

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MARCH 7, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 7, 2017, 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 6:34 p.m.

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by students Kiara Beyer and Bradley Smith of Morton Jr. High School.

President Bernier introduced Dr. Jeff Hill, who was hired at a Special Meeting on February 23 as the new Superintendent. He will begin on July 1, 2017. A short reception was held in his honor to welcome him.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hall noted there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Recognition of Mikey Hartnett, Wrestling –

MHS Junior student, Mikey Hartnett, was introduced by Wrestling Coach Josh Prichard. Mikey recently earned 2nd place in the IHSA Wrestling State Tournament. He has an overall record since his freshman year of 87 wins and only 5 losses.

Aide Appreciation Day – March 16 –

Dr. Hall reported that for the third year, District 709 will set aside March 16th to recognize all support staff aides. The day is in honor of Amy Hardin's legacy, a Lincoln School aide who tragically lost her life in October of 2014 in an automobile accident. Her birthday is March 16.

CTE Update –

MHS Principal, Marjorie Johnson, gave a report on the current course offerings for Career and Technical Education at Morton High School. CTE courses were formerly known as Vo-Tech, Home-Ec and Business Ed. CTE courses give students the knowledge and skills necessary to enter a vocation, attend a technical school or prepare for college.

Department and courses offered at MHS include:

- Technology Education and Engineering (formerly known as Industrial Technology)
 - Communication, Energy & Home Repair (small engines), Fabrication (welding), Graphic Design, Multimedia Design, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses, Production (woods), Construction
- Family & Consumer Science
 - Creative Fashions 1 & 2 (sewing), Foods and Nutrition 1 & 2, Housing and Interior Design, Human Relationships, Parent & Child Development (Pee Wee Potters pre-school), and Resource Management
- Business
 - Business Law, CHI (work co-op), Computer Apps, Computerized Accounting, Consumer Education, Desktop Publishing, Introduction to Business, and Sports & Entertainment Marketing

These course offerings are communicated to MHS students through the course description guide (iBook and on the high school website), class meetings and one-on-one meetings with counselors, and email multiple times throughout the year.

Financial support for these courses comes from Tazewell County Education for Employment (EFE), Perkins Grants (federal) and State monies.

Ms. Johnson noted the biggest struggle for students wanting to take these courses is competing interests of core classes, graduation requirements, and time away from school for the work-based learning.

Ms. Johnson shared a video of MHS students who are part of the Health Occupations Program earning their CNA certification.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that the Policy Committee met recently and completed the review and revision of the Policy Manual. The Board will have the opportunity to review the final draft at the April 4 meeting.

President Bernier noted she, Mr. Neeley and Dr. Hall recently attended the second day of

the Alliance Leadership Summit in Springfield. They heard from legislators and Governor Rauner.

Agenda Building – President Bernier suggested reviewing the Life Safety list to determine where the urgent needs will be within the next 3 – 5 years, and how those needs tie into a long-term plan.

Discussion Items –

Board Goals Discussion – Finance –

Dr. Hall reviewed the goal of Finance:

Finance: Support student learning (which includes achievement, climate, facilities, communication) in an efficient and cost effective manner.

- The district will assume conservative financial projections in revenues and expenses in order to maintain fund balances and provide contingencies for the future, as evidenced by the following actions:
 - The district will maintain a balanced operating budget on a yearly basis.
(Excepting major capital projects in excess of \$500,000)*
 - The district will maintain and review financial projections with a 3-5 year outlook*
 - The district will maintain the highest financial rating as determined by ISBE*
- The district will seek out opportunities for financial partnerships with local businesses/corporations and other governmental entities as well as seeking alternative revenue sources.
- The district will continue forward progress with fiscal responsibility, taking into consideration that implementing new programs must be balanced with the ability to sustain those programs financially.
- The administration will strive to communicate financial and budgetary information in a clear, concise, regular and informative manner so that our taxpayers are informed and apprised of board level decision making.

Dr. Hall noted that a potential property tax freeze legislated by the State would have serious implication for Morton School District.

Action Item -

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Morton Public Library –

Dr. Hall explained that this is a 3-year renewal of the intergovernmental agreement between the Morton Public Library and Morton School District. This agreement enables

District 709 students, and now teachers who live in the school district but not in the library district to obtain library cards free of charge. The agreement will be reviewed in 2020.

Dr. Hall noted the program and agreement has been successful over the past year. There are currently 62 students registered for cards under this agreement.

In exchange, the Morton School District will give the library 10 iPads, provide tech support and provide district employees at registration in August to sign students up for library cards.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Morton Public Library.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Bill, that Item C be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Consent Agenda be approved with Item C removed:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve January, 2017 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve IHSA Renewal– 2017-2018
- Approve Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Regular Meeting; the February 21, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session; and the February 23, 2017, Special Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

| | Bills 2-24-17 | Bills 3-3-17 | Payroll 3-3-17 |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ed. Fund | \$111,585.69 | \$40,226.54 | \$475,552.41 |
| Bldg. Fund | 56,889.95 | 242.79 | 32,287.74 |
| Trans. Fund | 645.00 | 56.72 | 13,177.22 |

Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President

Kelly Scarfe