

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MARCH 21, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 21, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

Vice President Kelly Scarfe called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Michelle Bernier

Reports –

Administrative –

Recognition of Mrs. Pam Ranta -

The Board of Education recognized Mrs. Pam Ranta, Accounts Payable Bookkeeper at the Administration Office. Mrs. Ranta is retiring after 18 years of service to the district. Her last day of work will be March 31.

Introduction of new Morton High School Principal –

Mrs. Scarfe introduced Mr. Michael Gourley as the new MHS principal effective July 1. Mr. Gourley comes to Morton from Urbana High School where he serves as Assistant Principal.

Financial Projections –

Mrs. Barb Getz presented a 5-year financial forecast for each of the funds based on several assumptions. The highlights of the forecast include:

- The CPI was raised from previous forecasts. At the end of December 2016, the actual CPI was 2.1%.
- The interest rate earned on investments was increased by 50 basis points (.50%) from previous forecasts.
- The 2016-17 budget assumed three payments from the State of Illinois for mandated categoricals. This assumption was maintained for all 5 years of forecast. Four payments from the State of Illinois would increase State revenue by \$312,000 annually.

- There are no new Working Cash Bond issued through 2022.
- Five additional full time professional educator licensed faculty were added in FY18.

Dr. Hall noted that all of the Working Cash bonds issued over the years are paid off and there are none issued at this time. More could be issued in the future to help pay for ongoing maintenance of buildings. She also mentioned that due to bids coming in below budget for the current new construction, the full amount of the referendum bonds has not been issued at this time.

At the February 21st meeting, board members heard a presentation by Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens, on the need for an additional Social Worker. Dr. Hall asked for direction on whether to hire this position for the 2017-18 school year. She noted there are increased needs for social/emotional supports in the classrooms. Mr. Schmidgall believes there would be a benefit of adding an additional social worker. However, in context of the declining fund reserves shown earlier in the meeting, he is cautious in hiring this position at this time as it may not be sustainable. His preference is to wait on hiring this position. Though Mr. Neeley is concerned that the position may not be sustainable in future years, he appreciates the support a social worker could lend to a classroom teacher. Mr. Beaty, Mr. Bill and Mrs. Scarfe noted their support for hiring at this time. Mr. Heinold suggested that candidates should be interviewed at this time. If a quality candidate is found, he would support hiring this year. A consensus was reached to proceed with interviews and Dr. Hall will report to the Board the results via email.

President's Report –

Vice President Scarfe reported that the Board met earlier in the evening with the Jr. High staff. Department reports were presented on use of technology in the classroom.

The first reading of the Policy manual by the Board is scheduled to take place at the April 4th meeting.

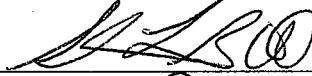
Consent Agenda –

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

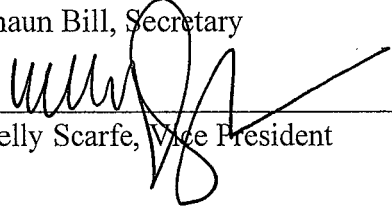
- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Summer School – APEX
- Approve Summer Challenge Program
- Approve Reappointment of Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum and Technology
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Staff
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Minutes of the March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting; the March 7, 2017, Closed Session; the March 14, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting; and the March 14,

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Kelly Scarfe, Vice President