

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**January 14, 2014**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 14, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Clint Heinold called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Tim Taylor, Mrs. Michelle Bernier,  
Mr. John Applen, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe

Member absent: Mr. Shaun Bill

Mr. Taylor left at 7:00 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m.

### **Audience Presentations –**

Mr. Heinold explained the new process that will be used for those wanting to make an audience presentation. There will be index cards available at all meetings to fill in with contact information and presentation topic. Cards should be given to the Board of Education recording secretary prior to the start of the meeting. This process should offer better organization for all involved.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **Freedom of Information Requests –**

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

##### **Update from Arbor Management –**

Business Manager/Treasurer Mrs. Barb Getz introduced Becky Goldman, food service manager for Arbor Management. Mrs. Getz reported the program is going smoothly, but through December 2013, has been experiencing a small decline in participation and in the purchase of reimbursable lunches. Arbor is addressing this decline through menu changes and use of incentives and promotions. The decline is attributed to the new health guidelines and the types of foods and portions the district is regulated to serve.

Mrs. Getz reported a School Administrative Review will be performed by ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Division from January 15-17. They will be checking the district's compliance with the National School Lunch Program and will be reviewing student

eligibility, reimbursement claims, menus, sanitation and civil rights compliance at both Lincoln School and Morton Jr. High School.

Mrs. Getz reported starting with the 2014-2015 school year, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act will be expanding the nutrition standards to include all food and beverage sold to students at any time during the school day. This initiative is referred to as the Smart Snacks in School Rule and will impact the food sold in the cafeteria, vending machines and through fundraising by teams, clubs or parent organizations. These new standards will not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends or off campus fundraising events.

### **Facilities Update –**

Dr. Hall reported that:

- the new bus facility is close to completion. The punch list will be completed early next week and the move-in date will be soon after. The transportation committee is planning a meeting at the new facility on January 29.
- the rankings of the proposals from architect firms have been completed. This is in response to the request for proposals the district put out for work on the high school athletic facilities. The district is required to rank the proposals that were submitted and then negotiate fees with the top ranked firm(s).
- there is a Facilities Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for January 30. This meeting will be scheduled as a Committee of the Whole meeting in order for board members to attend the meeting.

### **Kindergarten Update –**

Kindergarten teacher, Miss Emily Ropp, reported to the Board on the extended day kindergarten class that was implemented at the beginning of this school year. She described a typical day for her class of 13 students at Jefferson School. She noted there is additional time in the day for literacy, math and progress monitoring. Challenges that have been overcome have been building stamina in the students to get used to being at school all day and educating parents on how best to help their child at home. Miss Ropp noted if the class were to be provided next year, she would implement a signed parent contract with parent and teacher expectations, along with fine tuning the screening process.

Dr. Hall reported that minimally the district will continue with one extended day kindergarten class next year. This spring a decision will be made as to expanding the program to another section.

It was suggested by a board member to make sure the local pre-schools are aware of expectations of children entering kindergarten.

### **Technology Update –**

Dr. Teater reviewed the initiatives this year for technology. The district is moving toward personal computing for next year. He reviewed progress to date including:

- Replacing Triton with AirWatch MDM
- Setting up an Apple Update server
- Several teachers are creating electronic textbooks using iAuthor. These will be shared on a broader scale with other teachers.

Dr. Teater reviewed the implementation of personal computing devices into the district for the 2014-2015 school year that will enrich our curriculum and promote the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for each student:

- 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades – each student will have access to a district-provided iPad for use at home and school.
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades – each student will have access to a personal device. Students can elect to either use a device of their preference or a district provided iPad.
- EC – 4<sup>th</sup> grades – redistribute district devices to increase the number of devices in classrooms. Have enough district devices by the 2016-2017 school year for each student to have access to a district-owned device.

Dr. Teater reviewed professional development that has taken place or is planned to take place for staff throughout the district including:

- General iPad use
- Reflection/touch mouse
- Dropbox/Evernote
- Socrative
- Edmodo
- iAnnotate
- iTunes U
- Apple Executive Briefing
- Apple Tech Training
- Sustainability study

He noted at the March 10 Inservice day, teachers will have the opportunity to learn an application in the morning session and in the afternoon, work with a group of teachers together on one of the technologies.

Ideas for communicating to parents in advance of next year's implementation of personal computing devices will be via the website, a FAQ document, open houses at each school, and bringing parents in for a question and answer session.

**IHSA Play-On Sports Changes –**

Dr. Hall explained that due to a decision by the IHSA, all post season games that are live streamed through Play-On-Sports will be pay-per-view. The district subscribes to Play-On-Sports to live stream many of the districts events on MP-TV. The cost per view will be \$9.95 and schools subscribing to Play-On-Sports will receive 50% of the proceeds. Archived games will be available for viewing at no cost. Pay-per-view will begin with the girls regional basketball tournament.

**LUDA Update –**

Dr. Hall explained that LUDA (Large Unit District Association) has extended a special invitation for Morton School District to join the association. As unit districts have different needs than K-8 and high school districts, membership offers networking opportunities, legislative advocacy along with resources and information. The association has meetings throughout the year and an annual state conference. Dr. Hall recommended that the Board pass a resolution at the February 4 meeting to join LUDA at a cost of \$3,000 per year.

**President's Report –**

Mr. Heinold reported that Stu Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Lincoln School, was recognized earlier in the day for his leadership in integrating technology in the classroom. Mr. Smith is piloting a one-on-one iPad program in his classroom.

**Discussion Items –****Board Compliance – Instruction Policies -**

Dr. Hall reported she has reviewed the Instruction Policies and determined the district is in compliance. She and Mr. Heinold will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

**Financial Projections –**

Ms. Barb Getz, Business Manager/Treasurer, provided an overview of financial projections utilizing various scenarios related to staffing, building projects, and other pertinent factors. Though there are many unpredictable factors, it is valuable to see the impact on fund balances based on different scenarios. Mr. Heinold expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Getz for the extensive work done for the report. Having this information will aid the Board to proceed ahead with caution in the future.

**Action Items –****Approve Bids for MHS Heating System Replacement –**

Dr. Hall reported that on January 7, 2014, bids were publicly opened for the heating system replacement project at Morton High School. The administration is recommending approval of the base bid from Commercial Mechanical, Inc. (CMI) in the amount of \$2,942,000 and alternate bids totaling \$116,500. She noted that this project has been budgeted for and planned since November of 2012. Much of the groundwork has already been laid by the architects and engineers.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the base bid from Commercial Mechanical, Inc. (CMI) in the amount of \$2,942,000 and alternate bids totaling \$116,500 for a total amount of \$3,058,500.

Roll Call:

Yea 5

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Reject Asbestos Abatement Bid –**

Dr. Hall explained that in order for the heating system conversion to take place, there is asbestos containing material (including piping system insulation, flue insulation and sealants) that will need to be removed. In addition, the carpet, asbestos containing floor tile and plaster ceilings from the main office to the student services area will be removed and abated. Bids were received for this work as well as four alternate bids to remove asbestos in some areas that are not specific to the heating project, but where a need has been identified. Freeman Environmental withdrew their bid due to a mathematical error and the two remaining base bids greatly exceeded the engineering estimate. The administration recommends the Board of Education reject the two base bids from Luse Companies and NES Inc. that were opened on January 7. The project is being rebid with approval by the board scheduled for the February 4 meeting.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education reject the two base bids and alternate bids from Luse Companies and NES Inc. that were opened on January 7, 2014.

Roll Call:

Yea 5

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Career Class at MHS –**

Dr. Hall reported that Ms. Johnson provided an overview of a proposed new class at Morton High School at the December 3 board meeting. The Career Class is to be





Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:05 p.m.

**Action Item –**

**Expulsion of Student 14-1 –**

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the expulsion of Student 14-1 from Morton High School for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year and be recommended for placement at the Regional Safe School.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Neeley expressed his concern for students using drugs and alcohol. Board members expressed the need to continue with random drug testing.

**Adjournment -**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Bernier, Secretary

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Clint Heinold, President