

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JULY 10, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 10, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. John Appen, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser,
Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mrs. Michelle Kaeb,
Mr. Tim Taylor – via telephone until 8:27 p.m.

Mr. Neeley announced that the audio equipment is installed and will be tested this evening. The meeting will be recorded, but will not be available as a podcast.

Reports –

Administrative –

Morton Community Foundation Presentation –

Scott Witzig, the Executive Director for the Morton Community Foundation presented a check to the school district in the amount of \$2,313 to purchase Aegom science notebooks for grades K-6. These science notebooks are used with SmartBoard technology. The district received a total of \$14,702 in foundation grant money this year.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. Witzig for the foundation's ongoing support of Morton schools.

Economic Development Council Presentation –

Jennifer Daly, Executive Director of the Morton Economic Development Council (EDC) presented a proposal for property tax abatement for Nelson Global Products. Nelson Global owns Morton Industries and BSI currently located in Morton. Due to a recent fire at the BSI plant, operations were moved to Mapleton, IL in Peoria County. Nelson Global is currently weighing whether to move BSI back to Morton or to build a new facility in Texas. The company has been offered several incentives including property tax abatement by the state of Texas.

The proposed Morton project will include \$4.5M in new construction, the purchase of an existing building and 10 additional acres (farmland) for a total capital investment of \$7.5M, retaining 260 jobs and creating 40 new jobs. The new construction on the adjacent farmland will also bring over \$213,300 in new property tax income to Morton.

The Economic Development Council is asking elected bodies to consider a 50% tax abatement for 5 years.

Mr. Neeley noted the EDC will present a formal document by the August meeting. There was consensus from the Board that the proposal is worthy of consideration and will await the formal proposal before taking action.

Community Engagement Process Update –

Dr. Hall introduced Kelly Scarfe, co-coordinator for the Community Engagement Committee. Mrs. Scarfe reported that the committee was renamed to *709 Connect*. The first community meeting is scheduled for August 9 and will focus on communications. Other topics for later meetings will be determined at the August 9 meeting. She reported that a mailer will be sent to every household in Morton and a segment has been taped for Channel 20 announcing the meeting.

Mr. Neeley expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Scarfe for the committee's progress.

Summer Facilities Work –

Dr. Hall reported that Board members toured the new classrooms at Grundy School prior to the meeting. At this point, all work is being completed on time. The lintel work at Jefferson is ongoing and planned to be completed prior to the start of school. Regular summer work at all of the buildings is ongoing.

3rd Grade, Lincoln Update –

Dr. Hall reported on an upcoming meeting with a gifted consultant. The consultant will be asked to assist the school district to determine how best to meet the needs of all students. When planning, administrators will look at the situation from a district-wide standpoint. Students' needs will be addressed through the RtI framework. An update will be given at the August 7 meeting.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request and it has been fulfilled.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that board meeting agenda attachments will be available on the website by September.

Mr. Neeley referred to Policy 2:140. Now that email for each Board member has been set up on the district website, he asked board members to review the policy. He reminded them of their role and to keep in mind the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Hall reported that an auto response will be set up on email to let the sender know when the email is received.

Mr. Neeley reported that a Board planning meeting has been set for August 14. A representative from IASB will facilitate the meeting and Administrators will be asked to attend for a portion of the meeting.

Discussion Items –

First Reading and Discussion of Various Policies from Sections 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 –

A revision of board policies 2:120, 3:40, 5:30, 5:220, 6:50 7:20 and 7:190 was presented to the Board for first reading and discussion in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB policy services and legal counsel. The policies will be brought to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

High School Dual Credit Economics Textbook –

Dr. Hall reported that the high school Business Department has investigated the purchase of new, required online access codes for the existing 15th edition of their Economics textbook. It was found that new codes are unavailable for that edition and the ICC course is currently using the 16th edition of the same text. Since the access codes are only available with the 16th edition, it is necessary to upgrade the existing text to the newer edition. The textbook will be put on display at the public library for 30 days prior to approval by the Board of Education.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Transportation Claim
- Approve April and May Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Asbestos Abatement - MJHS
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the May 31, 2012, Committee of the Whole Meeting; June 5, 2012, Regular Meeting; June 8, 2012, Special Meeting; and the June 28, 2012, Special Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills	Bills	Bills	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
	6-15-12	6-29-12	7-2-12	6-8-12	6-22-12	7-6-12
Ed.Fund	\$350,756.46	\$147,261.19	\$26,395	\$373,165.88	\$364,121.36	\$332,075.98
Bldg.Fund	565,043.66	44,758.34	--	41,414.90	52,307.54	49,602.51
Trans.Fund	175,433.32	30,596.40	--	8,177.39	4,965.57	6,188.80
Payroll Accts Pay	--	--	--	372,597.50	399,931.25	287,276.82
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bldg./Trans. Ins.	--	--	301,983.00	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser 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 7:55 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaeb that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier that the Board of Education approve the Closed Session Minutes from the May 31, 2012, Committee of the Whole Meeting; June 5, 2012, Regular Meeting; June 8, 2012, Special Meeting and the June 28, 2012, Special Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaeb, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

