

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

June 1, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 1, 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 5:33 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

Action Item –

Action on Administrator Contract for Dr. Craig Smock –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the Administrator Contract for Dr. Craig Smock.

The 4-year contract includes the first year as Assistant Superintendent and the following three years as Superintendent to fill the vacancy that will be left when Dr. Hill retires June 30, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Beaty commented that he is pleased with Dr. Smock's performance in serving the district. He and Dr. Hill are a phenomenal team. Mr. Neeley thanked him for his willingness to serve the district. He is excited for next year and going forward. Dr. Smock responded that it is his honor and privilege to serve Morton School District and it has been great working alongside Dr. Hill. He introduced his wife Peggy and thanked her for her support.

Reports –

Administrative –

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

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported that there is no provision in the Open Meetings Act to conduct hearings in closed session. This was in response to recent audience presentations concerning the public

hearing that took place for Shawn Durbin in April. It was requested that the hearing process for a community member take place in closed session. Dr. Hill also noted he offered Dr. Durbin the opportunity to attend his son's baseball tournament in Wisconsin and will meet with him prior to the fall sports season.

Dr. Hill reported that several pieces of legislation concerning education have passed both the house and senate and are on the way to the Governor for signing. He will give a full report of how this affects Morton School District at a future meeting.

President's Report –

Dr. Beaty announced that he is resigning from the Board of Education and tonight is his last meeting. While it has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Education, he would like to focus more time on his family. This is a good district for his daughters and he has confidence that the district is in good hands with Dr. Hill and Dr. Smock moving forward. He thanked his wife for her support and the community for allowing him to serve.

Mr. Schmidgall replied that the District is in a much better place because of Dr. Beaty's leadership. Dr. Hill noted he was strong and steadfast during the roughest times and his leadership was a tremendous asset. Dr. Smock added that his knowledge as a pediatrician during the pandemic was valuable. Other board members agreed his leadership will be missed.

Mr. Schmidgall noted Dr. Beaty's resignation leaves a 2-year term to fill. The vacancy must be filled within the next 60 days. He reported that Dr. David Cross is willing to serve the remainder of the term. Others within the school district are welcome to apply to fill the vacancy. The Board will act on filling the vacancy at its June 22 meeting.

Discussion Items –

Goals Discussion – Facilities and Finance –

Finance – CFO Lisa Kowalski gave a financial review of FY21 and a preview of the FY 22 budget. She noted Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III, and FEMA federal COVID grants.

- ESSER I – Grant to provide local educational agencies with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The District applied in June 2020, was allotted \$71,811 (\$3,700 is non-public share), funds must be used by September 30, 2021. To date the district has received \$62,197 with anticipated receipts of \$7,600; amount of \$2,014 is non-public share.
- ESSER II – Additional ESSER funds. Application submitted May 14, 2021, with application approved on May 17. Allotted \$272,076 (\$0 is non-public share). Funds must be utilized by September 30, 2023.
- ESSER III – Part of the American Rescue Plan Act, passed on March 11, 2021,

provided \$122.7 billion in supplemental **ESSER funding**, known as the **ESSER III fund**. Application is not yet available. Part of the funds are to be used to address learning loss and must be utilized by September 30, 2024.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Applied in August 2020. A recent change increased the reimbursement to 100% and PPE is included. No funds have been received to date, but instructions were received on 5/14 on how to resubmit the claim based on suggested “time periods.”

Facilities – Jeff Keach and Lee Gerrietts presented the 15-year plan and explained possible upgrades to the high school canopy entrance for future planning. Mr. Keach reviewed the Maintenance earmarked for 2022:

- Brown – replace gym and corridor ceiling tile/grid
- Grundy – exterior doors
- Jefferson – Re-roofing over cafeteria and main front
- Lincoln – exterior doors; HVAC boiler replacement; Re-roofing north south wing; intercom system.
- MJHS – Re-roofing in two areas
- MHS - exterior doors; re-roofing – east gym, weight/art room, far north; media center carpet replacement; loading dock replacement; loading dock pavement replace.

Capital Improvements earmarked for 2022:

- MHS – softball diamond improvements - does not meet IHSA tournament standards and current seating has limited viewing capacity; 2 additional STEM labs in rooms 43 and 44.

Developmental Learning Center – Dr. Hill reviewed the idea of a developmental learning center for Early Childhood, Morton Academy, and Life Academy all in one dedicated space. This would better address student needs through programmatic improvement and create space in Grundy, Lincoln, and MHS. Financial benefits:

- Reduces number of students outplaced to private and public day school programs
- Reduces transportation costs
- Tuition students as the program becomes more developed
- Possible grants for program development

A designated space for a developmental center is yet to be determined. Dr. Hill noted more information will be provided during the July discussion on the goal of achievement.

Both presentations can be viewed on MP-TV at 21:55.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Out of State/Overnight Trip – MHS Cheer Camp – St. Louis, MO
- Approve Facility Rental Fees
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time

Approve Treasurers for 2021-2022 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
 Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
 Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
 Approve Complaint Managers
 Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
 Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
 Approve Gift Acceptance Report
 Approve Review of Closed Session Minutes
 Approve Minutes of the May 18, 2021, Regular Meeting; and the May 18, 2021,
 Regular Meeting Closed Session.
 Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-21-21	Payroll 5-14-21	Bonus 5-14-21	Payroll 5-28-21
Ed. Fund	\$821,741.37	\$898,934.68	\$402,312.81	\$854,570.51
Bldg. Fund	104,810.64	44,250.62	26,710.80	45,757.37
Trans. Fund	9,490.80	27,689.83	9,969.13	27,876.69
TORT	13.99	--	--	--
IMRF Fund	--	59,022.29	21,477.04	49,093.31

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, Litigation, and Safety. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Neeley, 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 9:20 p.m.

Adjournment –

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

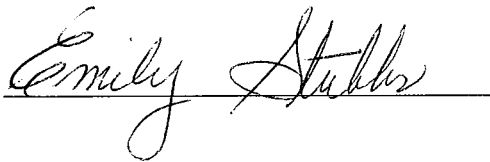
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

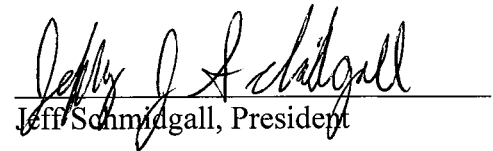
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinckenberger, Secretary



Jeff Schmidgall, President