

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 1, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 1, 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 6:33 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hill reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –

Dr. Hill noted that the annual list of district curricular materials is provided in the Board folder.

Extra-Curricular Offerings and Participation –

Dr. Hill noted the annual report of extra-curricular offerings and participation numbers for fall sports provided by the athletic directors at the Jr. High and High School. The number of offerings is different this year, but there is good participation in those that were offered. A report will be coming from them soon on what winter sports will involve. Dr. Hill also noted that sports slated to be played in the winter, spring, and next summer seasons are allowed an additional 20 days of contact between September 7 and October 31 following IDPH Phase 4 guidelines.

6th Day Enrollment Report –

Dr. Smock reviewed the 6th day enrollment report. The totals reported are:

- Elementary – In Person – 1,422; Remote – 122
- Jr. High – In Person – 468; Remote – 36
- High School – In Person – 940; Remote – 67
- Morton Academy – 15
- Total Enrollment – 3,147 (last year's 6th day enrollment was 3,154. There are approximately 80 students that opted to home school who, under normal circumstances, would more than likely have enrolled in Morton School District.

Dr. Smock noted that distributing students for equal sized classrooms throughout the district was a challenge this year not knowing how many remote learning students will return to in-person for second semester.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported:

- Seniors will be taking the SAT test (postponed in the spring) on Wednesday, September 23. This will be a remote learning day for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors. Those taking the test will be spread throughout the building for social distancing.
- Administration is currently working on guidelines for teaching quarantined students and the expectations of these students. Generally, the students are healthy, but cannot attend school for a brief amount of time due to being exposed to someone testing positive.
- MJHS construction is on schedule. The driveway is taking shape with work on the parking area to begin soon.
- Administration and MEA have had productive meetings to resolve some concerns due to the different teaching conditions brought on by COVID-19.

Mr. Schmidgall noted his appreciation for the administrators and teachers making extra efforts to make in-person learning possible. Mr. Rinkenberger noted his dissatisfaction with having to quarantine healthy students. Dr. Beaty agreed, but explained the district has to follow guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Mr. Neeley added that the Morton School District advocated with other districts for local control. By following the guidelines, we were allowed to decide what method of instruction we would employ in order to return to school.

Dr. Hill noted he meets regularly with a group of unit school district superintendents from central Illinois; 99% of them are doing a version of in-person learning as well.

Dr. Smock mentioned that principals have been providing photos of teachers throughout the District “Making It Happen.” He shares the photos that demonstrate unconventional efforts being made to teach - e.g. outdoor or virtual classes.

Discussion Item –

Revision of Selected Policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 -

A revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 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 recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board.

Action Item –

Approve Revision of Selected Policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 –

After board review of the various policy revisions, the administration recommended that the Board approve and adopt the newly revised policies.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the recommended revisions to policies 2:220, 2:220-E9, 4:180, 5:60, 5:60-E1, 5:60-E2, 7:90, 7:190, 7:345, and 8:30.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2020, Regular Meeting; and the August 18, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 8-20-20	Bills 8-28-20	Payroll 8-7-20	Payroll 8-21-20
Ed. Fund	\$2,175.73	\$187,508.44	\$645,404.87	\$695,967.76
Bldg. Fund	--	585,682.84	74,950.03	49,376.11
Trans. Fund	--	9,383.42	6,000.88	11,667.06
TORT	--	85.00	--	--
IMRF Fund	--		31,890.01	34,581.92

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

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

Motion by Dr. Cross, 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 8:20 p.m.

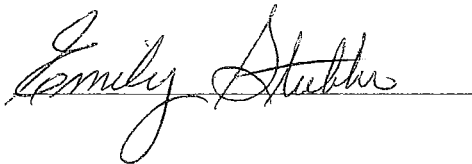
Adjournment –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Austin, that the meeting be adjourned.

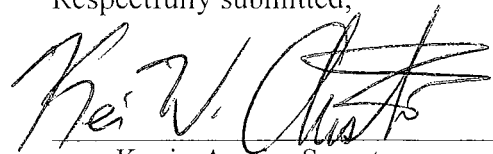
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

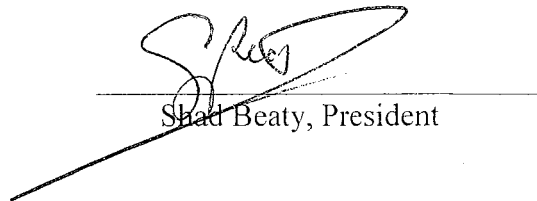
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President