

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

December 4, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 4, 2018, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

LEVY HEARING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Neeley called the Levy Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Member present via phone: Mr. Kevin Austin

Mr. Neeley declared the Hearing open for the purpose of public comment and/or questions concerning the 2018 Levy.

Mr. David King addressed the board concerning the 2.1% increase in the levy this year. He urged the board not to place the County Facilities Sales Tax (CFST) referendum on the April 2019 municipal election ballot. If it does get on the ballot, he asked that the board pass the same resolution as it did in the fall to limit the general property tax extension if the referendum should pass.

There being no other comments, Mr. Neeley declared the public hearing closed at 6:33 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Member present via phone: Mr. Kevin Austin

Prior to Audience Presentations, President Neeley read a statement from the Board of Education as to the reasoning for posting the band director position for next school year.

Audience Presentations – Jim Mattson, Lauren Wiggins, Nikki Combs, Ian Chenoweth, Dave Wiggins, Mark Ciocca, Colin Winkelmann, Eric Dalton, Georgia Heth, Andrew Howell, Alex

Hischke, Claire Hawks, Erin Neavor, Kim Larrabee and Tom Dougherty all spoke in support of MHS band director, Jeff Neavor. The archived meeting may be viewed on MP-TV at the 5:30 portion of the recording.

Reports –

Administrative –

President Neeley asked that reports from the Joint Annual Conference and Discussion Item A– Board Compliance– Personnel Policies be pulled from the agenda and added to a future agenda.

Freedom of Information Requests–

Dr. Hill reported there were no Freedom of Information Act requests to report.

Superintendent’s Report -

Health Insurance Update – Since switching to United Health Care in June, the current loss ratio is 42% (UHC’s target is 85-88%). If this trend continues, we would expect a decrease in rates. The district will apply to Central Illinois Educators (CIE) co-op in the spring as an alternative to United Health Care.

Morton Moving Forward – Future Ready – 1) Morton High School is looking to add some licensure programs using the Arlington Heights District 214 model. The programs are in the automotive and manufacturing fields and two local businesses have committed to the program. 2) MHS will be partnering with East Peoria High School on a dual credit course at ICC for welding. 3) The Morton Chamber of Commerce is looking to expand the Morton Mentor program that matches high school students with business leaders to share professional knowledge, skills, contacts and resources.

President’s Report –

President Neeley noted that the Delegate Assembly at the recent school board conference had good debate on the issue of concealed carry by school staff members. Though the resolution was not passed, the debate was very professional on both sides of the issue.

Agenda Building – Board members agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion Item -

1st Reading/Discussion Various Policies/Resolution from Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 –

A revision of various board policies from Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB PRESS services and legal counsel. The revisions were presented by the Administration

and the Board Policy Committee for discussion and first reading. The policies will be brought back to the Board for a second reading and approval at a future meeting.

County Facilities Sales Tax Resolution –

Dr. Hill reported that county superintendents are moving in the direction to pass resolutions to place the County Facilities Sales Tax referendum on the April 2019 Municipal Election ballot. Board members discussed the value of the sales tax to help fund facility related expenditures. Education moving forward is the key. All expressed their hesitancy to go back to the voters so soon after the November election when the referendum was narrowly defeated. All but Mrs. Bernier are in favor of limiting the general property tax extension should it pass. Mrs. Bernier has the same opinion as she did last fall of permanently lowering the levy and possibly jeopardizing the operations fund for the future. If the resolution is passed by other county school districts representing more than 50% of the student enrollment in Tazewell County, the regional superintendent will certify the question to the election authority for placement on the ballot.

The Board will meet on Tuesday, December 11, to vote on the resolution.

MJHS Facilities Plans –

Dr. Hill noted that based on board discussion at the November 13th meeting, Option K has been developed by District architect Jeff Keach.

Mr. Keach reviewed Option K – Phase 1 - \$2,108,000

- Driveways added on 2nd and 3rd Ave. for drop off and pick up for cars and busses
- Sidewalks added
- New JH administration office space and main entryway on northeast end of current building
- Remodeled classroom space (current office and chemistry lab)
- Additional parking
- Options for Phase 1 – Elevator and bonus parking lot (corner of Harrison and 2nd Ave.) – additional \$409,000

Phase 2 – \$4,306,000 - New Gymnasium, locker rooms and storage space

Mr. Keach noted that he and Dr. Hill met recently with Mayor Kaufman and Mr. Loudermilk to review the plan. He reported the village officials like Option K and offered to include the streets around the Jr. High in a traffic study that is planned for that area in 2020. Getting the advice of traffic experts could save the district money in the long run.

Board discussion included:

- Dr. Beaty – ready to move ahead; a secure entrance is overdue.
- Mr. Neeley – ready to start the process. He asked finance committee members Mr. Schmidgall and Dr. Cross to meet with Mrs. Getz prior to the December 11 meeting to review the budget for this project. Mrs. Bernier asked them to consider needs at the high school that will come up in the next five years.
- Mr. Schmidgall – he’s ready for the project to begin. He would like Phase 1 to include the parking and drop off lanes and not wait for the traffic study.
- Mr. Rinkenberger agreed to move ahead with the Phase 1, but wait for the traffic study to complete the parking and drop off lanes.
- Mr. Austin – likes the 2-phase plan. Wait for the traffic study, but brainstorm ways to limit the safety risk between now and 2020. Mr. Neeley added there may be other safety options that have not been explored up to now.

The Board will vote on this plan at the December 11th special meeting.

Action Item –

Approve 2018 Levy Resolution –

The administration has completed the tentative Levy for 2018. Details of that information were provided during the October 23 Committee of the Whole – Finance meeting. A public hearing was held for the purposes of inviting public comment earlier in this meeting. Final approval of the Levy resolution is being sought.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the 2018 levy resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve MJHS Daily Schedule Proposal and Corresponding 3 Full Time Teacher Requests –

Strategy 2 of Morton Moving Forward – Intentional Transition to Secondary includes “Develop and implement Jr. High School schedule that increases core instructional time and enhancement opportunities.” At the October 23, 2018, Board of Education meeting, Jr. High Principal Lee Hoffman gave a presentation on the following objectives:

- Continue Teaming Concept
- Increase opportunities for career counseling/exploration
- Increase exploratory options including foreign language
- Create a schedule that meets the needs of 510 students
- Increase ELA rigor

The Jr. High School schedule proposal includes three new positions – Foreign Language, English/Language Arts and STEM. These positions were part of the Morton Moving Forward Initiative presented last year and have been included in budget projections.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the MJHS daily schedule proposal and corresponding 3 full time teacher requests for the 2019-2020 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Smock noted that in his discussions with the MEA on this proposal, Jr. High teachers are excited about the smaller class sizes that come with this plan, but are apprehensive with the shortened class time.

Approve Resolution Authorizing Intervention – G & D, Inc. –

This resolution allows our district legal counsel to provide intervention at the Property Tax Appeal Board regarding the assessment of property – 384 Morton Terminal LLC (G & D) for tax year 2017.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve October Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the November 13, 2018, Regular Meeting; and the November 13, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 11-16-18	Bills 11-20-18	Bills 11-30-18	Payroll 11-23-18
Ed. Fund	\$421,576.48	\$75.07	\$180,939.60	\$554,782.25
Bldg. Fund	43,066.14	--	125,477.22	37,170.68
Trans. Fund	25,655.18	--	16,145.74	16,978.94
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	452,623.07

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel and Purchase or Sale of Land. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:45 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 11:17 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

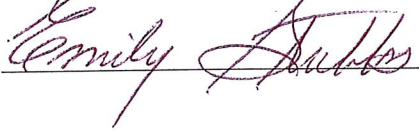
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

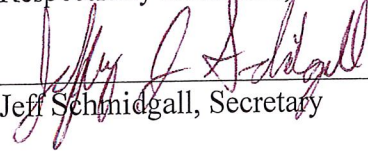
December 4, 2018

7

Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President