriptions and one time fees for the above named policy services.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property – LLC/G & D Transportation -

Dr. Hall explained that Morton Warehouse LLC/G & D Transportation has filed an appeal with the Illinois Property Tax Review Board (PTAB) seeking a reduction in their 2015 assessment on one of their parcels. A taxing body may intervene in a proceeding before PTAB within 60 days of the date the Board of Review notified the taxing body of the appeal. However, a resolution is required to authorize legal counsel to intervene. Notice was received of the appeal on March 10, 2016, and the district would like to have Mike Tibbs of Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC intervene on the district’s behalf.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education authorize Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC to intervene in the proceeding before PTAB for the Morton Warehouse LLC/G&D Transportation 2015 property assessment appeal.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bids for Asbestos Abatement at Morton High School and Morton Jr. High School -

Dr. Hall explained that in order to complete the Phase One urgent work required at the Jr. High and High School, there will be areas containing asbestos that will be disturbed. The asbestos will be removed in those areas in order for the general contractor to proceed with renovation.

Only one bid was received from Shawn Brown Enterprises for \$117,600.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Shawn Brown Enterprises in the amount of \$117,600.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bids for Renovations at Morton High School and Morton Jr. High School

Dr. Hall reported that the bid opening for Phase One of the Urgent Work was held on April 28, 2016. This phase includes the renovations to the Jr. High and High School and construction of the band storage/maintenance building at the High School.

Five companies submitted bids with prices ranging from \$1,283,000 to \$1,379,000 with Core Construction submitting the low bid.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Core Construction of \$1,283,000 for Phase One of Urgent Work.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstain – 1 (Heinold)

Motion carried.

Approve Student/Parent Handbook Changes –

Dr. Hall reported that the proposed changes to the discipline handbooks were presented at the April 19, 2016, board meeting. She noted the elementary, jr. high and high school handbooks have been combined into a single handbook. The intent is to make the student handbook easier for parents to understand, especially if parents have students enrolled at multiple levels.

In addition, policy was changed to meet Senate Bill 100 concerning suspensions and language was also changed in the dress code to provide clarity to parents and students.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the changes to the discipline handbook for the 2016-2017 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of the purchase or sale of property.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Scarfe, 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 8:58 p.m.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that the Central IL Division meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 4.

Mr. Neeley distributed materials he gathered at the National School Board conference he attended recently. He will review them at a future meeting. He also reported he had attended a meeting in Springfield concerning ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

Discussion Items –**Board Goal Discussion – Climate –**

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of Climate – *Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.* She noted the district is currently in hiring season filling teaching positions. The district's wellness program is being monitored and Dr. Smock and Dr. Wellenreiter have led the PERA (Performance Evaluation Reform Act) Committee and have recently concluded the daunting task of reworking the teacher evaluation instrument.

Board Policy Compliance – Ends Policies –

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Ends Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Bernier will sign the forms and place them in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Code of Conduct – #3

Mr. Heinold reviewed the third point in the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members: *I will recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.* He noted the board must act collectively. As individuals, board members have no authority.

1st Reading of Advanced Placement Biology Textbook –

Dr. Hall reported that a textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for AP Biology. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The materials will be available for the community at the Morton Public Library for 30 days.

Biology in Focus is the student text recommended for purchase. Information may be accessed online at:

<https://www.pearsonhighered.com/program/Urry-campbell-Biology-in-Focus-Plus-Mastering-Biology-with-e-Text-Access-Card-Package-2nd-Edition/PGM45848.html#sthash.wAIWLUo5.dpuf>

Cost: 35-Books @ \$138.47 = \$4,604.13

CAC Board Representative, Mrs. Scarfe, commended the teachers' for their thorough study to find the right materials to teach and for students to learn.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve March Treasurer's Report
- Approve Final School 2015 - 2016 Calendar
- Approve Student Fees for 2016 - 2017 School Year
- Approve Auditors
- Approve Food Service Contract
- Approve Administrators and Support Staff Salaries for 2016 - 2017
- Approve Minutes of the April 19, 2016, Regular Meeting and the April 19, 2016, Regular meeting Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 4-22-16	Payroll 4-29-16
Ed. Fund	\$79,739.74	\$503,300.68
Bldg. Fund	159,913.26	36,697.24
Trans. Fund	101,998.89	16,188.07
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	249,082.55

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstain – 1 (Bill)

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

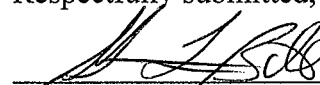
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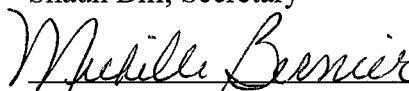
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President