

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

July 21, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 21, 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 5:31 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

Action Items –

Approve Return to School Plan –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the Return to School Plan as presented.

Dr. Hill summarized the plan. In order to keep our schools at a safe and healthy level, he implored our community to continue using safety precautions. The plan includes a wide variety of safety precautions to be taken by the school district including face coverings, physical distancing, temperature checks, an emphasis on healthy habits such as regular hand washing, increased school-wide sanitation practices, and an ongoing monitoring of community health data. There will be some students not available for in-person instruction for a variety of reasons. The school district will work with families and provide remote learning options that could include live streaming, staff support, and curriculum from a third party vendor with staff support depending on the duration of the student's absence.

Dr. Smock reviewed Employee Wellness guidelines that covers district rights; daily employee self-screening; face coverings; disinfection and sanitation; bus driver and bus aide protocols; accommodations for medically fragile or high-risk employees; flexibility in terms of what is required of each of us, possibly having to do things outside of one's job description; self-quarantine and prolonged absence; testing locations; communication and confidentiality; returning to work; Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. The guidelines are available at <https://www.morton709.org/file/1678/Morton%20Return%20to%20School%20Plan%20Employee%20Guide%202020%20finalx.pdf>

Dr. Hill reviewed the Return to School Plan that covers safety precautions for students/staff; outbreak protocols and closures; high quality education experience; extra-curricular activities; music and PE; special education/RtI; student support; district procedures (arrival/departure, lunch, passing periods, transportation, visitors). The guidelines are available at

https://www.morton709.org/file/1675/Morton%20Return%20to%20School%20Plan%202020%20Main_final.pdf

Dr. Teater reviewed the Remote Learning Plan that covers essential content; family-friendly instruction; student attendance; grading; entrance into remote learning; curriculum; assignments; parent contact; schedule for school wide/district wide closure; staffing. Remote learning is designed to:

- provide rigorous content when in-person instruction is not possible
- promote instruction focused on Essential Content
- communicate a commitment to our high educational standards through regular and meaningful contact with each student and/or family
- promote independence and responsibility for our students as learners
- promote flexible learning in a family-friendly manner
- model technology use in the digital age

The guidelines are available at

https://www.morton709.org/file/1674/Morton%20Return%20to%20School%20Plan%20Remote%20Learning_V2.pdf

Dr. Teater demonstrated “*Schoology*,” a virtual learning environment for K-12 that allows teachers to create, manage, and share academic content. All classes are together on one page, so students do not have to go to several areas to find lessons and assignments.

Dr. Hill noted the plans and guidelines will be sent to parents electronically on Wednesday, July 22, along with a pre-registration form that will be due back no later than Sunday, July 26. There will be a “Facebook Live” event on Thursday, July 23, to answer parents and teachers’ questions.

Board members expressed their appreciation to all those involved in preparing the plans and for their thorough presentation.

Mr. Rinkenberger noted his concerns for the mask requirement and asked about disciplining those that do not comply. He agrees with the plans and appreciates the work those involved put into designing them, but he will vote against due to the mask requirement. Dr. Hill explained that the school district is required to comply with the guidelines set by the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC. As far as disciplining for non-compliance, the district will work with the family of the student and possibly recommend remote learning. Other board members agree with Mr. Rinkenberger, but also understand the need to follow the guidelines.

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 1 (Mr. Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Accepting Bid Pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement and Awarding Contract for Same to Knapp Concrete Contractors, Inc. –

The Village of Morton entered into an intergovernmental agreement entitled Real Estate Exchange Agreement on July 6, 2020, with Morton Community Unit School District No. 709. The agreement requires the bid be accepted by both the Village Board of the Village of Morton and the Morton Community Unit School District No. 709. The Village Board will be accepting the bid by resolution on July 20, 2020.

Bids were received from Otto Baum – \$1,974,116.44; Stark Excavating - \$2,179,729.54; I.C.C.I. - \$2,069,005.74; and Knapp Concrete - \$1,908,861.65.

The resolution accepts the bid of Knapp Concrete Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,908,861.65 for the Second Ave., Third Ave., Tyler St., Harrison St., and School Parking Lot Improvements Project. Pursuant to the terms of the aforesaid intergovernmental agreement, the Village shall enter into a contract with Knapp Concrete Contractors, Inc. to complete the work described in the intergovernmental agreement. The Village portion of the bid is \$925,877.50 and the School portion of the bid is \$982,984.15

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution accepting the bid of Knapp Concrete Contractors, Inc. pursuant to the terms of the intergovernmental agreement.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2020-2021 Revised School Year Calendar -

The 2020-2021 School Calendar was approved by the Board of Education at its November 19, 2019 meeting. The calendar was brought back to the Board at the July 7, 2020, meeting for discussion for two reasons.

The first has to do with a new law that just passed that makes November 3, 2020, (Election Day) a mandatory school holiday for everyone. One day will need to be added to the end of the school year to compensate for that day. The following day, November 4, will be a regular school day instead of a half day professional development day.

The other change has to do with a proposal to create a more flexible calendar in case of the need to close school for a length of time. In this flexible calendar, we would incorporate ten emergency days (instead of five) into the calendar, and school would run from August 10th (same start date) through June 7th. As with all emergency days, this would be a worst-case scenario in order to maximize the number of in-person instructional days. If there were no closure days, the teachers' last day would be May 21st. Up to 10 closure days in the midst of the school year potentially would not count as instructional days nor teacher workdays, unless the district decided to implement remote learning. Like snow days, a closure may just push back the last day of school.

These calendar revisions were discussed with the MEA Executive Council at a meeting on July 1st.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the revised 2020-2021 calendar as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Library Services –

This is a 3 year renewal of the intergovernmental agreement between the Morton Public Library and Morton CUSD #709. This enables our students, and teachers who live in the school district but not in the library district to obtain library cards free of charge. This agreement will be reviewed in 2023.

This program and agreement has been successful over the past 4 years. The following data comes from the Morton Public Library Director Alissa Williams:

There are currently 254 students registered for cards under this agreement with the following breakdown:

- Lettie Brown - 63
- Grundy - 63
- MHS - 27
- Jefferson - 21
- MJHS - 51
- Lincoln – 12
- Morton Academy – 17

Teachers:

- Lettie Brown – 1
- Grundy – 3
- MHS – 1
- Jefferson - 3

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Morton Public Library for a 3-year renewal.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Dr. Beaty asked that the Personnel Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Consent Agenda be approved with the Personnel Report being removed:

- Approve IASB President
- Approve Minutes of the July 7, 2020, Regular Meeting and the July 7, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

Approve Bills

	Bills 7-10-20	Bills 7-17-20
Ed. Fund	\$128,733.23	\$75,969.90
Bldg. Fund	905,672.26	81,372.30
Trans. Fund	15,299.83	2,269.05

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Personnel Report –

Dr. Hill noted that the personnel report includes the approval of several coaching positions. With the future of fall sports still unknown, he wanted the opinion of board members as to hiring coaches at this time. Dr. Beaty suggested that even if the teams are not competing, coaches can still work with them and find ways to keep the students connected.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

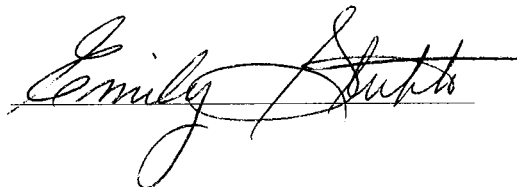
Adjournment –

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

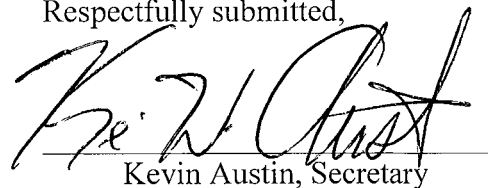
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

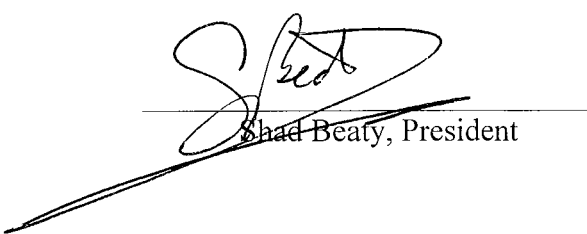
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President