

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 5, 2019

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 5, 2019, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 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 –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hill reported there was one Freedom of Information Act request to report. Illinois Retired Teachers Association requested names of those teachers retiring in 2019.

5th/6th Grade Departmentalization -

Dr. Smock reported on the plan for building-level 5th & 6th grade departmentalization to begin the 2019-2020 school year. This plan was developed by administration and the 5th/6th grade teachers from each building. The plan is as follows:

- Teachers teach either 5th grade or 6th grade, but not both.
- Buildings with two sections of students, one teaches Math and Science, the other teaches ELA and Social Science. Lincoln is the exception since it has three sections of students.
- Students switch between the two teachers and have an equal amount of time with each teacher.

Benefits include:

- Minimal adjustments to scheduling and instruction.
- Allows for deeper and more efficient planning within the content.
- Allows teachers to teach the same lessons multiple times, making modifications to best meet student needs.
- Allows professional development to be targeted more effectively.
- Balances the teaching responsibility by splitting Math and ELA.
- Improves recruiting of teachers due to consistent assignments
- Creates a good first step if we desired to pursue increased departmentalization in the future

Expected Outcomes:

Increased student learning through improved:

- Instruction
- Curricular expertise
- Rigor
- Differentiation
- Instructional flexibility within the time block
- Vertical alignment of curriculum (transition from 4th-7th grades)
- Horizontal alignment of curriculum (consistency across the district)
- Transition to Jr. High

High School Certificate Programs –

High School Assistant Principal Deidre Ripka reviewed the certification opportunities available for students for the 2019-2020 school year. Six more certifications will be added to the Certified Nursing Asst. certification that is available this year:

- Automotive Service Excellence
- EMT/EMS
- ServSafe Food Handler
- ServSafe Manager
- Production Welder
- Welding Operator

Career interests were gathered from students during class meetings held earlier in the school year. Identified MHS pathways are:

- Health Sciences
- Information Technology – programming and software development
- Transportation Distribution and Logistics – facility and mobile equipment maintenance: automotive
- Hospitality and Tourism – restaurants and food/beverage services

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported:

- He recently attended a legislative roundtable with local state representatives. There was discussion concerning how to define a school day and districts having more flexibility.
- Due to the weather conditions, the traffic study around the Jr. High has not yet been completed.
- Administration is considering making the March 11th Teacher Institute Day a student attendance day to make up one of the emergency days recently taken. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with this plan.

President's Report –

President Neeley reported he attended the Advocacy Institute in Washington D.C. January 27-29. He and other school board members from other districts were able to meet with legislators and received valuable information. He and others had a good meeting with Representative Darin LaHood and are working on a visit by him to Morton School District.

Agenda Building – Mrs. Bernier – Safety at before and after school activities. Mr. Neeley asked that this item be added to the safety committee's agenda when it meets in May.

Discussion Items -**Board Compliance – Student Policies –**

President Neeley reported that he and Dr. Hill have reviewed the Student Policies and have determined that the district is in compliance. They will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office. Mr. Neeley asked that the Board receive information on the student workforce within the district and a review of the drug testing procedures.

ELL Coordinator Position – Increase from .7 to 1.0 FTE –

Administration recommendation to the Board:

- Increase the ELL Coordinator to a full-time position .
- Maintain 2 ELL Aides and ELL Consultant to meet recommended service minutes for students.
- Purchase a targeted language instruction curriculum to provide direct language instruction to select students as identified by priority rating scale.

Current staffing: ELL Coordinator - .7 and 2 ELL Aides

Proposed staff allocation: ELL Coordinator - .7 + .3 Teacher = 100%

Additional cost: \$29,100 (includes benefits)

The rationale for the proposal:

- Morton 709 is currently out of compliance in this area.
- Staffing and time constraints limit ability to support staff and be in the classroom to coach, collaborate, and co-plan with classroom teachers.
- More instruction provided by a certified teacher.
- Decrease in aide time and pay.
- ELL positions are very hard to fill, especially part time.
- Retention of a high-quality individual in this critical, specialized role is essential to appropriately meet the needs of students and maintain equal access to education.
- Best practices in serving ELL students indicate that the delivery of ELL services

within the general education setting is the most effective way to support the unique needs of this student population.

This will be brought to the Board as an Action item at its next meeting.

Proposal for Nursing Services – 2019-2020 School Year –

At the request of the Board, administration has conducted a review of the nursing services provided currently and in the past in the district. Ms. Owens provided a report at the January 15, 2019, Board of Education meeting. Based on the data presented, the Administration is recommending an increase in nursing services for the 2019-2020 school year: 2 RN's – Lincoln and MHS; 1 LPN – Grundy; 3 CMA's Brown, Jefferson and MJHS.

This will be brought to the Board as an Action item at its next meeting.

Action Item –

Approve Maintenance Truck Bid–

Dr. Hill reported that the district needs to replace one of the Maintenance Department's pickup trucks. This truck is used solely for supplies, snow removal and maintenance at all of the buildings. The truck being replaced is a 2004 Chevrolet with approximately 75,000 miles. A request for bids was sent to three dealers and three bids were received from Sam Lemman Auto, Mike Murphy Ford and Uftring Automall. General motors is not producing this vehicle for 2019. The bids ranged from 26,100 to 37,704.94, with the low bid being submitted by Uftring Automall.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the bid from Uftring Automall for \$26,100 for the 2019 ¾ ton 4X4 Ford pickup truck.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Out of State/Overnight Trips – MHS Marching Band- Cedar Falls, IA and Indianapolis, IN – 2019-2020 school year

Approve Minutes of the January 22, 2019, Regular Meeting; and the January 22,

2019, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
 Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 1-25-19	Bills 2-1-19	Payroll 2-1-19
Ed. Fund	\$47,103.91	\$261,269.85	\$542,947.83
Bldg. Fund	45,299.21	--	36,198.74
Trans. Fund	8,635.42	62.92	16,022.80
TORT	3,340.00	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	437,004.56

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:46 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:25 p.m.

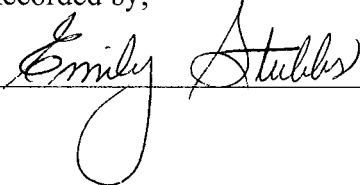
Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Dr. Beaty, that the meeting be adjourned.

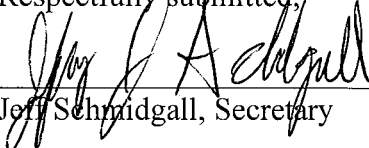
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

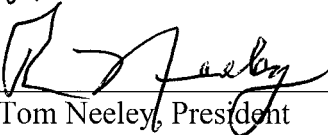
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Tom Neeley, President