

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 22, 2020

Minutes of the Budget Hearing held September 22, 2020, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

BUDGET HEARING –

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Shad Beaty called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

President Beaty declared the Budget Hearing open for the purpose of answering questions from the public on the proposed 2020-2021 Budget. There were no audience questions or discussion.

President Beaty declared the budget hearing closed at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 22, 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 7:18 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

Board Member Recognition – Master Board Members -

Dr. Hill recognized Dr. Beaty and Dr. Cross for attaining Master Board Member Level 1 status from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Mr. Schmidgall was recognized for attaining Level 2 status and Mr. Neeley for maintaining his status. Points are earned by attending IASB division meetings, Governing meetings, legislative leadership programs as well as holding positions of leadership within the Association.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported that:

- In-person learning is going well. Attention is turning to transitioning remote learning students back to working with their teachers.
- He knows the numbers will fluctuate, but right now the district is doing well keeping the numbers low. As of September 22:
 - 35 quarantined students
 - 0 positive student cases
 - 6 quarantined staff
 - 2 positive staff cases
- He and the other district office administrators have begun Good Morning 709 again this year. They meet with staff at a different building each week prior to the beginning of the school day. Staff members have been upbeat and enthusiastic. They are happy to be working with students in person.

Dr. Teater reported on Blended Learning, which was the focus at the recent Teaching and Learning Council meeting. Blended Learning is used by teachers for students being quarantined for a short amount of time (not for the actual remote learning students). With Blended Learning, teachers find ways to teach one lesson blended for in-person students and for students at home. On the September 18th early release day, there was a “show and tell” by teachers of their successes using Schoology; there was live support by Don Sturm and the instructional coaches using Google Meets; and there was teacher collaboration in buildings or district-wide across grade levels.

President's Report –

Board members agreed to change the start time for meetings to 5:30 PM.

Dr. Beaty noted he personally has heard from two different school boards (one nearby, one farther away) asking about our strategies used to keep students in school. He gives all credit to the Administrative team and the integrity and dedication of our teachers. He knows the Board and Administration are asking new things of teachers this year and appreciates all of their efforts. Board members added their appreciation. Mr. Rinkenberger again noted his dissatisfaction with the requirement for the quarantining of healthy students who have been exposed to COVID.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Beaty for his leadership and extra time given at the start of the school year and assisting with the project with the Village.

Discussion Items –**District 709 Strategic Plan – 2020-2021 –**

Dr. Hill reviewed the proposed strategic plan for the 2020-2021 school year. He noted

the focus this year is on the safety of students and staff; high quality instruction and student support, preferably in person; and continuity and normalcy for our community. He listed the priorities in each Goal:

- Achievement –
 - i. Providing the highest quality instruction possible, (in person or remote).
 - ii. Providing seamless transitions from in-person to remote learning.
 - iii. Parents and students access digital learning opportunities with little disruption to the learning process.
 - iv. Providing as much in-person learning opportunities possible for students needing additional support.
- Climate –
 - i. Implementation and adherence to safety protocols.
 - ii. Develop empathy and compassion for those who COVID has impacted differently than our own views.
 - iii. Demonstrate teamwork and flexibility throughout the district and community.
 - iv. Reduce the number of students learning remotely.
- Communication –
 - i. Clear and timely communication regarding student/staff health.
 - ii. Educate public on changes in programs and procedures.
 - iii. Provide internal and external communication that clarifies results, procedures, and processes.
- Financial –
 - i. Seek alternate funding for COVID related expenses.
 - ii. Continue phase-in plan for minimum wage legislation.
- Facilities –
 - i. Continue implementation of 15-year plan utilizing operating expenses and reserves.
 - ii. Continue to identify facility improvement projects that enhance the functionality and educational capacity of Morton High School.

November Early Dismissal Day –

Dr. Hill noted that due to the November 3rd mandatory state Election Day holiday, it is being proposed to make Monday, November 2nd a Remote Learning Planning Day for teachers. Wednesday, November 4th would be a regular full day for students and teachers. The proposal will be brought back to the Board for approval at the October 6th meeting.

Action Item -

Approve 2020-2021 Budget –

Dr. Hill reported that the tentative budget has previously been presented for review and has been on display for the past 30 days. A public hearing was held prior to tonight's meeting with no public comments received.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 budget as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve July Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the September 1, 2020, Regular Meeting; the September 1, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session; the September 17, 2020, Emergency Meeting; and the September 17, 2020, Emergency Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 9-4-20	Bills 9-11-20	Bills 9-18-20
Ed. Fund	\$33,240.84	\$145,795.46	\$15,112.50
Bldg. Fund	616.01	104,956.01	--
Trans. Fund	42.31	4,133.10	--
TORT	--	1,508.00	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:12 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 9:11 p.m.

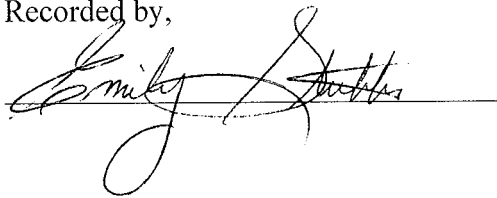
Adjournment –

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

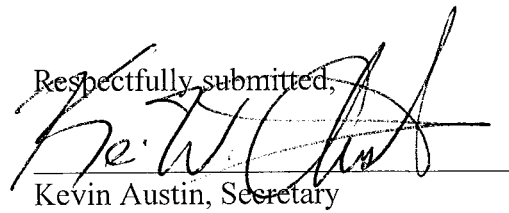
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

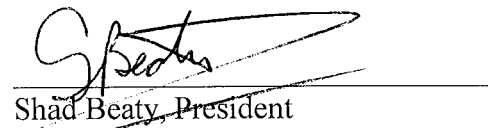
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President