

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 2, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 2, 2021, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

## REGULAR MEETING

### Call to Order and Roll Call –

Vice President Jeff Schmidgall called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

Member arriving late: Dr. Shad Beaty –7:10 p.m.

**Audience Presentations** – Mr. John Kilkenny asked the board and administrators if they had researched COVID statistics in states that have no mask mandates. Dr. Hill responded that the District has been following guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

### **Reports –**

#### Administrative –

##### Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hill reported there was one Freedom of Information request to report. Details are posted on the District website.

##### Student Achievement Update –

Dr. Teater reported on scores from the winter MAP testing for 2<sup>d</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades comparing them to the 2017-2020 scores. Given the unusual circumstances of the district going to all remote learning to end the 2019-2020 school year, attainment and growth scores were slightly lower than 2018-2019 at this time of year.

##### Student Support Services Update –

Ms. Lindsay Franklin, Director of Student Support Services reported on the services provided throughout the district, number of IEP students by school, staff-to-student ratios, and needs and cost analysis going forward. Future needs include:

- Increased space at Morton Academy and Life Academy
- Attendance center for Elementary ELL students
- 21-22 increased staff – 1 FTE Social Emotional teacher; 1 FTE ELL teacher; .6 FTE School Psychologist

Since the Unity Point contract ended March 2, 2021, Student Support Services began overseeing the Nursing Program and hired the Unity pointnursing staff currently serving the district. There are 4 RN's and 2 CNA's. Future plans include training the nursing staff to administer vision and hearing screenings (currently contracted); encouraging them to attain School Nurse Endorsement; and hiring RN's as attrition occurs.

**Superintendent's Report –**

Dr. Hill reported:

- The District will recoup 90% of COVID expenditures from the ESSER Fund (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief).
- Basketball is winding down and football, volleyball, and soccer will be starting soon at the high school. Football underclass teams will play on Thursdays with Varsity playing on Fridays.
- He was asked by other Superintendents throughout the state to sign a letter to ISBE requesting to waive state testing this spring. He did not sign the letter as he feels our students are prepared and it would be another way to better understand where students stand academically. He did sign another petition requesting the Governor and IDPH to allow schools to host fans at 25% capacity of each individual gymnasium or school provided extracurricular space that hosts school sanctioned contests.
- The Board agreed to post the following full time positions for the 2021-2022 school year:
  - 1 – ELL position
  - 1 – Tech position at the high school
  - 1 – English position at the high school
  - 1 – Special Education position (social emotional) at MJHS

**President's Report –**

Agenda Building – Mr. Neeley would like a Board discussion of the new standards coming from the state. Dr. Hill suggested this discussion take place during the upcoming Board retreat this summer. Mr. Schmidgall asked for an update on the tech program at the high school.

Mr. Neeley noted there have been 7000 bills introduced in the general assembly with 600 of them affecting education.

**Discussion Item –**

**Band Lease –**

Dr. Hill reported that the District is considering a lease for uniforms and equipment in an effort to lower the cost of maintenance of the aged equipment and to update the 10-year-old uniforms. Presently the District owns 23 large instruments that range between 25 and 40 years old. The average cost per year to maintain these instruments is approximately \$28,000. Pricing is being

obtained from multiple vendors on both uniforms and equipment and we anticipate total pricing of uniforms to be around \$100,000 and total pricing of equipment to be around \$150,000. Pricing has been obtained from three companies to lease these uniforms and equipment. The leases have been priced using a 4-year lease term and the District would own the uniforms and equipment at the end of the lease.

The District has received three lease quotes. While rates may vary until the lease is secured, at this time the best lease pricing is from Commerce Bank with an annual cost of \$64,124.62/year (two semi-annual payments of \$32,062.31) at an interest rate of 1.48%. The total cost of the \$250,000 lease would be \$256,498.48. Budgeted monies for instrument repair would be used toward the lease.

This will be brought to the Board as an action item at the next meeting.

**Consent Agenda –**

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Resolution - TRS Supplemental Savings Plan
- Approve Minutes of the February 16, 2021, Regular Meeting, and the February 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 2-19-21</b>	<b>Bills 2-26-21</b>	<b>Payroll 2-5-21</b>	<b>Payroll 2-19-21</b>
Ed. Fund	\$192,577.80	\$649,679.59	\$838,232.84	\$856,126.32
Bldg. Fund	--	271,510.74	43,183.15	46,096.61
Trans. Fund	--	20,697.69	22,335.50	25,660.98
TORT	--	44.34	--	--
IMRF Fund	--	--	45,031.19	48,732.44

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session -**

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel and Negotiations. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:35 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:45 p.m.


**Adjournment -**

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

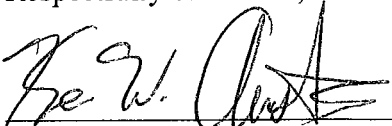
Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

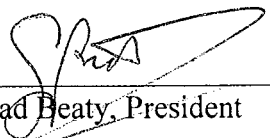
Recorded by,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Austin, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shad Beaty, President