

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

DECEMBER 6, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 6, 2016, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

LEVY HEARING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Levy Hearing to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

Mrs. Bernier declared the Hearing open for the purpose of public comment and/or questions concerning the 2016-2017 Levy.

There were no questions or comments from the Board members or the audience.

Mrs. Bernier declared the public hearing closed at 6:34 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by MHS students Reese Collins, Jordan Dooley and Sarah Veatch.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hall noted there were two Freedom of Information requests fulfilled in November. The requested information was provided by the District and is available on the District website:

- Jared Rutecki – District financial documents
- Matt Hoffman – Employee information

Recognition of Vicky Mahrt –

The Board of Education recognized Vicky Mahrt who is retiring after 23 years of service to the District. Mrs. Mahrt held various positions over the years and is retiring as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Smock. Her last day will be December 21, 2016.

Presentation of Plaque Honoring Dana Ashby –

Dr. Hall presented the Dana Ashby Memorial Plaque that will be hung in the District Office entry foyer. Ms. Ashby's parents were in attendance for the presentation. Dr. Hall also announced the Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award that will be given to a staff member in the spring along with the Master Potter and Potter's Hand Awards.

Recognition of MHS Marching Band –

The Board of Education recognized the Morton High School marching band for being the State of Illinois Class 2A champions 12 straight years. The band was also awarded Grand Champion of every competition this school year. Students serving on the band leadership team along with Mr. Neavor and Mr. Mainieri were present for the recognition.

Strong Start Update –

MHS students Lily Pilcher and Shelby Collins shared their experiences with the Strong Start program. They attend classes at MHS and ICC each day and receive credits for both. Thirteen students are participating in Strong Start during this first semester of the school's involvement in the program.

RtI Update –

Reports were provided for the Board by RtI elementary consultant, Jill Lyons and secondary RtI coordinator, Katie Miller. It was noted that as years pass, fewer students need RtI

intervention due to receiving support in the lower grades through the RtI program.

Construction Update –

Architect Jeff Keach reported that Phase 1 work is 100% complete.

Phase 1 included:

- Remodel of the Jr. High band and choral rooms and storage area
- Conversion of rooms 111, 116, and 210
- Remodel of the High School band room/band area
- Construction of a new storage, maintenance, band building at MHS

Phase 2 construction is underway and on schedule at Lincoln, Grundy and Brown Schools with completion scheduled for midsummer 2017.

The Phase 3 project is window replacement at Jefferson School and is scheduled to begin in summer 2017. The east and west façade of the multistory building portion will be completed in 2017 with north and south façade of the multistory building and the primary wing scheduled for completion in summer 2018.

Mr. Keach also reported that he is working on configuration and costs of privacy areas in the Jr. High and High School locker rooms.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that she and Mr. Heinold attended the Labor Management meeting held on November 16. President Bernier also attended the Insurance Committee meeting held on December 1.

President Bernier reported that Mr. Tom Leahy of IASB will be in-district on Thursday, January 5 to conduct staff and community interviews for the Superintendent Search. She asked board members to send her names of community members they would like to have invited.

Board members shared sessions they attended at the recent Joint Annual School Board conference. It was a good time of learning and networking. All expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

Agenda Building –

- Mr. Neeley – construction grants
- President Bernier – a vision for the next 5 – 15 years; 709 Connect and Community Engagement for new superintendent
- Dr. Hall – remaining referendum bonds – discuss options

Discussion Items –**Board Compliance – Personnel Policies –**

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Personnel Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. It was suggested that the new award – Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award announced this evening, be added to annual staff awards. She and President Bernier will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goals Discussion – Climate –

Dr. Hall reviewed the goal of Climate:

Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.

- The district will recruit, hire, train and retain high quality staff.
- The district will continue to foster a climate of teamwork, collaboration and trust with all employees. This includes varied vehicles for communication and listening between the staff and superintendent. Climate will be monitored through various tools. (5 Essentials Survey)
- The district will continue to foster a climate that supports student learning/achievement and high expectations for all students.
- The district's wellness program will continue to grow and be promoted and encouraged among our employee group.
- The board will cultivate an environment of trust and respect with the community and with one another and will communicate in an open and honest manner with each other.
- A Board of Education Self-evaluation workshop will be conducted at least annually with the assistance of a facilitator from IASB, with a resulting focus on collaboration and working toward unity of direction and purpose.

Dr. Hall noted climate will be measured through the 5Essentials Survey that is currently being conducted for students, staff and parents. The Wellness Committee continues to look for ways to increase staff participation. She also noted she has visited several new teachers' classrooms recently and is very impressed with their efforts.

Board of Education Code of Conduct #10 – President Bernier –

President Bernier reviewed the tenth point in the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members: *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.* President Bernier offered that when the Board works together with its leader, great things will happen.

Board Policy 2:220 –

Board members had discussed whether they wanted to change the method the roll is called for the vote on action items. It was decided to leave it as is and not change it at this time.

Action Item –

Approve 2016 -2017 Levy Resolution –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the 2016 Levy Resolution.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion passed.

Approve 6th Grade Science Textbooks –

A textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for 6th Grade Science. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. A presentation was also made to the Leadership Team. The Board of Education discussed the materials at the October 18, 2016, meeting and the materials were made available to the community for review at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. It was reported that there were no comments left at the library.

Recommendation:

Glencoe Earth and Space iScience is the student text recommended for purchase.

Cost: 255 Student books @ \$81.99 + 230 On-line 6-yr subscription@ \$92.64 = \$42,214.65

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the recommended textbooks.

Mr. Schmidgall commented that after reviewing the book, he struggles with the surety stated in the book of old earth versus new earth theories.

Mrs. Scarfe noted her appreciation for the teachers that spent a large amount of the summer researching textbooks.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 5 Nay 1 (Schmidgall)

Motion carried.

Approve 2017-18 and 2018-19 School Year Calendars –

Dr. Smock reported that a meeting of the calendar committee was held on October 11th and 24th. Several key considerations (i.e., the calendar’s impact on student achievement and school attendance, parent teacher conferences, the length of the school terms and quarters, final exams, the dates of holidays) are taken into account in the development of the calendar recommendation.

The District Calendar Committee has administrative representation along with teacher representation chosen by the Morton Education Association. The ability to provide this information early to parents is appreciated in order for them to make their plans for the next two years.

The proposed 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year calendars were submitted to the Board of Education for consideration at the November 15, 2016, meeting.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school calendars.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve September and October Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Out of State Trip – 6th – 8th Grade Orchestra
- Approve Minutes of the November 15, 2016, Regular Meeting; the November 15, 2016, Regular Meeting Closed Session; and the December 1, 2016, Special Meeting
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 11-18-16	Bills 11-22-16	Bills 12-2-16	Payroll 11-25-16
Ed. Fund	\$200,742.13	\$2,043.60	\$133,664.93	\$475,619.61
Bldg. Fund	65,122.58	--	26,402.36	34,196.06
Trans. Fund	23,135.29	--	3,612.28	13,294.47
Capital Projects	166,144.52	--	7,990.10	--

TORT	--	--	693.00	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	477,350.74

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, 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 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, 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 8:16 p.m.

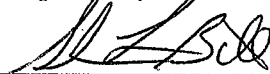
Adjournment -

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 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President