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## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**June 23, 2020**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 23, 2020, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Shad Beaty called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Member arriving at 7:20:       Mr. Tom Neeley

#### **Reports –**

#### **Discussion Items –**

##### **Financial Overview –**

CFO Lisa Kowalski gave an overview of FY20 year end (unaudited). Revenues are higher than anticipated across the board, primarily due to increased investment interest income. That and other savings have reduced what already was a small projected deficit and dip into district reserves due to the MJHS addition project. Ms. Kowalski gave a preliminary look at the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget and approximate payment amounts for the summer 2020 maintenance projects.

##### **Facilities Overview –**

Mr. Keach reviewed the 15-Year Budget Plan Summary for Maintenance, Capital Improvement, and Health/Life Safety repairs. The plan includes school roof replacements; gym, softball field, and science lab improvements at the high school; and HVAC work at the junior high among other general maintenance projects at all district buildings.

Plans were discussed for improvements to the softball field at Birchwood Park to include increasing the size of the dirt infield and relocating and adding bleachers for better viewing. These improvements will allow for the option to host IHSA tournaments.

Mr. Keach shared the drawing from 2015 of the planned improvements to the canopy entrance at MHS including additional restrooms and a concession area. These plans were put on hold to take care of urgent needs at that time. Board members will revisit this plan in the future.

Dr. Beaty thanked Mr. Keach, Rodney Schuck, and the facilities committee for their work to update and keep the 15-year maintenance plan feasible.

**Fall 2020 Plans -**

- Dr. Teater reviewed alternative calendars for the 2020-21 school year for the Board to consider to try to balance the needs of public health and learning entering an unpredictable year. The four alternatives differ in the start and end of classes, the length of Christmas and Easter breaks, and the number of “flexible wellness days,” or emergency days that will be factored into the schedule to deal with the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak. Board members agreed that the calendar that added in 10 “flex” days was the least disruptive. Dr. Smock added that the Illinois legislature added a new holiday into law on November 3 – Election Day, for government offices, including public school districts. That day will have to be added into the 2020-21 school calendar.
- Dr. Hill reviewed the ISBE guidelines for students returning to school in the fall. Safety measures are required that will include the wearing of face masks (unless a medical exemption is provided), limiting group gatherings to no more than 50, social distancing to the degree possible, self-certification of symptoms, and regular and intense cleaning of school facilities. Dr. Hill stressed that first and foremost, there must be a high quality educational experience, whether instruction takes place in person or remotely, and essential content must be defined. Second, safety precautions are paramount for students and staff. Third, the school district wants to support its community by providing a sense of normalcy through a regular and as predictable a schedule as possible, with significant consideration given to the economic and emotional impact on families.

A survey will be going out to parents to gather input on a variety of aspects of the reopening prior to the Board making its decision. The Board will discuss these issues again at its July 7 regular meeting.

**Action Item –**

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Personnel Report be approved as presented:

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:20 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:37 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

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

Voice Vote:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

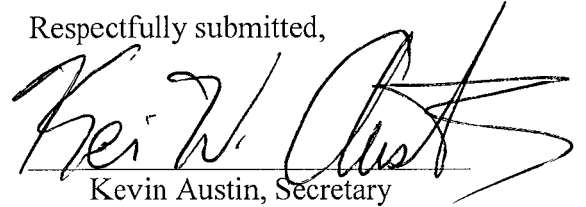
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Recorded by,

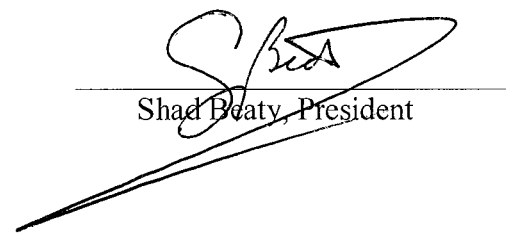


Emily Smith

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President