

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 3, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 3, 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Audience Presentations – Ms. Gigi MacIntosh, Wenona, IL – pointed out inconsistencies between the softball and baseball facilities used by MHS teams and how Title IX could come into play. **Mr. Brent Dyche, Morton, IL** – spoke in favor of the Board approving the Back to School Plan that includes parental choice for student masking. **Ms. Kate Cross – Morton, IL** – requested the Board to require masks for all students and staff for the upcoming school year.

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

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

Administrator Welcome Back -

Dr. Hill recognized the Administrators and welcomed them back for the new school year. He thanked them for the work they were involved in this summer and noted he looks forward to the upcoming year.

Mr. Schmidgall moved Action Item A on the agenda to accommodate those in the audience present to hear discussion.

Action Item–A

Approve Back to School Plan –

Dr. Hill pointed out areas of the plan that have been revised since the last meeting. Under Parental Responsibilities and Rights, the following was added:

- Parents have the right to request that their child be rapid COVID-19 tested by the school when tests are available and the situation calls for testing, such as when identified as a close contact.

Board members requested that the word “asymptomatic” be added to this paragraph.

Under Household Close Contact Identification, vaccination status was added:

- No household close contacts will be allowed to return to school until the quarantine period has concluded, regardless of symptoms status, testing status, or immunity status.

Board members requested that “vaccination status” be added after “symptoms status.”

Under Symptoms Screening, the following was added:

- COVID-19 testing is not required, but parents may elect to have an immediate rapid COVID test administered at the school, if the school possesses such tests.

Board members requested that the words “to their asymptomatic student” be added to the above paragraph.

Board members requested that state mandated mitigations be included in Level 2.

The revised Back to School plan is available at the following link:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e0186abccd&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1707992272920779007&th=17b401ec428e18ff&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_ksai5p1e0

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Braker, that the Board of Education approve the Back to School Plan as presented with noted modifications.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidgall noted the plan was created with a data driven approach. He appreciates the critical thinking that went into the plan.

Mr. Rinkenberger stressed that bullying is not acceptable for those that choose to wear masks.

Mr. Rudd thanked those that sent emails and other communications.

Mr. Neeley noted the Governor gave local control. He worries about the under 12 group that cannot be vaccinated and no choice for remote learning. The Board and Administration must be able to pivot quickly if the situation changes at any point.

The entire discussion can be viewed [here](#) at 30:50.

Discussion Items –

Morton Chamber of Commerce/EDC Enterprise Zone –

Ms. Leigh Ann Brown of the Morton Economic Development Council (EDC) asked the Board of Education to consider renewing the Enterprise Zone agreement that expired as of December 31, 2020. It had been in existence since 2014 and provides various incentives, some of which are locally determined, to encourage the creation and expansion of business enterprises. At this time there is no particular timeline for renewal, but added she would like further discussion in the next few months.

Goals Discussion – Communication –

This item was once again tabled until the August 17th Board of Education meeting.

2021-2022 Tentative Budget Presentation –

Ms. Lisa Kowalski reviewed the summary of expenses and revenue for FY21 and presented a first look at the FY22 tentative budget that needs to be approved by September 30, 2021. Timeline for budget approval is:

- August 17 – Board approves tentative budget
- August 18 – Publicize display of tentative budget and place on display at District Office
- September 7 – Board discusses final budget
- September 21 – Public Hearing for final budget
- September 21 – Board approves final budget
- September 22 - Final budget is delivered to ROE and County Clerk

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rinckenberger, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

Approve Personnel Report
Approve Bills

	Bills 7-23-21
Ed. Fund	\$203,103.40
Bldg. Fund	--
Trans. Fund	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

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Motion carried.

Adjournment –

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

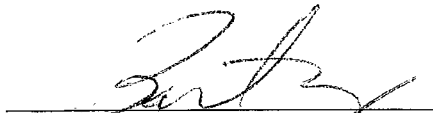
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

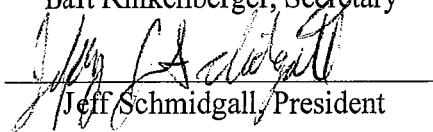
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Jeff Schmidgall, President