

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 13, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 13, 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 5:37 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

Audience Presentations –

Gene Brandt – spoke on behalf of a district custodian being dismissed from employment.

Chris Farris – Thanked the Board of Education for work being completed at the Jr. High. He is grateful for the investment in the older buildings and the good stewardship of tax payer's monies. He also expressed his thanks for the Board and Administration's commitment to keep students in the classroom this year.

Dr. Mike Peffer and Ms. Deni Durbin – spoke on behalf Dr. Shawn Durbin. They stated he is an advocate for and cares about kids.

Board Hearing -

Mr. Scott Jones presented for the Administration. He explained the violations by Dr. Shawn Durbin that took place during and outside of a school athletic event and presented supporting information from witnesses. Administrative Recommendation:

- A lifetime ban on participating as a member of any game personnel, such as scorekeeper, clock keeper, etc.
- A seasonal ban on attending any athletic practice, contest, meeting, or event as a spectator or parent through the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year at both the high school and junior high levels, both home and away. This ban would conclude in July 2021 after all seasons have concluded.
- A probationary status for the 2021-2022 athletic seasons that requires a meeting in the early fall of 2021 with the administration prior to any athletic events. Failure to comply with this meeting requirement and/or the 2020-2021 ban will result in being banned for the entirety of the 2021-2022 season.

Dr. Durbin presented on his behalf. He stated he knows what he did was wrong and deserves punishment, but has already missed several of his children's events. He asked the board to allow him to start attending again.

Dr. Hill noted the recommendation is based on not being able to trust him to control his anger and

the poor example he sets for our students. Though being empathetic for him as a father, Dr. Beaty expressed his concern for the safety of students and others involved. Mr. Rinkenberger noted the penalties only extend to the end of this school year and he will be able to start fresh next fall. Dr. Smock noted a year-long ban was considered, but was shortened for his children's sake.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education exclude Shawn Durbin from all school extracurricular events and meetings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and place him on probationary status through April 13, 2022, during which time his probation may be revoked and his exclusion extended by the Superintendent if the Superintendent finds that he has acted in a manner that justifies further exclusion from school events on or after April 13, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstain 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried.

Words of Remembrance for Margaret Shafer –

Jefferson Principal Kate Wyman offered words of remembrance for 3rd grade teacher Margaret Shafer who passed away recently after a battle with ALS. She taught for 38 years in the district with 30 of those years at Jefferson School. She was a special education teacher and taught 1st and 3rd grades during those years. Mrs. Wyman read a poem written by fellow teacher Teresa Oaks that will be included in this year's Jefferson yearbook. Dr. Hill thanked Mrs. Wyman for her leadership in her building during this difficult time. The Board held a moment of silence in Mrs. Shafer's memory.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests – Dr. Hill reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

MHS Tech Update –

MHS Principal Deidre Ripka presented an update on Career and Tech Education that includes manufacturing, engineering, technology and trades. The course sequence is:

- Construction
 - Production carpentry
 - Energy Utilization and Home Repair
 - Construction Trades 1
 - Construction Trades 2
 - OSHA 10 Safety Program
- Fabrication
 - Fabrication1
 - Fabrication 2
- Automotive

- Transportation Tech
- Automotive Technician
- ASE Student Certification

Enrollment numbers in these classes have increased over that last few years.

Students will be competing in a Mid-Illini Welding Competition; there is a robotics team for students and an apprenticeship program through Skills USA is being developed and coming soon.

Current community partnerships include Parker Fabrication, Jtec, MATCO tools, and Illinois Central College.

There are challenges that include personnel (finding additional qualified candidates); budget; facilities and space; and updating equipment

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported that:

- The Seniors last day will be Friday, May 7
- There are three plans for Graduation – all at Carper Field -
 - A – Saturday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.
 - B – Sunday, May 16, 2:00 p.m.
 - C – Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Four Tickets will be allowed per graduate; ceremony will be live streamed on MP-TV
- The MEA has ratified the 2021-2024 negotiated contract. Teachers and all employee groups will be receiving extra compensation for exceptional work done during this challenging year.

Action Item –

Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Morton Education Association –

The Morton Education Association (MEA) and Morton CUSD 709 Board of Education recently negotiated and tentatively agreed upon a contract for the 2021-2022 through the 2023-2024 school years. The MEA membership has ratified the contract and the contract is now presented to the Board of Education for approval.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 and the Morton Education Association for the year 2021-2022 through 2023-2024.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidgall expressed his appreciation for the entire process working with the MEA. Dr. Beaty thanked Mr. Feleccia, president of the MEA, for his team’s cooperative efforts to reach an agreement. Mr. Neeley concurred that everyone worked diligently to find common ground.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve February Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Out of State/Overnight Trip Request – MHS Band
- Approve Auditor for 2020-21 School Year
- Approve Minutes of the March 23, 2021, Regular Meeting, the March 23, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session; the April 6, 2021, Special Meeting; and the April 6, 2021, Special Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-26-21	Bills 4-9-21	Payroll 3-5-21	Payroll 3-19-21	Payroll 4-2-21
Ed. Fund	\$184,830.91	\$104,816.40	\$823,017.13	\$847,104.80	\$896,506.09
Bldg. Fund	163,477.58	21,394.99	46,138.93	45,450.53	45,306.83
Trans. Fund	5,884.89	2,458.43	21,074.03	25,282.53	25,206.92
IMRF Fund	--	--	43,934.32	47,957.02	51,677.34

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:04 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 8:53 p.m.


Adjournment –

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the meeting be adjourned.

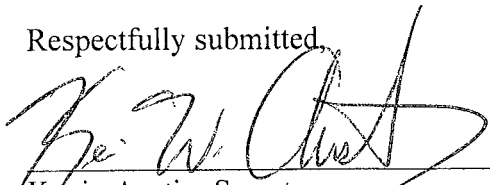
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

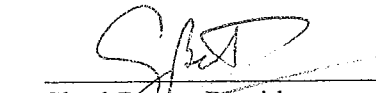
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Bealy, President