

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**April 22, 2014**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 22, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

Secretary Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. John Applen, Mr. Tom Neeley,  
Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Tim Taylor (arrived 7:05 p.m.)

Members present via telephone: Mr. Shaun Bill  
Mr. Clint Heinold (joined at 8:15 p.m.)

### **Audience Presentations –**

Cortney Vlahos, Max Vlahos, Paul Grethy, Jr., Joel Powley, Dannette Rumsey, Tanya LaSota, Sue Brown and Melissa Garretson spoke of their experiences with dyslexia and asked the school district to train teachers to recognize signs and symptoms of the disorder, acknowledge it in students and provide assistance. Dr. Hall thanked all that spoke and attended the meeting for the time taken so their voices could be heard. She assured the group that she and the Board have listened intently and heard their suggestions and will be moving ahead with more research. An update will be given at the June 3 Board meeting.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

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

Dr. Hall reported there were Freedom of Information requests to report. 1) Connor Hughes's request for public records that are proposals submitted by Ombudsman Educational Services and/or Educational Services of America (parent company) and/or contracts between Ombudsman Educational Services and/or Educational Services of America and Morton School District and/or Morton Board of Education. A search of our financial system resulted in no record of a vendor by that name. 2) Patte Winn requested copies of every District 709 assessment test (screen prints) by grade, including but not limited to, ISAT, NAEP and PARCC. This request was denied as this information is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

**Kindergarten Update –**

Dr. Hall reported on plans for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. She explained that Title I funds will be available at Jefferson School to pay for a teacher's salary and recommended that the following occur for this next school year:

- Emily Gerber – full day Kindergarten (currently teaches two half day sections)
- New teacher paid with Title I funds – full day Kindergarten
- Emily Ropp – full day Kindergarten (this would be a continuation of the extended day program for students having been identified as benefitting from a full day experience)

Dr. Hall noted that data has been compiled to reinforce the need for full day Kindergarten at Jefferson. Much larger numbers of students are needing RtI intervention and support in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Jefferson specifically. Full day kindergarten at Jefferson could be viewed as a Tier 1 intervention by strengthening the core curriculum for all students at the Kindergarten level. The position for the new teacher will be posted soon.

**PTO Reports –**

PTO presidents from Lettie Brown School, Lincoln School and Grundy School reported on activities over the past school year. Those reporting included Jessica Kaputska, Brown PTO, Abby Ely, Lincoln PTO and Darcy Riddle, Grundy PTO. Dr. Hall thanked them for all they do for their schools.

**Other –**

Dr. Hall noted that Administrative Professionals' Day is tomorrow and thanked Emily Stubbs for her work as Superintendent/Board of Education Secretary.

Dr. Hall reported that the next Key Communicators meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Grundy School. On that same day, an Open House will take place at the new transportation facility from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 4:45.

**President's Report –**

**Special Education Staff Meeting -**

Mrs. Bernier thanked Ms. Ashby for hosting the meeting with the Special Education staff earlier in the evening. She noted that they care deeply for the students and make a lifelong impact on their lives and the lives of their families.

(Mr. Taylor took over presiding as president at this point in the meeting.)



admission of a Delavan High School student with special needs into Morton High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a tuition rate of \$12,953.00

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Bids for Window Project at MHS –**

Dr. Hall explained there are three classrooms and one group of offices that surround the High School courtyard in the center of the building. The single pane glazed aluminum frame exterior windows are badly in need of repair. They will be replaced with insulated high efficiency glass. Three companies submitted bids ranging from \$78,900 - \$87,800. Trotter General Contracting submitted the low bid of \$78,900.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Trotter General Contracting for \$78,900.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve HS Modern Language Texts –**

Textbooks for Spanish and French were presented to the Board of Education at the March 4 meeting. The texts have been on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days. No comments were received by the public.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the Modern Language textbooks for a total cost of \$66,877.25.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Contract for Director of Curriculum and Technology –**

Recommendation of a three-year contract for the Director of Curriculum and Technology with pay increases as follows – 2014-15 – 7.8%; 2015-16 – 2% and 2016-17 – 2%.

Mr. Applen commended Dr. Teater for his hard work, but noted he opposes administrator contracts longer than one year due to the economic climate and the change in the evaluation process for the teachers.

Mr. Taylor concurred that Dr. Teater is a valuable resource with all of the technology



administrators and herself. It was not a selfish act. The board brought in counsel and he agreed with offering multi-year contracts for this reason. Mr. Taylor appreciates the transparency of this process by the Superintendent. Salaries are public knowledge and should be discussed openly. The school district will save money in the long run and this is a win-win situation for the district and the administrators.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 2 (Applen, Neeley)

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Personnel
- Approve Food Service Contract
- Approve Minutes of the April 1, 2014, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session
- Minutes of the April 1, 2014, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 4-4-14</b>	<b>Bills 4-10-14</b>	<b>Payroll 4-11-14</b>
Ed. Fund	\$136,253.24	\$311,665.66	\$428,206.51
Bldg. Fund	14,401.90	29,282.55	32,010.71
Trans. Fund	10,356.84	2,209.34	12,945.46
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	400,352.17
Fire & Safety	11,800.00	--	--
Tort	4,472.45	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, 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. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Applen, 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 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Bernier asked what is done at this time if a student is diagnosed with dyslexia. Dr. Hall explained that the student’s parents, the student (if old enough), principal, teacher(s) would meet and discuss the diagnosis, the students strengths and weaknesses and any recommended accommodations. She noted that our teachers should be trained to learn to identify the initial signs and symptoms of dyslexia. Dr. Hall added that RtI coordinator, Jill Lyons and Ms. Ashby will speak to the board in June.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Bernier, Secretary

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Tim Taylor, Vice President