

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 21, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 21, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31 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 –

Facilities Update –

Architect Jeff Keach reviewed an additional option for upgrades/additions to the Jr. High for the Board to consider. This option includes the addition of a new gymnasium and secure main office. Options may be viewed on the District 709 webpage at <http://www.morton709.org/home> under Board of Education/Meeting Information/Morton Jr. High School Addition Options and Costs. The discussion may be viewed on MP-TV at the beginning of the meeting.

During discussion, Mr. Hoffman, principal at MJHS, noted that all of the options address safety and security issues. The addition of a new gym would increase physical education options. Though there is a loss of green space with this option, the gyms would be more utilized for PE, events and sports practices. Mrs. Bernier noted that with any of the options, the addition of another grade in the future would not be possible. Mr. Neeley added that the board needs to be sensitive to future boards and not “box ourselves in.” Dr. Hill noted all options were designed with input from the Jr. High Administrators. He stressed that at this point, the board and administration has been brainstorming designs, but the options should be narrowed down by October. Factors to consider in the final decision will be enrollment projections, the outcome of the County Facility Sales Tax referendum and community input.

President's Report –

President Neeley reported:

- He recently attended the National School Board Association summer leadership seminar.
- The leadership team from the Central IL Valley Division of the IASB along with Dr. Bertrand, Executive Director, will be meeting with Representative Darin LaHood to discuss school funding issues.
- Vision 2020 met recently – discussion focused on the teacher shortage and attracting teachers to the profession.

Discussion Item –**Strategic Plan/Board Calendar –**

Dr. Hill reviewed the Strategic Planning document that outlines the District goals and the strategies and actions needed to meet these goals. It articulates who is responsible, the desired outcome, as well as when the Board will receive an update. The Board calendar coincides with the Strategic Planning document and has two sections per month – one for items that are reported or acted on annually, and a section for items that are specific to the 18-19 school year.

In light of recent publicity the district has received in the press concerning the number of new staff hired for this school year, Dr. Hill reviewed the timeline of Morton Moving Forward. He noted the long, methodical process over the months of October 2017 through April 2018. Though there were several new positions created, many of the new hires for this school year were due to retirements and resignations. The new positions were budgeted for using current existing dollars.

Dr. Hill reported he and Dr. Teater met recently with representatives from the ECRA Group. ECRA offers apps for a strategic dashboard to govern district progress toward goals; school improvement for program effectiveness and to document the return on investment that programs have on student outcomes; and a student profile tool to engage educators, parents and students around a multi-dimensional definition for student success and college readiness. Dr. Teater explained the security precautions taken by ECRA to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student data is only accessible by MCUSD administrators and a consultant from ECRA. Board members agreed this would be a valuable tool for the District.

Other –

Mr. Schmidgall asked that the Board develop a policy stating how funds from the County Facility Sales Tax would be used by the District. Mr. Neeley suggested the board have an action item at the September meeting stating the board will develop a policy. The action item would include the board's intent of use of funds. Then, should the referendum pass,

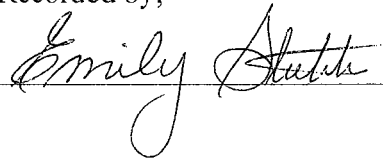
Adjournment –

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

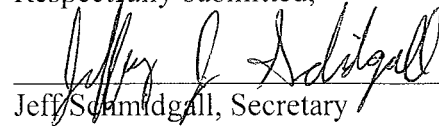
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

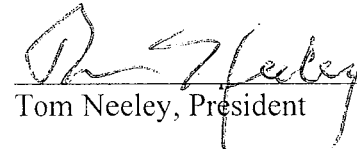
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President