

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 2, 2017

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FACILITIES MEETING -

President Tom Neeley called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Enrollment Presentation – Dr. Smock

Dr. Smock gave a presentation on historical enrollment data that includes the two private schools in Morton. He noted the higher enrollments at Morton District 709 from Kindergarten to 1st grade and attributed it to the private schools both offering full day kindergarten.

He used historical data and cohort growth from Morton and the private schools to predict enrollment. He noted the predictions do not take into consideration any housing or economic factors, nor live birth rates. The numbers used are 10-year averages. Actual total enrollment today is 3,037 with predictions of 3,365 in five years; 3,586 in ten years; and 3,896 in 15 years.

Morton Moving Forward Presentation – Dr. Hill

Dr. Hill reported he has spent the last few months researching and gathering information from similar school districts with regards to:

- How are we doing in comparison to our peers?
- What are we doing in comparison to our peers?
- What might we do differently?
- Do we have the capacity to make program improvements?

Analysis occurred in three areas:

- Achievement
- Financial
- Programs

Characteristics of Districts in Cohort:

- 7 districts
- All unit districts
- 6 of the 7 from the Central IL area
- District populations range from 950-4,600 students
- Each district below 30% low income

Discussion by the board followed concerning:

- Academics – understand why scores have dropped
- Spend money on programming, not buildings
- Full day vs. half day kindergarten vs. smaller class sizes in lower grades
- A capital campaign for a new building
- A new middle school vs. adding on to the Jr. High
- 5 – 8 middle school

Dr. Hill's tasks after the discussion included:

- From recommendations in presentation – determine what is feasible to do right away.
- Conduct a capacity study to add a 6th grade to the current Jr. High
- Gather information for a capital campaign.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Austin, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

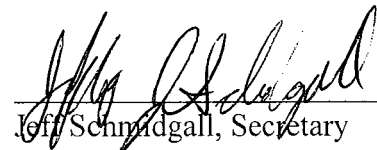
The entire meeting can be viewed at the following [link](#):

Recorded by:



Emily Stubbs

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President