

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 2, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 2, 2021, 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 5:34 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 --

##### Freedom of Information Requests--

Dr. Hill reported there has been one Freedom of Information request. It is posted on the District website.

##### Athletic Directors' Update--

Athletic Directors Scott Jones (MHS) and Chris Carter (MJHS) gave an update on the start up of sports this week. High School Winter Sports are: Boys and Girls Basketball; Cheerleading; Dance Team; Boys Swimming. Jr. High Winter Sports/Activities are: Boys Basketball; Girls Volleyball; Scholastic Bowl.

Mr. Jones noted that Mid Illini administrators met last week and have all schedules in place. The winter season will continue until March 12<sup>th</sup> with the fall season to start after. Spring sports get the longest season from April until June 19. There was no spring season last year due to the Covid-19 lockdown. ‘

Mr. Carter noted Jr. High Girls Basketball will begin on March 8; Track & Field on March 1; and Wrestling April 5.

For both the high school and jr. high, 50 spectators will be allowed at games. No opponent fans will be permitted. All home games will be live streamed via [NFHS website/MPTV](#). Some opponents are broadcasting their home games in various ways as well. No schools are allowing visiting team fans.

Both expressed their thanks to the Board and Administration for their support. They are excited to get the season underway with the goal of healthy competition.

### Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill spoke about the *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards* recently released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). He noted these are not curriculum, but are in fact standards for teacher training to be implemented by 2025. Unless the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR, which consists of 12 lawmakers from the General Assembly, votes to suspend the rule at its meeting Feb. 16, these standards will apply to all Illinois professional educator licenses endorsed in teaching, school support personnel, and administrative fields.

Some key questions he asked the board to be thinking about include:

- What is the role of the teacher in our district?
- What role do parents play in introducing topics that are sensitive in nature and what role does the community want our teachers to play in that regard?
- How are all students included in our school system?
- How are we preparing students for a more diverse post-secondary environment, whether it be college or career?

Responsive teaching involves:

- Listening to students and families to best meet their needs.
- Assessing our systems regularly to determine if we have narrowed access points unfairly.
- Do we want our educators to not impose their personal will on the system or students, but rather teacher based on facts and let the students draw their own conclusions?
- Making sure that our system is reflective of our community to the greatest degree possible.
- When the system has a limited world view, ensure exposure to the world beyond our borders.

Board member comments:

Mr. Neeley – These standards could impact students not to pursue teaching. The Illinois Association of School Boards has been an advocate of local control. Too much time spent on social issues will take away from learning technical skills. Many are putting pressure on ISBE concerning this one issue. We need to stand up for our values and make our voices heard.

Mr. Rinkenberger – The standards are an attack on all religious groups. It bullies good people from going into education. It has not been passed yet. The public needs to stand up and let legislators know their stance.

Mr. Schmidgall – He has read most of the 54 page document. There is much more to it than racial issues. It looks good on the surface, but goes from education to indoctrination.

Dr. Beaty – We should expect our teachers to be neutral on these topics. He trusts our administrative team to monitor our district.

Mr. Braker – agrees that it would push people out of public education. We need to make sure that what is being taught is neutral.

Mr. Neeley asked for Dr. Smock’s perspective as one who hires teachers.  
Dr. Smock - It looks good on the surface as it teaches teachers to respect other world views. Much of the document would be offensive to many groups and world views. It has given him pause to think about what type of interview questions need to be asked to make sure potential teachers are not ignorant of other world views. We need to make sure we are hiring teachers that are caring for all students, but who do not indoctrinate them.

Mr. Neeley suggested capturing these thoughts and concerns in a document to send to those that will be deciding the future of these standards.

The entire discussion may be viewed on MP-TV at 24:00.

**President’s Report –**

Dr. Beaty expressed his excitement that sports is starting up.  
Agenda Building - Dr. Hill noted a MAP testing analysis will be brought to the Board in March.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve November and December Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Overnight/Out of State Trip – MHS Band - Indianapolis
- Approve Minutes of the January 19, 2021, Regular Meeting, and the January 19, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 1-22-21</b>	<b>Bills 1-29-21</b>	<b>Payroll 1-22-21</b>
Ed. Fund	\$192,420.30	\$183,659.57	\$815,563.48
Bldg. Fund	--	38,466.54	45,258.24
Trans. Fund	--	25,068.29	19,808.20
IMRF Fund	--	--	43,065.89

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, Student Discipline, and Negotiations. **(SILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:46 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Braker, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:35 p.m.

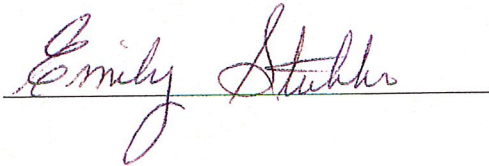
**Adjournment -**

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

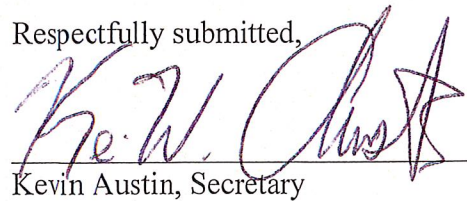
Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

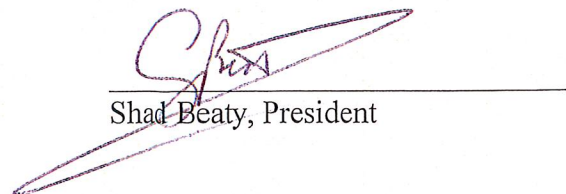
Recorded by,

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kevin Austin, Secretary

  
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Shad Beaty, President