

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 7, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 7, 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. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Jerry Rudd

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

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

Textbook and Instructional Materials Report -

Dr. Hill noted that the annual list of district curricular materials is provided in the Board folder.

6th Day Enrollment Report –

Dr. Smock reviewed the enrollment as of the sixth day of school, August 19, 2021. He noted grade level changes, cohort changes, and comparison to Cropper projections made in 2018 (-48 District Wide, but very close on many grade levels). The in-person enrollment is 3,179, which is +80 from last year.

Facilities Report –

Director of Operations, Rodney Schuck, recapped the projects that took place during the summer that includes the MHS – west gym – new bleachers, refinished floor, steps replaced steep ramps; conversion of 3 classrooms to 2 STEM labs; new rubber roofing on a portion of the building. Lincoln – new paving and lighting along with rubber roofing from offices and canopy going east; Jefferson – new rubber roofing on primary wing. Several parking lots throughout the district were resealed.

Dr. Hill added that all buildings are in great shape. He and the board thanked Mr. Schuck for his oversight of all these projects.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported:

- District Administration is in the process of collecting vaccination information and checking into testing options due to the recent Executive Order for Pre-K – 12 school staff.
- He is working with 50-100 school districts throughout Illinois on the Make-It-Local initiative. The group is considering strategies to use to regain local control of their schools.
- Keach Architects is in the process of design work for improvements to be made at the softball field in Birchwood Park. He has an upcoming meeting with MGSA and Morton Park District representatives to coordinate efforts concerning the improvements.
- As of today, there are 11 positive COVID student cases out of 3,179 - .35% of enrolled students.
- Next board meeting on September 21st will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the MEAC after a building meeting with staff at Lettie Brown Elementary School.
- He will be participating in the Pumpkin Boat Regatta on Saturday, September 11, as part of the Pumpkin Festival events.

President's Report –

Mr. Schmidgall expressed his appreciation to Board members for participating in a self-evaluation meeting on August 31st. Reatha Owen from the Illinois Association of School Boards facilitated the meeting that included review of Board protocols.

Discussion Items –**Morton Chamber of Commerce/EDC Enterprise Zone –**

At the August 3rd Board of Education meeting, Ms. Leigh Ann Brown of the Morton EDC asked the Board to consider renewing the Enterprise Zone agreement that recently expired in December, 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. Ms. Brown was present at tonight's meeting to answer questions board members had on the agreement. She explained that potential businesses would have to meet certain parameters and benchmarks to qualify. This will be brought to the board as an action item at its next meeting.

Action Item –**Approve Revised Plat for MJHS –**

Morton School District and the Village of Morton entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement in July of 2020 to exchange certain properties and construct a parking lot at Morton Jr. High School. During the completion of the sidewalk improvements, it was determined that the Village needed additional property along the existing right-of-way to complete the improvements and allow the Village to maintain the sidewalks around MJHS.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education dedicate that portion of school property necessary for right-of-way purposes by amending the Real Estate Exchange Agreement to reflect the change in property division.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve School Maintenance Grant Submission
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Wrestling
- Approve Minutes of the August 17, 2021, Regular Meeting; and the August 17, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 8-20-21	Bills 8-27-21	Payroll 7-23-21	Payroll 8-6-21	Payroll 8-20-21
Ed. Fund	\$196,225.02	\$252,924.81	\$668,453.91	\$616,950.12	\$668,732.31
Bldg. Fund	--	58,316.08	57,056.51	57,507.34	48,838.54
Trans. Fund	--	24,285.35	12,328.58	8,772.02	10,593.92
IMRF Fund	--	--	26,404.99	28,088.61	32,461.17

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:25 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Braker, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:10 p.m.

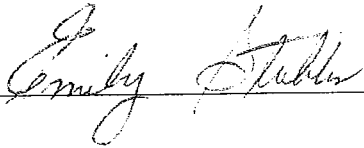
Adjournment –

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


Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

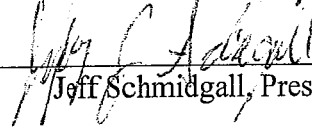
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Jeff Schmidgall, President