

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 7, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FACILITIES MEETING -

President Michelle Bernier called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:32 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. Heinold

President Bernier explained that the purpose of the meeting was to develop a mid-term and long range vision for district facilities. Facility planning is:

- the job of the board
- one of the board goals
- an opportunity to partner other community organizations
- a target – to apply for an ISBE school construction grant

President Bernier noted the board has not discussed facilities since the bond referendum was passed last year. The current board has a vast amount of facilities knowledge after hours of discussion prior to the referendum. She asked board members to brainstorm ideas – everything is a possibility. There was no discussion or evaluation of the ideas at this meeting.

### Elementary

Add on

Commons Area

New Grade School—Groveland

New School in growth area

Modulars

Remove 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Group grades together

Re-look at program locations

Remove PreK-K

Add on to just one elementary building

Remove Pre-K and K and build early childhood center

Jefferson: classroom size, add on/renovate

Small community garden at each school as a lab

Change classroom structure with technology use

Flexible space—renovating building/building on

Classroom for innovation/lab work

**Junior High**

Build 6-8 on Harding Road, 18 acres  
Existing use as Pre-K-K, do preschool “for profit”  
Rent to ICC or other—Bradley?  
Add on to existing building: acquire property around it  
One way road for safety  
Freshman academy  
Harding is for sale—all infrastructure is in place  
Use as a 6-7 or 8-9 building  
Build middle school  
Tear down  
Use as regional arts magnet school  
Use as science/technology building  
ID most pressing needs:  
---cafeteria: expand  
---PE needs  
---Music  
Programming/teams

**High School**

Satellite campus: ICC, Bradley, ISU, Heartland  
Community center  
Existing becomes Jr High  
Fine Arts Center  
Pressing needs in current building:  
---cafeteria  
---library  
---music  
---science  
Canopy entrance—renovate  
Restrooms  
Fieldhouse  
Basement: don’t have classes there  
Corporate partners  
Vocational space—reconfigure  
More coop with ICC and/or others  
Utilize regional programs—space  
Buy adjacent property  
Restructure—enlarge Bertha Frank  
S. 4<sup>th</sup> creek: coop with others to develop natural area/lab/recreational  
Class schedules: block vs. 5 day, zero hour, flex

President Bernier recommended another facilities meeting prior to the new board members being seated. It was suggested that having a moderator such as architect Jeff Keach would be helpful, given his knowledge of construction feasibility and the district’s buildings.

Mr. Schmidgall noted his preference is to wait on more facilities discussion until Fall 2017 after the new construction is completed and being used. Mr. Neeley agreed with Mr. Schmidgall and requested a discussion on the district's educational offerings and how they fit into facilities prior to further in-depth facilities discussion.

An archived recording of the entire meeting may be viewed on MPTV.


Adjournment -


Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote:            Yea 6                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Shaun Bill, Secretary

  
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Michelle Bernier, President