

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 18, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 18, 2021, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Jeff Schmidgall called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Audience Presentations – Ms. Deni Durbin and Mrs. Christy Durbin, spoke on behalf of Dr. Shawn Durbin. They pointed out statements in the District’s testimony from Dr. Durbin’s April 13th hearing that they maintain to be untruths and asked that the Board reconsider Dr. Durbin’s exclusion from attending his children’s activities.

Dr. Todd Krueger spoke on behalf of Dr. Durbin. He asked that in the future, hearings be in private. He also thanked Dr. Hill and the Board for keeping schools open this past school year.

President Jeff Schmidgall noted the Board will respond prior to the next meeting.

Reports –

Administrative –

Superintendent’s Report –

Dr. Hill reported that summer school will go on as in the past. Dr. Teater explained the program for each grade level.

- SOAR (Summer Opportunities for Academic Reinforcement) – for the most at-risk K-3rd grade students to continue receiving support with reading and math. Students selected to participate will have received Rtl support throughout the 2020-21 school year. Over 40 students were invited for 32 available seats; 24 have accepted to date. Dates are June 8-10; 15-17; 22-24; July 6-8; 13-15; and 20-22.
- Jr. High APEX – to assist remote learners to get caught up. Ten students are scheduled to complete their remote learning assignments.
- High School APEX – for students to catch up on classes in which they are behind. There are two sessions with 15 students per session. There are a total of 25 students enrolled to date.

President's Report –

Mr. Schmidgall gave his heartfelt congratulations to the staff and administration for absolutely “Making it Happen” this year. Dr. Hill thanked the board for its support throughout the school year.

Mr. Schmidgall announced that the Board meeting in July will be scheduled for the 20th so all can be in attendance. Mr. Neeley asked if the meeting scheduled for June 8th with Reatha Owen from IASB could be rescheduled. Dr. Hill will check Ms. Owen’s availability.

Mr. Schmidgall asked board members to consider the following committee assignments for the next two years. Teaching and Learning Council – Dr. Krall, Mr. Neeley; Finance – Dr. Beaty, Mr. Braker; Facilities – Mr. Braker, Mr. Rudd; Policy – Mr. Schmidgall, Mr. Rinkenberger. He noted that at the June 1st meeting the board will have a comprehensive discussion on the goals of Facilities and Finance.

Discussion Item -

Election Polling Sites -

Dr. Hill reported that the County Clerk met with him and discussed the possibility that District 709 will be asked to serve as polling sites beginning in March of 2022. This would occur should legislation be passed that allows schools to take a remote learning day should they serve as a polling site. Board members discussed parking issues at the schools; disruption in the buildings; remote learning days are not a benefit; seems to work well at the churches and other municipal buildings since polling sites were taken out of the schools several years ago. The County Clerk will be meeting with other school districts in Tazewell County as well.

2021- 2022 School Year –

Dr. Hill noted there are still several unknowns regarding the 2021-22 school year that need discussion and the board’s input as we await further guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The intentions of the Board and Administration for fall 2021 need to be communicated so families can better understand the perspective of the district heading into the school year regardless of the precautions or restrictions that may be required. Dr. Hill noted a resolution he received from ISBE supporting in-person learning for the fall. The Administration and Board want to return to school as normally as possible, but will await guidance from ISBE. Dr. Hill hopes to have answers prior to the July board meeting.

Action Item –

Approve Student Handbook Revisions –

Proposed changes to the student handbook for the 2021-2022 school year were discussed at

the May 4th Board meeting.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the recommended changes to the 2021-2022 student handbooks.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Support Staff Salaries
- Approve Tazewell Education for Employment Intergovernmental Agreement
- Approve Minutes of the May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting; and the May 4, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills

	Bills 5-7-21	Bills 5-13-21
Ed. Fund	\$228,739.70	\$3,425.00
Bldg. Fund	103,866.95	--
Trans. Fund	12,306.50	--
TORT	11.99	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of 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 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Beaty left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rudd, 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 8:17 p.m.

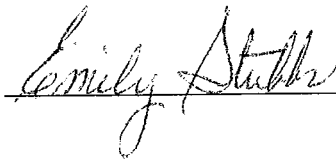
Adjournment –

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

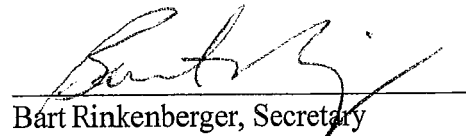
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

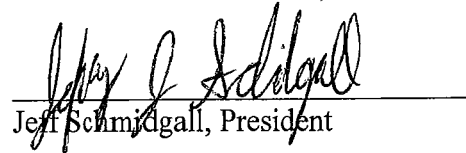
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,





Jeff Schmidgall, President