

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 5, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 5, 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 5:32 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Tom Neeley

Audience Presentation – Mr. John Kilkenny encouraged the Board of Education to keep seeking ways for in-school masking to be optional for students and staff.

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

Dr. Hill reported there have been two requests for information under the Freedom of Information act. He noted the requests and information provided are posted on the District [website](#).

Recognize MJHS Golf Team State Qualifiers -

The MJHS Girls Golf State Qualifiers were recognized by the Board of Education. Coach Scott Olden noted the five that advanced to state and reported this year was the first year for a girls golf team. Those advancing to state included Samantha Deckert, Payton Hays, Allee Muniz, Elizabeth Nieukirk, and Morgan Robinson.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported:

- October is National Principal Recognition month. He commended the district's administrators for instilling normalcy into the day during the current COVID pandemic. He is proud of their leadership. President Schmidgall echoed his comments and noted the Board's appreciation.
- he is following closely two court cases brought by other Illinois school districts due to the executive orders and mandates coming from the state. He referenced there have been over 200 state issued education mandates since 1992. They are posted on the Illinois Association of School Boards website.
- the district received an E-rate grant in the amount of \$250,000 that will be used to purchase iPads.

- Congratulated the MJHS Baseball team for its 2nd place finish in the state championship game.

President's Report –

Mr. Schmidgall announced his resignation from the Board effective Wednesday, October 6, citing family medical issues for the reason. Board members thanked him for his service to the school district and the community for the past 6.5 years.

Discussion Items –

2021 Auditors Report –

Adam Pulley of CliftonLarsonAllen reported a clean audit with no findings for the 2021 financial audit. He commended CFO Lisa Kowalski and her finance team for their efforts in assisting with the audit.

2022-23 Tentative Budget and 2021 Tax Levy Presentation –

CFO Lisa Kowalski gave a first look at the 2021 Levy and 2022-23 Tentative Budget. Highlights include:

- Total increase in the levy = \$630,196
 - Total increase in salaries = \$664,638
 - Total increase in health insurance = \$180,000
- Overall tax rate without levy = 5.1912
 - Previous year tax rate without levy = 5.2008
- Returning to original Bond & Interest Levy - \$1.4M
 - Previous year we abated Bond & Interest Levy by \$700K
- No capital projects planned (other than routine maintenance)
- Total Levy Amount - \$32,784,912.98

The Board will vote to approve the proposed budget and tax levy at its October 19th meeting. A public hearing and the vote for the final Levy resolution will take place at the November 16th Board of Education meeting.

Action Item –

Approve Softball Field Improvement Bids –

The bid opening for the Birchwood Softball Improvements was held on September 29, 2021. A base bid and two alternates were requested. The work includes the removal of grass infield, partial irrigation system relocation, new and reused fencing, relocation of storm drain, grade leveling, and new concrete slabs. Bids were received from one company. Dr. Hill noted there were two companies at the pre-bid meeting, but only one submitted a bid. The pricing was similar to the estimates.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bids 1 and 2 from Aupperle Construction in the amount of \$225,807.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Braker commented that the district should require more than one bid to encourage more competition.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Auditors Report
- Approve Minutes of the September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting; and the September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

| | Bills 9-24-21 | Payroll 9-3-21 | Payroll 9-17-21 |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ed. Fund | \$458,934.41 | \$889,389.69 | \$852,040.73 |
| Bldg. Fund | 213,594.28 | 47,115.86 | 45,811.24 |
| Trans. Fund | 13,402.89 | 25,593.71 | 24,624.56 |
| IMRF Fund | -- | 51,222.07 | 48,174.56 |

Roll Call: Yea 6 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 and Litigation. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:45 p.m.

Filling Board Vacancy –

President Schmidgall noted the vacancy on the Board of Education will be publicized and applications will be accepted until Friday, October 15, at the Superintendent’s Office.

Adjournment –

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


Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

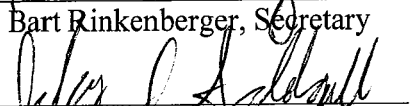
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary


Jeff Schmidgall, President