

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

November 19, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 19, 2013, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Clint Heinold called the regular meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there was one Freedom of Information request from Charles Farwell requesting communications between board members, attorneys, sellers and employees concerning the purchase of the 125 acres of land. This information will be provided to Mr. Farwell by the end of the week.

High School Student Ambassadors –

High School Student Council representatives Emma Zern and Trysten Florey reported student council sponsored activities to the Board. Those include Homecoming week; babysitting day for teachers' children during parent/teacher conferences; winter sports kick off activities; and Santa's elves.

ELL Program Update –

ELL Coordinator Bethany Scroggs and Ms. Grzanich gave an update to the Board on the newly implemented English Language Learners program. Since August they have:

- Had professional development with the ELL aide.
- Held an ELL articulation meeting at all schools.
- Developed forms for ELL entry, exit, and denial and Home Language Survey.
- Gathered Home Language Surveys.
- Conducted Screenings to determine eligibility for the ELL program.
- Begun to develop detailed TPI (transitional program of instruction) plans based at the building level.
- Ordered Model Screeners K-8.
- PowerSchool and SIS up to date.
- Ordered ACCESS testing materials.

Students are screened for the program based on answers given on the Home Language Survey. Students are enrolled with parent permission in the ELL program based on their screening score. 54 students have been screened with 47 students speaking 24 different languages qualifying district wide. Students will be included in the program for three years.

Mrs. Scroggs and Ms. Grzanich reported that an ELL Family Night was held in the fall to reach out to families to make sure needs are being met. They thanked the Board and administration for allowing the implementation of the ELL program.

Mr. Heinold thanked them for their presentation noting they have made great strides in a short time.

Rising Star Building Updates –

Principal of Brown School, Ms. Faith Waterfield, gave an update on the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Process for Brown School. She reported that the leadership team has been selected and has been meeting. They have chosen the following indicators:

- Review student learning data (academic, physical, social, emotional, behavioral) to assess and make decisions about curriculum and instructional strategies
- All teachers will engage all students

Principal of Grundy School, Mr. Michael Saunders, reported that the leadership team has been selected and is meeting periodically. They have chosen the following indicators:

- Focus on Staff - The Leadership Team will serve as a conduit of communication to the faculty and staff.
- Focus on Parents - Compact with parents to communicate the roles and responsibilities of staff, students and parents.
- Focus on Students – Regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs.

Principal of Lincoln School, Ms. Julie Albers, reported that the leadership team has been selected and is meeting periodically. They have chosen the following indicators:

- Yearly learning goals will be set by the school for the leadership team, utilizing student learning data.
- Principal will monitor curriculum and classroom instruction regularly.
- Compact with parents to ensure common expectations for teachers and for all stakeholders in the school community.

Demographer Services –

Dr. Hall reported that through a suggestion from the Facilities Advisory Committee, she is recommending the district hire a demographer for the purpose of substantiating the data obtained by Mr. Smock in his enrollment projection report earlier in the fall. After

researching several services, she is recommending CropperGIS. This company will provide:

- Student distribution across our school district
- Attendance boundaries of our elementary buildings along with indications of how many students are residing outside of the boundaries of their elementary buildings
- Review of facility plan options
- Enrollments projections
- Review of their work with the administration
- On-site visits if needed

The Board of Education agreed to retain the services of CropperGIS at an estimated cost of \$8,000. Their report will be brought to the Board in January.

President's Report –

Mr. Heinold reported that the Board of Education met earlier in the evening with the Lettie Brown teachers. He thanked Ms. Waterfield for hosting and shared the Board's appreciation to the teachers for attending and sharing their initiatives and activities for the year.

Discussion Items –

IASB School Board Conference -

The upcoming IASB School Board Conference is an excellent opportunity for school board members to obtain training and professional development now required by law. The conference includes workshops, general sessions and an exhibit hall. The board members discussed individual workshops they are interested in attending in order to coordinate attendance to maximize exposure to the information available at the conference.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve and Sign Minutes of the November 5, 2013, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes of the November 5, 2013 Regular Meeting.
- Approve School Energy Efficiency Project Grant Award

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:25m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bernier, Secretary

Clint Heinold, President