

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

APRIL 4, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 4, 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, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Member absent: Mr. Clint Heinold

The pledge of allegiance was led by students Abby Nieu Kirk and Wyatt Franklin of Lettie Brown School.

Audience Presentation – Mrs. Tracy Heer of Morton addressed the Board in favor of an additional Social Worker being hired by the school district for the 2017-2018 school year.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

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

Recognition of Gameball Run Leaders –

Mrs. Stacy Literski, Mrs. Dana Hobson and Mr. Jarrett Brown were recognized and thanked by the Board for their leadership of Gameball Run over the past five years. This year's event was the most successful to date raising over \$92,000 for a total since 2013 of over \$225,000. The event involves all of the school buildings and the boys basketball team, along with corporate and community sponsorships.

Update on 5-Year Capital Improvement/Maintenance/Life Safety Work –

Architect Jeff Keach:

- presented three options using the shower areas in the Jr. High and High School locker rooms to provide private changing cubicles.
- gave an update on the status of construction at the three elementary buildings. It is

on schedule and substantial completion is projected for mid-June.

- presented a 5-year maintenance capital improvement/health life safety plan for all of the buildings in the district.

Dr. Hall noted a Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, for the Board to discuss the 5-year plan.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that the spring IASB Division meeting was hosted by Morton School District at the Bertha Frank lobby on March 23. It was well attended and she commended Arbor Management for the great meal. Mrs. Scarfe was recognized for her two years of service as the Resolutions Chair for IASB.

Agenda Building – Mr. Neeley asked to add a discussion of the Illinois Virtual School to a future meeting agenda.

Discussion Items –

Board Goals Discussion – Communication –

Dr. Hall reviewed the goal of Communication:

Communication: Provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.

- The district will commit to a focused effort to educate the community about board roles and responsibilities as well as issues facing public education.
- The district will continue to enhance and utilize communication through a variety of tools to promote transparency and understanding, with a focus on facilities and finance.
- The district will focus on specific efforts to reach more community members, with a goal of engendering and increasing trust between the community and the school district.
- Board and district goals, objectives and action steps will be regularly communicated to our community members, through various communication tools, including more “grass roots” efforts.

Dr. Hall noted that along with the usual means of sharing information with the public, Communications Coordinator, Amy Greiner, has been using social media more aggressively this school year. The goal is to not only provide information, but to also get feedback from the community.

2017-2018 Student Fees –

Dr. Hall reported that the administration is recommending an increase in lunch prices for 2017-2018. Lunch prices will continue to increase each year not only due to food costs, but also due to the federal requirement that we close the gap in the difference between our lunch prices and the federal reimbursement rate for free/reduced lunches. The recommended increase in lunch prices is:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>2016-17 Price</u>	<u>2017-18 Price</u>
Elementary	\$2.35	\$2.45
Junior High	\$2.45	\$2.55
High School	\$2.55	\$2.65
Adult & Visitor Lunch	\$2.85	\$2.90
Milk	\$.50	\$.50

No fee increases are being recommended for textbook rentals, technology fees, co-curricular activities, drivers' education, library fines, athletic gate receipts, I.D. replacements and Marching Band.

The 2017-2018 fee schedule will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 2, 2017, meeting.

First Reading and Discussion of Revised/Updated Board Policy Manual –

Dr. Hall reported that in the summer of 2016, the Board of Education voted to undergo the policy manual customization process offered by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Since that time, the policy committee, with the input of herself, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Craig Smock and Board Secretary Mrs. Emily Stubbs, has been meeting regularly with Angie Powell of the IASB to review and/or update each policy in the manual.

The completed revised manual was shared with the entire board earlier in the month for review. This is the first reading of the revised policy manual. It will be on public display until May 2, 2017, at which time the board will vote on its approval. Members of the public wishing to view the updated policy manual should contact the district office.

The vast majority of updates to the manual were based upon current or new statutes that guide the policies in public schools in our state. Other policies were updated to reflect current practice. Overall, the changes have little impact on daily operations, but from a governance standpoint, bring the school district and board of education up to date.

Dr. Hall also noted that after the Policy Manual is approved, the District will partake of the subscription services of PRESSPlus, which will allow us to stay up to date with board policies as changes and updates occur, and all policies will continue to appear on the District website for easy access to the public.

Assistant Director of Student Support Services –

Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens, addressed the Board of Education concerning a proposal to transform the current Special Education Coordinator position into an administrative position with the title of Assistant Director of Student Support Services. This recommendation comes after a thorough analysis of the work load and daily administrative and leadership tasks associated with Morton Academy. She noted that time spent at Morton Academy by herself and the Assistant Director are fully reimbursable by the State of Illinois.

Dr. Hall noted that the MEA is supportive of the move. All Board members agreed by consensus to the change.

Action Item -**Approve Bids for Jefferson Window Replacement Project and Other Summer 2017 Work –**

Dr. Hall reported that the bid opening for the Jefferson Window Replacement Project and other summer 2017 work was held March 30, 2017. The construction contract for approval contains the Phase III urgent project work, lintel replacement at Jefferson School, masonry repair at Morton High School, vinyl tile replacement at Lettie Brown, Grundy, Jefferson and Morton High School and a window replacement at Morton Junior High School. The Phase III urgent project work includes replacing all windows at Jefferson School. The East and West face windows at Jefferson School will be completed the summer of 2017 and the North and South face windows will be completed the summer of 2018. The North and South faced windows cannot be replaced until the lintel work is completed.

The lintel replacement at Jefferson School will finish the last portion of Life Safety Amendment 14 from 2006. This portion of the job is \$174,500, \$150,000 of which will be paid out of Health Life Safety Fund.

The other masonry work and the vinyl tile replacement are projects included in the 5 year capital plan. The total of this work is \$99,300. This work was bid as one construction contract to maximize efficiency in management and pricing.

The two companies that submitted bids were Peoria Metro Construction and George H. Rump Construction Co. George H. Rump Construction Co. submitted the low bid with a base bid of \$841,500 and alternate bids totaling \$286,100 for a total bid of \$1,127,600.

The administration recommended that the Board of Education accept the base bid from George H. Rump Construction Co. and the alternate bids for a total of \$1,127,600.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education accept the base bid and alternate bids 1, 1B, 2, 2B, 3, 3B, 4 and 5 from George H. Rump

Construction Co. for a total of \$1,127,600.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Asbestos Abatement for Summer of 2017 –

Dr. Hall reported that in order to replace vinyl tile in the construction contract, it is necessary to abate the existing floor tile and mastic at Lettie Brown, Grundy, Jefferson and Morton High School. It needs to be removed so the general contractor can proceed with the new flooring. This work was bid with the base bid being for abatement at the Lettie Brown existing gymnasium. The four alternate bids were for abatement in the Jefferson kitchen, the Jefferson cafeteria, Grundy classroom 211 and the Morton High School north corridor.

Four bids were received with total prices (base bid plus four alternate bids) ranging from \$31,900 to \$55,473. The lowest bid of \$31,900 was received from Abel Plus Services, Inc.

Dr. Hall asked the Board for direction on the source of revenue for this remaining work. She noted there are two options:

Option #1: Prior to the referendum, our voters were told that we would use \$1.5 million of our own reserves (Working Cash) to pay for part of the projects. That fund has not yet been used to pay for any work. It is Dr. Hall’s recommendation to do so--the total needed to finish up the referendum work is \$1.2 million.

Option #2: Another option is to issue more referendum debt. There is \$1.6 million available, per the ballot question, to issue if needed. Dr. Hall’s recommendation is to not do that at this time. When tax bills are received in May, property owners will see that the tax rate for District 709 has gone up .22 in order to finance the \$8.9 million in bonds issued earlier. This is .05 cents lower than originally thought would be needed to complete all of this work--because \$1.6 million has not yet been issued. This reflects a number of very positive outcomes: a competitive bidding environment, bids that have come in under budget, sharpening the proverbial pencil, and wise/efficient use of funds available to us.

The Board of Education agreed to use the reserves instead of issuing more debt from the bond market.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Abel Plus Services, Inc. in the amount of \$31,900.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approval of New Class at Morton Jr. High School: CareerMaker/STEM Lab –

Dr. Hall reported that due to increasing enrollment, a teaching position must be added to Morton Jr. High School starting with the 17-18 school year. Mr. Hoffman made a presentation to the Board concerning this class at the March 7, 2017, meeting.

The addition of the teaching position is partnered with the addition of a new class that has been approved by CAC and Leadership Team.

The CareerMaker/STEM Lab will introduce students to hands-on career learning opportunities, which will initiate early exploration of potential career paths. Paxton/Patterson is an educational company that provides classroom technology learning systems. The curriculum used for the class will be fourteen learning modules that will engage students with problem-based, real-world technology.

Initial startup for this class is approximately \$60,000. Funds from the JH budget and district funds will cover approximately \$30,000. Funding and sponsorships are being sought from outside sources including local businesses and community groups, including the Morton Community Foundation and the Red and White Club (PTO).

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the CareerMaker/STEM Lab class at Morton Jr. High School starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Personnel Report

Approve February, 2017 Treasurer’s Report

Approve General Education Summer Reinforcement Program (S.O.A.R.)

Approve Overnight Trip – Boys Tennis (2)

Approve 2017-2018 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Approve Re-Employment of Professional Staff

Approve Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Regular Meeting and the March 21, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-24-17	Bills 3-17-17	Bills 3-31-17	Payroll 3-31-17
Ed. Fund	\$146,830.92	\$9,219.97	\$16,287.99	\$521,296.11
Bldg. Fund	65,826.78	--	--	36,125.30
Trans. Fund	98,380.37	--	--	14,875.87
Capital Projects	1,769.00	--	772,082.00	--
Tort	58.00	--	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	251,900.11

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 7:44 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 7:57 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

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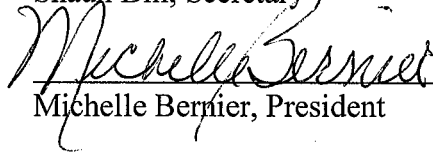
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Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President