

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 5, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 5, 2020, via videoconference.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Shad Beaty called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin, Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Bart Rinckenberger

Re-Organization of Board -

Elect President –

Dr. Hill, serving as President Pro Tem, asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Schmidgall nominated Dr. Shad Beaty to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Dr. Beaty was declared President by acclamation, and he assumed his seat.

Elect Vice President –

Dr. Beaty asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Austin nominated Mr. Jeff Schmidgall to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Schmidgall was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Dr. Beaty asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Neeley nominated Mr. Kevin Austin to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Austin was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board meetings for the 2020-2021 year will be the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced. Board members will meet prior to the second meeting of the month with staff at each building, September through April.

Reports –**Administrative –****Freedom of Information -**

Dr. Hill reported there is one Freedom of Information request to report. When the request is fulfilled, the results will be posted on the District website.

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week –

Dr. Hill noted that May 4—8 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. He expressed his appreciation to teachers for all of their efforts throughout the school year, but especially their response to remote learning with their students.

Superintendent's Report -

- Financial report—Dr. Hill noted that the 2019-20 school year will not be affected by the economic downturn due to COVID-19, but funds will be monitored closely due to anticipated delays in revenue for 2020-21.
- Dr. Teater gave an update on teaching and learning, and plans for working with students during the summer who had difficulties with remote learning.
- Ms. Owens gave an update on how she and her staff have been working with special education students during remote learning. Extended school year (summer school) plans are being developed at this time.
- Dr. Smock gave an update on guidelines for employees to return to work; hiring—teaching staff being hired; extra duty positions are on hold until there is clarity on schools reopening in the fall; teacher are being asked to prepare their classrooms for summer cleaning; plans for students' possessions pick-up and tech drop off are underway; students and parents are being contacted by their schools with specific plans; summer building projects are getting an early start with no teachers and students in buildings.

Audience Presentations –

Dr. Beaty read a letter from community member Mr. David King concerning effects of the economic impact of COVID-19 on the school district. Mr. King presented his viewpoint on school governance and district financial priorities.

President's Report –

Dr. Beaty thanked board members for meeting virtually for this meeting. It was necessary due to concern by a community member that the Board was not practicing social distancing at a recent meeting. The Tazewell County Health Dept. made the superintendent aware of this concern, as it had received a phone call from the community member.

Action Items –**Appoint Director of Student Support Services Effective July 1, 2020 –**

Motion by Mr. Braker, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Lindsay Franklin as Director of Student Support Services beginning July 1, 2020.

Roll Call Vote Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Hill noted he is pleased to have Ms. Franklin join the administrative team.

Ms. Franklin stated she is honored to be offered the position. She lives in Morton and hopes through this position she is able to give back to the community. Ms. Franklin has enjoyed meeting the administrative staff and looks forward to meeting the entire staff soon.

Approve 2021-2022 School Year Calendar –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Austin, that the 2021-2022 school year calendar be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Beaty thanked Dr. Smock and the calendar committee for the time and effort spent to complete the process of developing this calendar.

Approve Student Handbook Revisions –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the revision for the student handbook be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Food Service Contract
- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve 2020-2021 Board Meeting Dates
- Approve February Treasurer's Report

Approve Minutes of the April 21, 2020, Regular Meeting; and the April 21, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session
Approve Bills

	Bills 5-1-20
Ed. Fund	\$433,059.77
Bldg. Fund	464,152/12
Trans. Fund	826.06

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Austin, second by Mr. Braker, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m.

Open Session –

Board members discussed the current situation with the mandated school closure and the possible reopening of schools in the fall.

Adjournment –

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

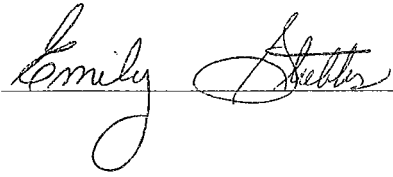
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

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

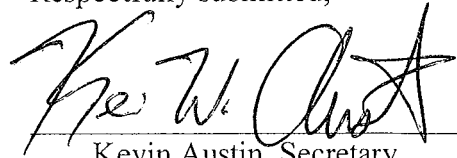
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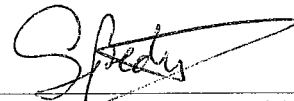
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President