

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 3, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 3, 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 6:32 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Michelle Bernier

#### **Reports –**

##### Administrative –

##### Freedom of Information Requests -

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

##### Superintendent Report –

State Superintendent Visit - Dr. Hill reported on State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Smith's visit to the District on September 21. He visited the STEM lab at the Jr. High and the Project Lead the Way lab at the High School. It was a very positive visit with good interaction between Dr. Smith and the students.

Insurance Claim Update – Dr. Hill reported that the insurance claim on roofs for hail damage was completed with a settlement of \$425,000 across the district. Roofs to be replaced are Brown, Grundy and the District Office building. Dr. Hill will check to see if this amount will cover all costs or if the district will incur further expenses.

##### Recognition of Principal Appreciation Week –

Dr. Hill noted that the state of Illinois has proclaimed October 15-21 as Principal Appreciation Week. He and the Board recognized Morton School District principals and thanked them for their efforts for the staff and students of the district.

**Student Ambassador Report -**

MHS Student Council President Kennedy Schmidgall reported on recent Homecoming activities at the high school.

**Challenge Program Updates –**

A report on the elementary Challenge Program was prepared for the Board by Michael Saunders. Challenge is the district's elementary program for academically talented and gifted students in grades 3-6. It is an after school program taught by teachers at each building. To be considered for admission in the program, students must score at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least two out of three MAP tests the previous school year. Students who participate in Challenge Reading or Math are invited to participate in Challenge Science in the summer. Challenge Science is tuition funded (\$100 per student) and financial assistance is available for students in need.

Total enrollment for Fall 2016 – Spring 2017:

- Reading – 148 students
- Math – 95 students
- Summer Science – 61 students

**Summer SOAR Update –**

Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens, reported on the 2017 SOAR (Summer Opportunity for Academic Reinforcement) program. The purpose is to prevent regression and maintain progress over the summer for students who received Tier 3 RtI services and support during the school year in reading and math. It is for Kindergarten through third grade students (8 seats per grade level, 32 total). 63% of students (20 of 32) maintained their progress for spring to fall based on the Reading and Math MAP tests.

**Elementary School Improvement Goal Report- Reading –**

Elementary principals gave a presentation on the proposed Reading Workshop model planned to be implemented for the 2018-2019 school year. The district currently uses the "Storytown" reading textbooks that are copyright 2004. New textbooks are being studied this year that would incorporate the Reading Workshop model of differentiated reading using whole group, small group and 1:1 instruction. The timeline includes bringing the recommended texts to CAC and the Board of Education between February and April, 2018.

**President's Report –**

President Neeley reported that the Jr. High Help-A-Thon took place today. He was fortunate to get to help alongside the students that were volunteering at the Harvest Food Pantry. He noted this is an excellent activity to teach students the importance of giving.

Mr. Schmidgall reported that he attended "Teacher Tuesday," a networking event

sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension. It is designed to foster peer-to-peer support for learning. The Career Maker STEM lab at the Jr. High and the Project Lead the Way lab at the High School were featured with educators visiting from around the Peoria area.

**Discussion Item –**

**Board Compliance – Operational Services –**

Dr. Hill reported that he and President Neeley have reviewed the Operational Policies and have determined that the district is in compliance. A review of the Crisis Plan will take place in November for the benefit of new board members. Dr. Hill and President Neeley will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

**Action Items –**

**Approve IASB Delegate and Alternate –**

Each year the Board of Education approves the delegate and alternate for the IASB Annual Conference per Board Policy 2:120.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education appoint Jeff Schmidgall as Delegate for the IASB Annual Conference for 2017.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Austin, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education appoint Shad Beaty as Alternate for the IASB Annual Conference for 2017.

Roll Call:                              Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Land Purchase –**

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education approve the contract to purchase property at 520 N. Second Avenue which outlines the specific term and conditions of this purchase for \$75,000.

President Neeley noted the land purchase was discussed at the September 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting. He stated it is a good price and the district will find good use for the property. Other board members noted they have had mostly positive feedback from the community.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property –**

This resolution allows Morton School District’s legal counsel to provide intervention at the Property Tax Appeal Board regarding the assessment of property – Truck Centers, Inc. for tax year 2016.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution allowing for intervention regarding assessment of property.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve August Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the September 19, 2017, Regular Meeting and the September 19, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 9-22-17</b>	<b>Bills 9-29-17</b>	<b>Payroll 9-29-17</b>
Ed. Fund	\$103,990.47	\$17,339.54	\$556,775.60
Bldg. Fund	55,853.18	1,544.95	37,605.84
Trans. Fund	11,579.54	250.01	17,335.27
Capital Projects	85,354.24	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	287,930.80

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session -**

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Student Discipline per statute. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote:            Yea 6                            Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 8:30 p.m.

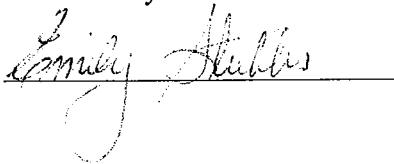
**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                            Yea 6                            Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

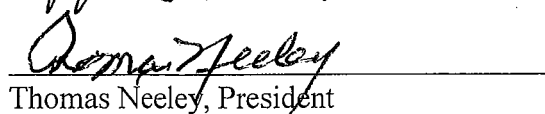
Recorded by:

  
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Submitted by,

  
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Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary

  
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Thomas Neeley, President