

UNOFFICIAL

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

June 6, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 6, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tom Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hall noted there was one Freedom of Information request for the list of plan-holders for the video server replacement with a bid date of 5/30/2017. The District's response is available on the website.

Summer Hours –

Dr. Hall reported that the summer hours for the District office are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Honoring of 3-Time IHSA Class 3A State Champions –

Coach Bob Becker introduced the members of the Lady Potters IHSA Class 3A State Championship team. Mr. Neeley noted that the team inspired the community and represented Morton well on and off of the basketball court. Coach Becker expressed his appreciation for the support and leadership of Dr. Hall and Ms. Johnson.

Honoring of MJHS Track Team – IESA 8th Grade Girls Class 2A State Champions -

Coach Don Swearingen introduced the members of the 8th Grade Girls Class 2A State Championship Track team. He noted that two of the team members qualified in four events. This is the second year they are state champions. Mr. Neeley thanked them for their dedication to the school, their sport and the community.

Recognition of Lynn Coverstone –

Dr. Hall introduced Mr. Lynn Coverstone, MPTV videographer. He is retiring after 10 years of service to the school district. She noted his many hours spent at evening events and editing film for MPTV. Mr. Coverstone thanked the administration and board for the opportunity to serve the Morton schools.

Recognition of Dr. Lindsey Hall and Ms. Marjorie Johnson –

Dr. Hall recognized Ms. Marjorie Johnson for her 18 years of service to Morton High School. She was a science teacher from 1999-2009, Assistant Principal from 2009-2012 and Principal from 2012 – 2017. She will continue her career as a Superintendent in a neighboring school district. Dr. Hall noted she was an instructional leader at MHS and led with grace and patience. Ms. Johnson thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the District.

Board Members expressed their gratitude to Dr. Hall and presented her with a gift of appreciation for her service to the District. Dr. Hall conveyed her appreciation to the Board, Administrators, staff and community for allowing her the opportunity to serve the Morton School District.

The Board broke for a reception.

Drug Testing Update –

Dr. Hall reported that a drug testing update with results for Morton High School is provided to the Board of Education annually. She explained that students are randomly selected to be tested from a pool of those in activities and those that have a parking pass.

Physical Restraint Update –

Current data on physical restraint for the district was provided to the Board by the Special Education Department. Staff is trained to use verbal de-escalation first, but restraint is sometimes necessary for the safety of the student being restrained and for the safety of other students in the classroom. Mrs. Owens noted that staff participates in an 8-hour training and then is re-certified every 2 years in a 4-hour training.

External Counselor Report –

Dr. Hall reported on the early intervention provided by Illini Family Counseling to MHS students. A summary of contacts made with students throughout the school year was provided. Dr. Hall noted the school district is fortunate to be able to offer this service and support to high school students and their families.

LEAP Reports – Jr. High and High School –

LEAP updates of the goals presented last fall were given by principals from MJHS and MHS. LEAP (Learning Enhancement Action Plans) was formerly known as School Improvement Plans.

MJHS – Mr. Hoffman noted the three goals that were implemented last fall.

Goal #1 – By the end of the 2015-16 school year, a strategy will be developed that will help grading practices more accurately reflect students' mastery of objectives. This goal will be implemented during the 2016-17 school year. Link to Board goals – Achievement and Communication.

Update on Goal #1 – Mr. Hoffman reported on: Lunch Homework Intervention (LHI) for 2016-17; the Student Performance Grade – this grade communicates teachers' observations of soft skills to parents – work ethic, classroom behavior, peer interactions, attendance (this grade is not factored into a student's grade point average; soft skills resources for students, teachers and parents.

Goal #2 – General/Special Education Collaboration Expectations/Checklist

Update on Goal #2 – A checklist was implemented for use by the general and special education teachers and aides listing expectations and preferences.

Goal #3 – Assessment Data from Surveys and Department Meetings 2016-17.

Update on Goal #3 – Mr. Hoffman provided data from the surveys.

MHS – Ms. Johnson noted the two goals that were implemented last fall.

Goal #1 – Starting in the 2015-16 school year, MHS will be focusing on writing improvement with a 3-year plan. The year one plan involved each department agreeing to the attributes of good writing for the students in their classes. Year two's plan will include a focus on intentional commonalities between teachers within a department and the creation of common rubrics. In year 3, the number of students who are not meeting writing standards by 10th grade will decrease by 5 percent, to a maximum of 34%. Link to Board goals – Achievement.

Update on Goal #1 – MHS is currently in year two of the 3-year plan to improve student writing in each different department. The focus this year was on conversations that produced common rubrics. The rubrics were created independently within each department, with several departments creating independent rubrics for different types of writing. Teachers are starting to use the common rubrics to assess student writing. Teachers report that the creation of the rubrics have allowed for great discussion about what is important in students' writing. It has improved communication and feedback. Teachers report that more consistency in students' writings are being seen based on a complete understanding of the expectations.

Goal #2 – Throughout the 2016-17 school year, 100% of MHS teachers will focus on two 709 Above the Line components. One of the components chosen by each teacher will reflect on an enhancement in current practices within his/her classroom and the second will be chosen as a new

practice within the classroom that reflects good teaching.

Update on Goal #2 – At each faculty meeting throughout the year, staff focused on one or two of the 709 Above the Line components of good teaching. Teachers were asked to reflect on the definitions and then provide one specific example of what they did in one lesson that was enhanced by incorporating a 709 Above the Line component and one specific example of a new lesson exemplifying a component. Teachers appreciated the scheduled discussions. The focus on the seven components of 709 Above the Line has begun the discussion of how to improve teaching and learning so that we provide an “above the line” education. It will be important to keep these components at the forefront of conversations regarding quality education in the 21st century.

President’s Report –

President Neeley reported that he and Mr. Schmidgall attended school board training along with the three new board members. The training is offered by the Illinois Association of School Boards and is beneficial in learning school governance and finance.

Discussion Items –

Board Policy Compliance – Community Relations –

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Community Relations policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Neeley will sign the forms and place them in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Action Item -

Approve Instrumental Rental Fee –

Dr. Hall noted that the District 709 Instrumental Music Program has seen significant growth in interest and enrollment over the past several years. That trend, combined with the district already having a significant inventory of instruments, has caused us to take an in depth look at funding the necessary instrument maintenance/repair/replacement costs that accompany the program. Two instrument rental fees are being proposed, to be implemented starting with the 17-18 school year. One would be for use of a District owned instrument and the other for Percussionists. The Board of Education heard the first presentation of this proposal at the May 16, 2017, meeting when Mr. Patrick Mainieri, Fine Arts Coordinator for District 709, provided an overview of the proposed new rental fees.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the two proposed instrument fees beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

Mr. Austin expressed his concern for another fee being added for band students. Mrs. Bernier and Mr. Rinkenberger noted that students who own their instruments must pay to

purchase and maintain them. This is a small fee for those using the district’s instruments.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Curriculum Resource – “Mystery Science” –

Dr. Hall reported that a committee has reviewed curriculum sources for 1st- 4th Grade Science. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. A presentation was also made to the Leadership Team and to the Board of Education at the May 2, 2017, meeting. The materials have been available for the community at the Morton Public Library for 30 days.

Mystery Science, is an online subscription being recommended for purchase. Information may be accessed online at: <https://mysteryscience.com/plants/structure-function-adaptations>

Cost: District License 1st year @ \$1,996.00 and following years would be \$3,996.00

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education adopt the recommended 1st through 4th grade science materials.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Authorizing the Abatement of the Working Cash Fund of Morton Community Unit School District No. 709 –

As discussed at the May 16, 2017 Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting, the abatement of \$1,500,000 from the Working Cash Fund and the subsequent transfer of this \$1,500,000 to the Capital Projects Fund is needed in order to complete Phase 3 of the urgent needs building improvements. This abatement and transfer will allow for the building improvements to be completed without having to issue any additional referendum bonds.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Authorize the Abatement of the Working Cash Fund equal to \$1,500,000 and to transfer funds in that amount to the Capital Projects Fund.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve April, 2017 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Authorize Submission of General State Aid and Transportation Claims
- Approve Treasurers for 2017-2018 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
- Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
- Approve Complaint Managers
- Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
- Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
- Approve Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Approve Gift Acceptance Report
- Approve Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Overnight Trip – Varsity Boys Basketball
- Approve Minutes of the May 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting; the May 16, 2017, Regular Meeting and the May 16, 2017, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-19-17	Bills 5-26-17	Bills 6-2-17	Payroll 5-26-17
Ed. Fund	\$283,093.40	\$40,351.16	\$148,334.21	\$500,422.44
Bldg. Fund	25,414.01	--	18,830.22	34,668.95
Trans. Fund	12,296.19	--	18,565.21	16,078.97
Capital Projects	422,010.86	--	10,837.50	--
Tort	--	--	1,727.73	--
Fire & Safety	--	--	93,954.90	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	472,168.71

June 6, 2017

8

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President