

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 2, 2017

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 2, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING –

Dr. Lindsey Hall called the reorganizational meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Kevin Austin, Dr. Shad Beaty, Dr. David Cross,
Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Dr. Hall served as President pro tem until the president was elected.

Organization of New Board –

Elect President –

Dr. Hall asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Tom Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Neeley was declared President by acclamation. He assumed his seat as President.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Schmidgall nominated Dr. Beaty to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Dr. Beaty was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Schmidgall to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Schmidgall was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2017-2018 year the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there has been one freedom of information request and the district's response is posted on the website.

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week–

Dr. Hall noted that this is National Teacher Appreciation Week. She extended her appreciation from the Board and Administration to all district teachers for all they do for the students of District 709. Mr. Neeley added his appreciation for the entire staff.

Recognition of Service of Mrs. Therese Scifres as MEA President –

Dr. Smock reported that Mrs. Scifres has served as MEA President for the past two years. She played an important and positive role in maintaining the good relationship between the administration and the MEA. Mrs. Scifres noted her pleasure in representing the certified staff. The MEA's focus is the same as the Board's – students are at the end of every decision. She thanked Dr. Hall and Dr. Smock for the respect shown by them for the MEA.

Dr. Smock introduced Mr. Tony Feleccia as the incoming MEA President. He noted he is looking forward to working with the Board and Administration.

PTO President's Report – Grundy, Jefferson, Jr. High –

PTO Presidents from Grundy (Julie Matlock), Jefferson School (Jill Akers), and Morton Jr. High School (Dana Weber), reported on their PTO activities and purchases for their buildings this past school year.

President Neeley thanked them for their support of students and teachers in the district.

LEAP Updates – Grundy and Jefferson Schools -

LEAP updates of the goals presented last fall were given by principals from Grundy and Jefferson Schools. LEAP (Learning Enhancement Action Plans) were formerly known as School Improvement plans.

Grundy – Mr. Saunders thanked his committee members. He noted the two goals that were implemented last fall.

Goal #1 – By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the staff of Grundy Elementary School will fully implement PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). For the last several years the district has focused on the academic side of RtI by developing an extensive menu of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions to meet the individual academic needs of students. This year, the

focus was shifted to the behavioral side of RtI by implementing PBIS to meet the individual behavioral needs of students. The link to District/Board of Education goals is “Climate.”

Update on Goal #1 – The Grundy LEAP team attended the initial PBIS training in August and set goals for the year. The first task was to create and implement a Voice Level Chart to help manage student volume in every area of the school. An immediate difference was noted, especially in the common areas of the school. The next task was to identify proper behavior in each area of the building and to create the PBIS Matrix. The Six Pillars of Character (Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Respect, Fairness and Trustworthiness) were merged with the former Code of Conduct. The final task for the year was to create and implement the PBIS Minor and Major Violations Chart and Forms and to begin tracking student behavioral data at both the classroom and building level. Next year, the focus will be on tracking student behavioral data, creating behavior lesson plans and creating buildingwide celebrations.

Goal #2 – By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the staff of Grundy Elementary School will use Google Classroom and other technology resources to enhance learning and increase student achievement. Teachers and students in the school district have access to a wide variety of electronic and digital resources. Many teachers have expressed a need for additional professional development to use these resources efficiently and effectively to enhance learning and increase student achievement. The link to District/Board of Education goals is “Achievement.”

Update on Goal #2 – Online training sessions were offered by District Technology Integration Specialists, Don Sturm and Lauri VanDerVoorn, along with offering “Drop-in Professional Development” opportunities several days a week after school at the District Office. Next year, the focus will be shifted from technology integration to a study of reading, writing and math workshop.

Jefferson – Mrs. Wyman thanked the Jefferson LEAP team members. She noted the two goals that were implemented last fall.

Goal #1 – The PBIS team, along with the Jefferson Staff, will implement the 3 R’s behavior matrix in all six areas to establish school-wide consistency and common language. The PBIS team will develop a staff expectations matrix to align with behavior matrix. The PBIS team will provide guidance for office referrals in an effort to collect data and evaluate effectiveness of the expectations. Jefferson staff will identify and teach key lessons in the Second Step program to support the social emotional and 3R expectations. This links to the Board Goal of “Climate” and “Achievement.”

Update on Goal #1 – A school-wide matrix was implemented with beginning of the year daily assemblies and explicit teach times, reminders on daily announcements, student ambassador videos produced by 4th – 6th graders. Second step lessons were recommended by each grade level and taught in all classrooms by the school social worker and/or classroom teacher. School-wide classroom buddies were established for all classes (older role models with younger students). A student input survey on PBIS implementation and bullying was administered to 5th and 6th grade students. Google forms were utilized to analyze student discipline data and identify “frequency”, “hot spots”, and possible solutions, as well as provide interventions for specific students with

RtI or behavior intervention teams. Next year – build community through weekly morning assemblies vs. monthly assemblies; implement new office referral form and staff matrix expectations; discuss/explore classroom communities; provide personnel and incentives for identified matrix areas; explore additional bullying prevention materials and SEL resources.

Goal #2 - 709 Above the Line: Engagement and Higher Order Questioning in Reading – The Jefferson staff will participate in ongoing, targeted discussions and professional development, as it relates to selecting effective instructional “best practices” in the area of Reading. The staff will demonstrate understanding of the common “709Above the Line” definitions of Engagement and Higher Order Questioning and incorporate academic conversations and student engagement strategies to challenge and empower students in their own learning. Through innovation and collaboration, staff will incorporate technology in their instructional planning. This links to the Board Goal of “Climate” and “Achievement.”

Update on Goal #2 – 709 Above the Line terms were explored at all staff meetings. Focus was on reading; partnered with the Morton library; install a “Free Little Library” at Jefferson School; Collaboration – used a Pineapple Board (pineapple symbol for “welcome”). Teachers used it to invite other teachers into their classroom to observe innovative practices; Higher Order Questioning – conversational moves. Teachers read same three books and then shared together; Problem Solving – used technology to solve a “mystery”. ELL – a newsletter was sent to staff and parents that targeted reading. Next year – 709 Above the Line professional development; explore reading materials to support district-wide direction toward differentiated reading instruction; financial commitment to support teachers and purchase materials; analysis of assessment data; explore and create common classroom and/or grade level assessments; Professional Learning Community model with a focus on Reading.

Mr. Neeley thanked them for their continuous commitment to improvement.

President’s Report –

Mr. Neeley reported on CIRCLE (Central Illinois Regional Chamber Legislative Effort) Day in Springfield. He urged Board members and administrators to stay on top of the financial situation with the state legislature.

Mr. Austin and Dr. Hall reported they attended a meeting with Senator Brady. Dr. Hall noted that public entities are continually faced with unfunded mandates. School districts have experienced years of pro-ration of monies owed by the state.

Mr. Neeley thanked Board members for the privilege to lead the Board of Education for the next year. He thanked the new and current board members for their willingness to serve.

Discussion Items –**Board Goal 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 explained the purpose of reviewing each board goal two times per year for the sake of the new board members.

Mr. Neely expressed the need to set dates for a Board self-evaluation meeting and a Board goal setting meeting sometime in May or June. Board members also agreed to set a time for the Board to meet together with all of the Administrators.

Ends Policies Compliance –

Dr. Hall explained the purpose of the Board policy check for each section of the policy manual. She reported that the Ends Policies reflect board work from each section of the manual. She has reviewed the policies and determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Neeley will sign the forms and place them in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

First Reading and Discussion of Student Handbook Revisions –

Dr. Teater discussed the revisions being recommended for the Discipline Handbook for next school year. No changes are being recommended at the elementary level, but the Jr. High and High School are recommending the following revisions:

Jr. High -

- Library Fines from \$.05 to \$.10 daily (\$.10 is current practice, but was not changed in the handbook.
- Add a prohibition on changing the name, date and/or time settings on iPads.
- Remove a conflicting procedure for limited excused absences
- Improve communication with students and parents on Student Performance grades. Currently, there is no language for this. The Student Performance score communicates teachers' observations of soft skills to give parents a better understanding of their child's academic grades. Soft skills are behaviors not easily measured by tests and assignments; however, these abilities have a strong correlation with academic success. Students' teachers collectively determine these ratings. This grade is not factored into a student's grade point average. Soft skills include: work ethic; classroom behavior; peer interactions; attendance.

High School –

- Earbuds/Headphones – no current language. Recommended change – students may use earbuds/headphones during passing periods; however, one ear should be exposed so that students are aware of their surroundings and can hear staff directions.
- Cellphones – Current language – “If cellular devices are brought to school, they must be shut off and kept in the designated area for each school during the day. For the high school and jr. high, the designated area is the student's locker.” Recommended change – “Students may have their cellular devices on them but off during the school day. However, cellular devices may only be used in school during lunch time in the cafeteria. Any other time or location of use will lead to school consequences.”
- Dating Violence – no current language. Recommended change – “Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to harm, threaten intimidate or control the other person in the relationship...” This language is required by law to be in the student handbook.

Dr. Beaty voiced his concern with the recommended change for cellphones.

The revisions come back to the Board for approval on May 16.

First Reading and Discussion of Grade 1 -4 Science Resource –

Dr. Teater reviewed the process for adopting new curriculum materials. Due to new Science standards established last year, materials had to be supplemented during the current school year due to the age of the current elementary Science textbooks (10 years). An online resource was discovered that the 1st through 4th grade teachers piloted throughout the year. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum

Advisory Committee and approved. A presentation was also made to the Leadership Team. *Mystery Science* will be on display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days and then brought back to the Board for approval for use beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

Mystery Science, is an online subscription being recommended for purchase. Information may be accessed online at: <https://mysteryscience.com/plants/structure-function-adaptions>

Cost: District License 1st year @ \$1,996.00. Following years would be \$3,996.00

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Overnight, Out of State Trip – Girls Varsity Basketball
- Approve Final School 2016-2017 Amended School Calendar
- Approve Student Fees for 2017-2018 School Year
- Approve Facility Rental Rates
- Approve Auditors
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-28-17	Payroll 4-28-17
Ed. Fund	\$20,294.21	\$416,653.53
Bldg. Fund	--	32,108.04
Trans. Fund	402.00	8,896.26
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	425,375.82

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase 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 9:15 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Rinckenberger, 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 9:31 p.m.

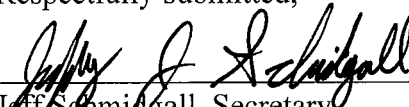
Adjournment -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Austin, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President