

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 17, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 17, 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 7:16 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

Reports –

Administrative –

Inservice Day –

Dr. Teater reported on the activities that took place on the October 10th Inservice Day:

- Elementary – teachers visited Pekin District 108 to observe classes using Reading Workshop. District 108 teachers were able to share their experiences as they have used Reading Workshop for the past nine years.
- Jr. High – “Style of Influence Survey” – teachers took a survey that allowed them to learn how everyone is distinct and processes information differently.
- High School – “Data Dig” – teachers used five years of student data to compare how MHS students have performed over the past five years.

School Improvement Goals –

MJHS - Mr. Hoffman described an initiative that was introduced this year at the Jr. High. “The Potter Way” is a rubric being used to help students assess and improve their academic performance. Using the word POTTER as an acronym the students do a self-assessment twice per quarter to determine if they are 1) Emerging; 2) Evident; 3) Exceeding:

- Pride (motivation) – care about achievement and success
- Optimism – believe you can be successful because teachers have prepared you well
- Tenacity – each question, assignment and test is an opportunity to excel
- Time – do not quit prematurely before you have secured your best result
- Evidence – support your answers and work with data and high-levels of thinking
- Recheck – accept no careless or mindless mistakes

Mr. Hoffman is hopeful this will become a common language and will take root in the students’ lives.

MHS – Mr. Gourley reported that MHS is in year three of a 3-year plan.

- **Goal #1 – Writing** – started in the 2015-16 school year, MHS focused on improving student writing skills.
 - Year 1 – Departments agreed to the attributes of good writing.
 - Year 2 – Continued articulation between staff. Development of common rubrics.
 - Year 3 – Decrease the number of students not meeting writing standards in 10th grade. Staff continue to monitor student writing.

- **Goal #2 – 709 Above the Line** – Throughout the 2016-17 school year, teachers focused on two components of 709 Above the Line.
 - Enhance current practices within classrooms.
 - Implement a new classroom practice within that reflects good teaching.
 - Peer Walk-throughs focused on 709 Above the Line – this practice is continuing this year.

- **Data Dig – Fall 2017 – Inservice Day** – the purpose was to identify areas to improve and to celebrate successes. Areas of data used – student discipline; grades overview; activity participation numbers.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Grundy School Open House was held earlier in the evening to give community members the opportunity to tour the new construction. He noted there was good attendance with many positive comments.

Mr. Neeley reported Board members had good conversation with the staff at Grundy School at the dinner meeting preceding the Open House.

Mr. Austin reported he attended the recent Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Reading Workshop visit to Pekin District 108.
- Driver Education Permit Application process proposal – a “flipped classroom” for students who wish to obtain their permits 30 days prior to starting the class explained by Marshall Tucker, Driver Education teacher.

Discussion Item –

Audit Presentation –

Mr. Adam Pulley, CPA, Principal of CliftonLarsonAllen reported the findings of the recent audit conducted on the district's finances. He noted a clean unmodified opinion, which is the best he can give. The district's profile per the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is shown as “Recognition,” which is the highest designation a district can receive from ISBE.

Mr. Pulley acknowledged Business Manager and Treasurer, Barb Getz, and her accounting team for their thorough preparation and success of the audit.

Tentative Levy Presentation –

Mrs. Getz reviewed the timeline for approval of the 2017 Levy and the 2018-19 tentative budget:

- November 7 – approve 2017 Levy and 2018-19 tentative budget; publish Truth in Taxation Notice in newspaper
- December 5 – hold public hearing (though the district is not required to hold a public hearing since the levy will not exceed the 5% cap.); vote to approve Levy Resolution

Dr. Hill is recommending a 2.69% increase in the levy.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Audit Report
- Approve Minutes of the October 3, 2017, Regular Meeting and the October 3, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-6-17	Bills 10-13-17	Payroll 10-13-17
Ed. Fund	\$212,404.08	\$180.39	\$520,241.92
Bldg. Fund	21,870.49	--	33,555.39
Trans. Fund	16,502.27	--	15,416.03
Capital Projects	13,435.87	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	502,797.88

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for Personnel issues. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:42 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:21 p.m.

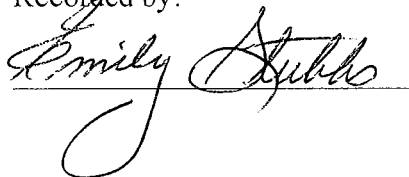
Adjournment -

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

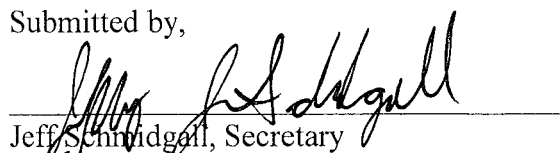
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

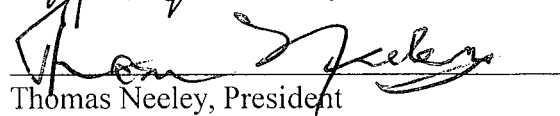
Recorded by:



Submitted by,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President