

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 23, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 23, 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 5:32 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 –

Superintendent's Report –

Flipgrid - Dr. Teater gave an update to the Board concerning Microsoft Flipgrid. Flipgrid is a website that allows teachers to create “grids” to facilitate video discussions. Students can respond via the Flipgrid app or website with any camera-enabled device or by uploading a previously recorded video. On March 10 the administration was made aware of inappropriate postings on the public side of Flipgrid and took it down that night. He noted that Don Sturm and Rhonda Stalter were very helpful in determining the scope of the issue and are confident it was an isolated case. He expressed his disappointment in the response from Microsoft, but received a better response from the founder of Flipgrid at a later meeting. Microsoft has closed the public sites and are working on tighter security. Morton School District techs are evaluating other apps for security issues. Our district has reached out to other area districts to inform them of the issue.

Dr. Beaty expressed his appreciation for the responsiveness of the administrative team and commended those involved in handling the situation. He challenged parents to monitor and pay attention to how their children are using their devices.

PSAT – Dr. Hill reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is not administering the PSAT test this year. The test is generally given to 9th and 10th graders. The high school attempted to order the test materials through College Board to give the test apart from the state. The order was cancelled by College Board with the explanation that they were not allowed to sell it to any school district in Illinois. Dr. Hill explained the district desires to administer the test in order to gather information for our district given remote learning last spring and in-person learning this entire year. It would be a benchmark to use in determining needs of students.

ESSER – The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund is money set aside by the federal government through the CARES Act. The purpose of the fund is for providing local educational agencies with emergency relief due to the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. He reported the first round has been received and was close to \$70,000. We are currently applying for the second round and anticipate that amount will be around \$270,000. A third round was recently approved by Congress and our share will be between \$500,000 and \$900,000. There is a wide variety of ways the monies can be used; administration is determining that as well. There are FEMA monies available that has been applied for, but have not yet been given an amount.

Discussion Item –

K-6th Grade Math Curriculum Resources –

As the most recent elementary math textbooks were purchased in 2013, K-6th curriculum resources have recently been reviewed. Based on feedback from the teachers, principals have shared a recommendation with the Teaching and Learning Council.

Recommendation:

KinderMath: \$1,360 plus copying costs

FirstieMath: \$1,360 plus copying costs

2nd Grade Math: \$1,360 plus copying costs

Redbird Software: \$2,196 (1-yr) \$9,900 (6-yr)

Reveal/ALEKs Bundle: \$115,390 (6-yr)

The materials will be available for community review and feedback on the district website for 30 days and then brought to the Board for approval.

Action Items –

Approve Lease for MHS Band Uniforms and Equipment –

At the March 2 meeting, the Board of Education discussed the option of leasing band uniforms and equipment in an effort to lower the cost of maintenance of the aged equipment and to update the 10-year old uniforms.

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 (2 semi-annual payments of \$32,062.31) at an interest rate of 1.48%. The total cost of the lease would be \$256,498.48.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education approve the Morton School District entering into a 4-year lease agreement with Commerce Bank to lease band uniforms and equipment for an annual cost of \$64,124.62/year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bid for Lincoln School Site Improvements –

The bid opening for the Lincoln Site Improvements was held on March 17, 2021. The administration requested bids to include concrete paving in lieu of asphalt due to higher asphalt costs.

The District received bids from five companies – Aupperle Construction, Otto Baum, Peoria Metro, Knapp, and ICCI. The base bids ranged from \$109,392 - \$159,070 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$188,305 - \$235,090 with Aupperle Construction submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, the Lincoln Site improvements will be completed, as well as seal coating at the High School, Jefferson, MEAC, and Grundy. This work also includes site lighting at Lincoln and fiber reinforcing.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus alternate bids 1-7 from Aupperle Construction in the amount of \$188,305 for site improvements at Lincoln School.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bid for Roofing at Jefferson, Lincoln, and Morton High School –

The bid opening for the High School, Jefferson and Lincoln Roof Replacements was held on February 10, 2021. The administration requested a base bid and three alternates.

The District received bids from four companies – Designed Roofing Systems, Kreiling Roofing, Roofing Associates LLC and Western. The base bids ranged from \$279,195 - \$345,486 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$511,440 - \$693,918 with Kreiling Roofing submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, the Jefferson, Lincoln, and High School roofs will be completed, as well as the fascia panels at Lincoln Elementary.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus alternate bids H1 and L1 from Kreiling Roofing in the amount of \$497,812 for roofing at Jefferson, Lincoln, and Morton High Schools.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bid for STEM Lab and Gym Updates at Morton High School –

The bid opening for the STEM Lab and Gym updates was held on March 18, 2021.

The District received bids from five companies – D Joseph Construction, George Rump Construction, Leander Construction, Peoria Metro Construction, and Zobrist Construction. The base bids ranged from \$693,800-903,000 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$761,000-981,000 with George Rump Construction submitting the low bid.

As a result of this work, the High School will have 3 newly renovated STEM Labs. Additionally, the gym will have new lighting, resurfaced flooring, and new bleachers.

The administration recommended that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids 1 from George Rump Construction in the amount of \$725,500 and discuss Alternate Bid 2 for Gymnasium Metal Pan stairs for \$37,500. The stairs would replace the 2 current ramps on the west side of the gymnasium. The stairs would be an improvement, but would not make that side of the gym handicapped accessible. The architects were asked to explore the option of concrete stairs, but not to exceed the \$37,500 bid amount.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus alternate bid 1 from George Rump Construction in the amount of \$725,500, and alternate bid 2, Gymnasium Metal Pan stairs or concrete stairs, not to exceed \$37,500.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bid for Asbestos Removal –

The bid opening for the Asbestos Abatement for STEM Lab updates was held March 19, 2021.

Bids were received from four companies – Abel Plus Services, Dem, M&O, and Triple A. The base bids ranged from \$16,000-38,000 and the base bid with recommended alternates ranged from \$25,200-50,900 with Triple A submitting the low bid.

As a result of the work, the High School will have asbestos abatement to allow renovation of three STEM Lab areas, as well as abatement for the updating of the gymnasium.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus alternate bids 1, 2, and 3 from Triple A in the amount of \$25,200 for asbestos

abatement.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Summer SOAR Program
- Approve MHS Summer School– APEX
- Approve Summer Challenge Program
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Staff
- Approve January Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting and the March 2, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills

	Bills 3-12-21	Bills 3-19-21
Ed. Fund	\$135,492.97	\$192,983.56
Bldg. Fund	19,812.65	--
Trans. Fund	24,239.56	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:29 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:42 p.m.

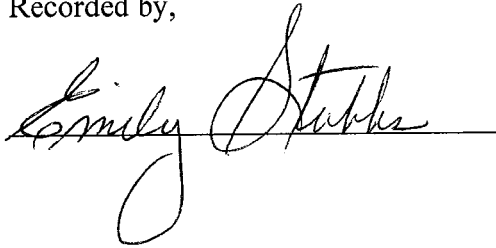
Adjournment –

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

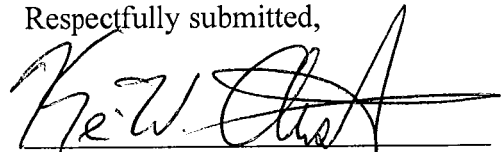
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President