

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 4, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 4, 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

Action Items –

Approve Minutes of the April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting and the April 20, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Austin, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021, regular meeting.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Canvass the 2021 Board of Election Results –

Motion by Mr. Austin, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education declare Diane Krall, Tom Neeley, Bart Rinkenberger, and Jerry Rudd to serve four-year terms on the Board of Education: further that the “Abstract of Votes” received from the County Clerk be accepted.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Seating of New Board Members –

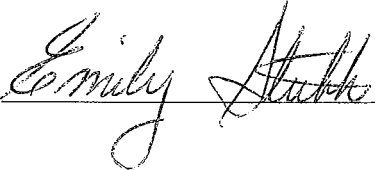
President Shad Beaty asked the newly elected Board members to affirm their duties as Board of Education members by repeating the Oath of Office.

Dr. Hill, Dr. Beaty, and fellow board members thanked Mr. Austin and Dr. Cross for their 4 years of service to the school district.

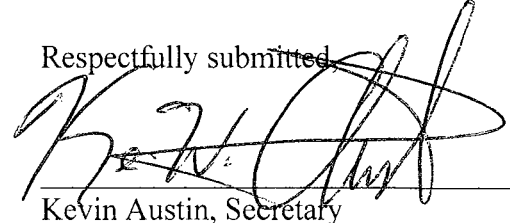
Adjournment sine die –

With no other action to come before this board, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 5:50 p.m.

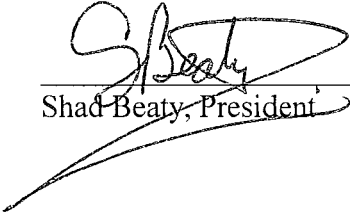
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 4, 2021

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 4, 2021, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING –

Dr. Shad Beaty called the reorganizational meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. Diane Krall, Mr. Tom Neeley
Mr. Bart Rinkenberger, Mr. Jerry Rudd, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Dr. Beaty served as President pro tem until the new president was elected.

Organization of New Board –

Elect President –

Dr. Beaty asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Dr. Beaty nominated Mr. Jeff Schmidgall to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Schmidgall was declared President by acclamation. He assumed his seat as President.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Schmidgall asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Rinkenberger nominated Mr. Tim Braker to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Braker was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Schmidgall asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Braker nominated Mr. Bart Rinkenberger to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Rinkenberger was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2021-2022 year the first and third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced.

Reports –**Administrative –**

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

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week– May 3 - 7 –

Dr. Hill noted that this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week He extended his and the Board's appreciation and thanks for the amazing year nearly completed by the 709 teachers and support staff. Their efforts are deeply appreciated by the community, Board of Education, and Administration.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported that:

- 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. (rain date)
 - C – Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. (rain date)
- A Retirement Reception will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the MHS cafeteria.
- Congratulations to the MHS Spark Monkeys welding team that placed 5th overall in the Mid-Illini contest. Also, two MHS students placed 3rd overall.
- Continuing to track state legislation. HB 7 – forced consolidation has been defeated. HB – 2789 – legislation for the state to set clear parameters for in-person instruction would take away all local control for in-person instruction decisions.

President's Report –

Mr. Schmidgall welcomed new board members Diane Krall and Jerry Rudd. He thanked Dr. Beaty for serving two years as president of the board. He noted that having a physician on the board this past year has been a valuable asset.

Agenda Building – Mr. Neeley asked for a report on the plans for struggling students. Will they be included in summer school? He also asked for a report of how many students are not reading at third grade level by the end of third grade. Dr. Hill noted this will be included in the discussion on the goal of Achievement at the July meeting. Mr. Rinkenberger would like to know the plans for next school year to deal with COVID issues.

Discussion Item -**Proposed Changes to Student Handbooks -**

Typically each year the district has a district-wide discipline handbook review meeting. Parents and teachers from each building meet to review the proposed changes for the 2021-2022 school year. This year there were minimal proposed changes, so the changes were emailed to the group for input. The changes have also been reviewed by administrators and are now being submitted to the board. The proposed changes will be sent to our legal counsel for review and then brought back to the next meeting for board approval. Revisions include – All Levels - allowing parents to opt out of publishing a child's image in print media, brochures, social media, etc. Elementary – deleting from the handbook prohibiting of flip flops, sandals, slides, and shorts/skirts/dresses during the 2nd and 3rd quarters. Replace it with encouraging students to wear gym shoes each day and to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

Action Item –**Approve Cost Sharing for E. Jackson St. School Crossings –**

At the April 20, 2021, Board of Education meeting, the board was informed that the Village of Morton has plans for two (2) improved school crossings on E. Jackson St. for both the Jr. High and High School. The Village held a bid opening on April 14, 2021, in which Laser Electric was the only bidder at a price of \$69,530.95. The Village believes that delaying the purchase by going out for bid a second time would result in an increase of cost of the equipment and would like to proceed with the project with Laser Electric. The Village is asking for the District to share in the costs of these school crossings, and is asking if the District will commit to half of the price of the project, with a not to exceed amount of \$35,000.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Rinckenberger, that the Board of Education approve sharing half of the cost with the Village for E. Jackson Street crosswalk improvements not to exceed \$35,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Re-Appoint Administrators and Approve Salaries –

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the following administrators be re-appointed for the 2021-22 school year. It is also recommended that each receive a 2.5% salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year. Those approved include Faith Waterfield, Lettie Brown School Principal; Michael Saunders, Grundy School Principal; Kate Wyman, Jefferson School Principal; Julie Albers, Lincoln School Principal; Michelle Peterson, Lincoln School Assistant

Principal; Lee Hoffman, Morton Jr. High Principal; Chris Carter, Morton Jr. High Assistant Principal; Deidre Ripka, Morton High School Principal; Scott Jones, Morton High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director; Jamie Adolphson, Morton High School Assistant Principal; Matthew Oyer, Morton High School Assistant Principal; Lindsay Franklin, Director of Student Support Services; Amanda Rickenberg, Assistant Director of Student Support Services/Morton Academy Principal; Craig Smock, Assistant Superintendent; Troy Teater, Director of Curriculum and Technology.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle –

A utility van is needed to haul supplies and materials for maintenance purposes. Maintenance is currently borrowing a vehicle from transportation, returning it often and transitioning the supplies back and forth from the vehicle to a location in a building. For efficiency purposes, the District has decided to purchase a used 2020 Ford Transit 250 MR van, with 4,750 miles. The total cost of the vehicle from Uftring Auto Group would be \$38,646. We have attempted to obtain pricing from various local companies; however, this vehicle is in low supply, in both the new and used categories.

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve purchasing the 2020 Ford Transit 250 MR van from Uftring Auto Group at a cost of \$38,646.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Digital School Signs –

Dr. Hill explained that the District has decided to pursue updating four of the schools’ signage. The current signs are in various states and are in need of updating. The District has requested quotes from Stewart Signs, Super Sign Service and S&S Signs. Depending on the school’s need, the electronic signs would be 4’ X 6’ or 4’ X 8’, one or two sided and full color.

The District has received three quotes from Stewart Signs, Super Sign Service, and S&S Signs. The total amounts for each sign ranges from \$14,209 to \$30,725, with the best quote at this time coming from Stewart Signs at \$14,209. The total amount per school would be between \$17,009 and \$20,242 including installation. The District proposes that 50% of these costs would come from District funds, and 50% of these costs would come from each school’s PTO. The District proposes that we would pay the full amount of the signs out of District funds and provide the option for the PTOs to repay their portion over a two-year or three-year period, with approximately \$3,000-\$5,000 due to the district per year.

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve purchasing school signs with a vendor at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 per sign, and allowing the PTOs the option to repay their portion to the District in two-year installments.

Mr. Neeley asked how the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center sign at MHS and the MJHS sign were funded. Dr. Hill noted he will find out and report back to the board.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Final 2020-2021 Amended School Calendar
- Approve 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule
- Approve Out of State/Overnight Requests – MHS Boys Basketball – Morris, IL and Wisconsin Dells, WI
- Approve March Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Food Service Contract for 2021-2022 School Year
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-23-21	Payroll 4-2-21	Payroll 4-16-21	Payroll 4-30-21
Ed. Fund	\$527,415.33	\$896,506.09	\$781,779.30	\$877,445.88
Bldg. Fund	259,510.67	45,306.83	47,150.16	46,197.01
Trans. Fund	106,379.58	25,206.92	13,516.95	16,727.80
TORT	1,641.00	--	--	--
IMRF Fund	--	51,677.34	33,168.37	49,854.67

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Braker, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Sale or Purchase of Land, Personnel, and Safety. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:52 p.m.

Dr. Krall left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:16 p.m.

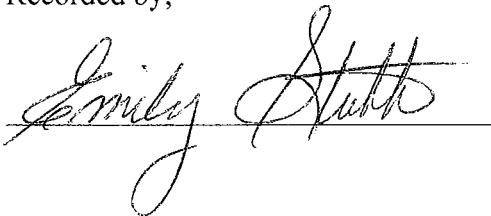
Adjournment -

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

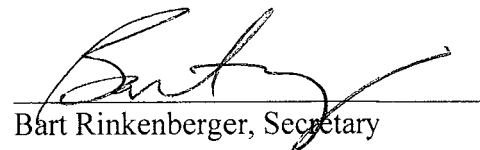
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

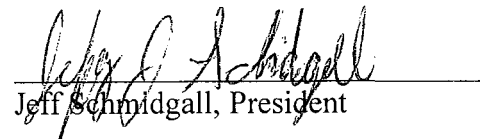
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinckenberger, Secretary



Jeff Schmidgall, President