

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 1, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 1, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tom Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

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

Mr. Neeley opened the meeting by noting the Board members met with the new teachers prior to the meeting. There are 27 new teachers this year. He thanked all of those involved in the hiring process.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hill noted there was one Freedom of Information request to report. The request and response is posted on the District's website.

Administrators Welcome –

Dr. Hill welcomed the Administrators back for the 2017-2018 school year.

Facilities Update –

Rodney Schuck, Director of Operations, reported that work on the new additions and gyms is wrapping up. District custodial crews are preparing the new classrooms and moving in new furniture. Gym floors will be lined and final sealing will be completed soon. The Jefferson School window work is moving along and window installation and room prep will be completed for the start of school. As planned, the window project will be completed during the summer of 2018. Mr. Schuck reported on other life safety and maintenance work that took place this summer throughout the district.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. Schuck and his staff for the work that took place this summer to prepare the buildings for the new school year.

Personnel Update -

Dr. Smock noted this has been a very busy summer of hiring. Besides new hires, there were many internal movements. There are two part time business positions that were not filled. The two high school business teachers will teach an extra class to fill these positions. There are instructional aide positions to fill along with a crossing guard position and bus drivers.

Dr. Smock reported the need for a part time speech pathologist due to some outplaced students that will be returning to the district this year. There will be a cost savings having the students in the Morton School District.

President's Report –

President Neeley noted the principals will be asked to “Spotlight” events that are taking place in their buildings throughout the school year. This will be a way to inform board members so they can attend.

President Neeley reported board members will not be assigned to a specific building as in the past. After Dr. Hill and the board have completed the goal setting, a different concept will be discussed.

President Neeley assigned board members to committees as follows:

- Communications – Mrs. Bernier and Mr. Austin
- Policy – Dr. Beaty and Mr. Neeley
- Transportation – Mr. Rinkenberger
- Finance – Committee of the Whole/Mr. Schmidgall and Dr. Cross – reports/accounts payable approval
- Facilities – Committee of the Whole
- HR/Labor Management – Mr. Neeley and Dr. Beaty

Discussion Items –

Review Task Board for Upcoming Year –

Dr. Hill reported that a few adjustments have been made to the Task Board for the upcoming year. This is a flexible document and can be adjusted throughout the year.

Board Process Policy Compliance-

Dr. Hill reported that all sections of the Board Process policies are being met and the board is in compliance. He and Mr. Neeley will sign off in the Board Compliance binder in the District Office.

Review and Discuss Board Goals – Climate and Communication –

Dr. Hill reviewed administrative strategies and actions from the past year for the goal of **Climate: Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.**

Administrative Strategies –

- 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.

Board Strategies/Actions:

- 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.

Topics discussed by the Board included merit pay based on student growth; evaluation data; hiring Morton graduates; filling coaching positions from within.

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

Administrative Strategies –

- 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 focus on specific efforts to reach more community members, with a goal of engendering and increasing trust between the community and the school district.

Staff Actions -

- 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, including the “State of Our Schools” event.
- 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.

- A community survey and/or interactive engagement activity will be identified and administered/carried out in FY17.

Topics discussed by the Board included how to determine success in the area of communication; forming focus groups; conducting surveys. It was noted that communication needs to be bi-directional – the district puts information out, but feedback from the community is needed as well.

Gridiron Request to Sell Ads –

Dr. Hill reported that the Gridiron Club (formerly Club Soovie) has requested that the Board of Education approve its request to sell advertising signs for the football field fences with proceeds going to the football program. Per the request, the signs will be displayed at the beginning of the football season and removed at the conclusion of the season. The signs will be of heavy duty vinyl similar to the “Morton Football” banner currently displayed on the rear of the press box. Each sign will be 3’ by 5’ and attached to the fence on all 4 corners with zip ties to simplify hanging and removing. The Club anticipates that 10 – 12 signs will be displayed each fall.

Policy 8:25 allows for companies to purchase space for advertisements in or on athletic field fences with approval from the Board of Education.

Board members requested more information prior to approving the request – who would be advertising; what are the parameters for size and number of ads; what will be the cost to buy an ad? Dr. Hill will gather more information prior to the next meeting.

Consent Agenda –

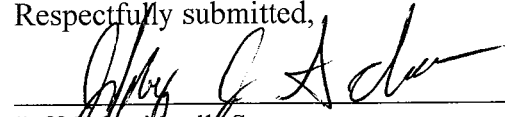
Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve June, 2017 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Transportation Claim
- Approve Minutes of the July 11, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting and the July 11, 2017, Regular Meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Scamigal, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President