

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 17, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 17, 2016, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

Dr. Hall announced that District Communications Coordinator, Carol Jankowski, will be leaving the district for a similar job opportunity with Midwest Food Bank. Dr. Hall thanked her for her expertise in disseminating school district information through many different forms of media. Mrs. Jankowski was also very involved in the development and growth of MPTV.

Recognition of Sally Masear – Interim Special Education Director

Dr. Hall noted that Mrs. Masear stepped in after the passing of Ms. Dana Ashby in January and assisted with consistency and continuity within the Special Education department. She was thanked for her willingness to interrupt her retirement to assure the district's students' needs were met. She served as a mentor for many and is a gracious, yet tenacious advocate for children.

School Improvement Plan Updates – Grundy, Lincoln, MJHS –

Updates were given by principals from Grundy, Lincoln and Morton Jr. High school on their School Improvement plans.

Grundy - Mr. Saunders:

- Goal #1 – Focus on Character Counts Program – Linked to Board Goal of **Climate** – implemented Fall of 2015. The Six Pillars of character include responsibility, caring, citizenship, respect, fairness and trustworthiness. The second part of this goal is to be implemented Fall of 2016. The first task is to integrate the Six Pillars of Character in the Grundy PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) matrix.
- Goal #2 – Use Student Achievement data to drive building level Professional

Development – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – After analyzing fall 2015 MAP data and creating a list of professional development priorities based upon that analysis, it was determined that most teachers could address their professional development priorities by participating in one of Jill Lyons’ book studies on reading comprehension and reading strategies or one of Don Sturm’s technology workshops on a variety of topics.

- Goal #3 – Student Engagement – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – Student achievement data and classroom observation data indicate that not all students are fully engaged and not all teachers define student engagement in the same way. Starting in Fall 2015, Principal Saunders and teachers studied Project CRISS (Creating Independence through Student-owned Strategies), and discovered that students are most likely to be intellectually engaged when they are writing, discussing, visualizing and organizing. They created a menu of intellectually engaging activities, presented them to each other and started implementation second semester.

Lincoln - Ms. Albers:

- Goal #1 – PBIS Implementation – Linked to Board Goal of **Climate** and **Achievement** – Data from discussions on school climate led them to implement PBIS during the 2015-2016 school year. A need for more consistency among all staff members in addressing student behavior concerns was identified. The “Caught Ya” reward program was revamped and called ROAR, which was aligned with the schoolwide PBIS expectations (Responsible, On Target, Acting Like a Leader and Respectful).
- Goal #2 – How We Use Data – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** – Meeting this goal allows the teachers to become more efficient with accessing, using and understanding MAP data.
- Goal #3 – Questioning Strategies – Linked to Board Goal of **Achievement** and **Climate** – Develop questioning strategies and strengthen vocabulary instruction. Consultant Marilee Sprenger worked with teachers to provide a background knowledge about vocabulary instruction, identifying a systemic approach to teaching the definitions of a specific set of 55 vocabulary words used in differentiating questioning, along with some introductory strategies for effectively teaching these definitions. Mrs. Sprenger’s book “Teaching the Critical Vocabulary of the Common Core” was used as a resource.

Morton Jr. High School - Mr. Hoffman:

- Student Performance – Teachers have discussed what a grade on a report card actually communicates. Out of the discussion, it was determined that grades to some students are very important and to others, not as much. After 2nd quarter of the 2015-2016 school year, it was discovered that many students had not turned in homework. From that emerged the idea of an intervention to aide students in completing their work:
 - Lunch Homework Intervention – Homework support on a daily basis for students not getting work completed. This will be

implemented the 2016-2017 school year. This will produce a culture of accountability that will encourage student responsibility. It will take place during all three lunch periods and facilitated by Mrs. Ogden and Mrs. Miller. Students will be referred on a daily basis through a shared document.

- Are grades indicative of academics or are some of the grades due to behavior? To better communicate why a student's grade is what is is, four areas of communication will be used on report cards: 1) Work Ethic 2) Classroom Behavior 3) Peer Interactions and 4) Attendance.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported:

- MJHS students recently presented "Passion Project" and the High School Art Dept. presented "Flight." These are two examples of student projects that were made available to the community.
- The Retirement Reception was held recently for all those who have retired or will be retiring since last year's reception.

Agenda Building – a new addition to the agenda, Board members may make suggestions for future discussion items. Dr. Beaty asked that the subject of transgender restrooms be a Board discussion in the future.

Action Items –

Approve Jr. High Social Studies Techbook –

On April 12, 2016, the Board of Education had a presentation for a proposed new curriculum source for Jr. High Social Studies. The proposed techbook is an online source. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The materials were available for the community at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. The administration is recommending *Discovery Techbook* as the student text.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the online curriculum resource *Discovery Techbook* as the student text for Morton Jr. High School.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Overnight Trips
- Approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2016, Regular Meeting and the May 3, 2016, Regular meeting Closed Session Minutes;
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-6-16	Bills 5-13-16	Payroll 5-13-16
Ed. Fund	\$157,186.17	\$114,073.40	\$509,975.09
Bldg. Fund	65,094.92	4,145.22	34,908.13
Trans. Fund	5,149.42	3,899.45	14,959.86
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	436,561.89
TORT	--	6,000.00	--

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Discussion Items –

Board of Education Goal Setting Discussion –

Annually, the Board of Education discusses, revises and updates the five board goals, and the action steps associated with those goals.

The Board of Education discussed the five goals of Achievement, Finance, Facilities, Climate and Communication. Discussion centered on progress made on those goals, updating the objectives that support each goal and action steps to be taken by the superintendent and administration. Dr. Hall will summarize and encapsulate the work done, and the board will finalize the goals at the June 7, 2016, Board Meeting.

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/sale of property, litigation, negotiations and/or school building safety and security. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:45 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 9:18 p.m.

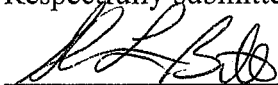
Adjournment -

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

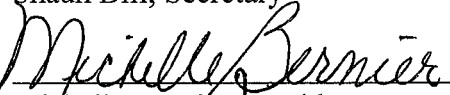
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President