

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 9, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 9, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Dr. Hall, President Bernier and Ms. Albers each spoke words of remembrance for Mr. Joal Stanfield, 3rd grade teacher at Lincoln School and Varsity Boys Tennis Coach at the high school who recently passed away. They thanked administrators, staff, parents and the community for the many ways they came together to support the family of Joal and the staff and students at Lincoln School. Appreciation was also given for the counselors from East Peoria, nearby school districts and residents of surrounding communities for their support. Continued support for Mr. Stanfield's wife and 3 children was asked.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported that one Freedom of Information request was received on August 25, 2014. The request and response are posted on the District's website.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that the Board of Education approved the 10-year survey of the Education and Administration Center at the August 19 board meeting. The survey was completed for the part of the building referred to as "Fire Zone 3," or the south end including the auditorium and professional development center in the lower level.

Findings from the survey fall into three categories: Urgent – one year to address; Required – 5 years to address; and Recommended. Urgent items have an approximate cost of \$63,850. Required items have an approximate cost of \$1,017,248. Costs do not include the moving of the Life Skills program apartment to the Fire Zone 3 area. That would include an additional cost and would also require that the "required" items be addressed. The required items fall mostly into the category of accessibility issues.

Dr. Hall recommends the following based on the results of the survey:

- Complete the items categorized as "urgent" over the 2014-2015 school year.

- Temporarily move the Life Skills program to the FCS classroom at Morton Jr. High School starting in the fall of 2015.
- Temporarily move music programs to other venues in the school district.

Moving of the Life Skills program is temporary and long-term solutions will be closely examined.

Dr. Hall will verify how long the music programs can continue in the MEAC auditorium.

Communicable Disease Plan –

Mr. Smock referred Board members to the district policies on dealing with communicable diseases. He noted administrators attempt to stay on top of current diseases and outbreaks using reports and recommendations from the CDC and the county health department.

Summer School Update –

Mrs. Waterfield reported that this year's summer school program was a success. In all, 65 students participated. She thanked the teaching staff and the custodians and office staff at Lincoln School for their assistance in getting summer school underway immediately following the last day of school.

Extra Curricular Offerings –

Dr. Hall reported that Mr. Prichard submitted a report on the extra curricular offerings at Morton High School this year and the participation numbers. There are 445 students involved in a fall activity this year compared to 435 last year. Girls swimming was added to the fall activities for the first time in school history with 7 girls participating in the co-op program with Washington and East Peoria High Schools.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –

Dr. Teater pointed out that annually, the elementary, jr. high and high schools submit their textbook list for review by the Board of Education.

Overview of CAC Activities/Curriculum Targets/Curriculum Renewal Process –

Dr. Teater demonstrated a new link being developed for parents called "District Curriculum Guides." Teachers' Master Maps will be posted on the website. This process will be completely developed over the next two years.

Enrollment Update –

Mr. Smock noted that the 6th day enrollment report was included in the board packets. At the next board meeting, CropperGIS will include these numbers in their report to the

Board. At the request of a board member, a historical trend line will be provided to the board at the next meeting.

Recognition of Ashley Knorr, Jefferson School Teacher –

The Board of Education recognized Ashley Knorr, 3rd grade teacher at Jefferson School who was selected by the Mickelson Exxon Mobil teachers academy to participate in a one-week all-expense paid professional development program this past summer for 3rd-5th grade teachers. The academy offers a 5-day program designed to provide 3rd-5th grade teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to motivate students to pursue careers in science and math.

Newsweek Magazine Ranking –

Dr. Hall announced that *Newsweek Magazine* recently ranked Morton High School 150th among the nation's high schools. MHS jumped from a ranking of 1,048th place in 2013. MHS is joined by 16 other Illinois high schools in the rankings, being only one of two downstate schools to make the national rankings. Out of the 16 Illinois high schools ranked by Newsweek, Morton High School holds the #7 spot statewide.

Rankings are based upon an initial threshold ranking utilizing state standardized assessments. This ranking sorts schools initially by looking at schools that perform at the 80th percentile or above in each state. From there, a College Readiness Score is calculated based upon six indicators: enrollment rate, graduation rate, weighted AP/IB composite, weighted SAT/ACT composite, "holding power" (to control for student attrition between ninth and 12th grade) and counselor-to-student ratio.

Board members noted this is a credit to the entire staff throughout the district and to the entire community that supports the school district.

Board Reports –

Mrs. Bernier announced that the Board of Education has received the IASB Board Governance Award. Morton School District is one of 18 Illinois schools to receive the award. The "School Board Governance Recognition" program acknowledges school boards that learn and practice effective governance behaviors as identified in IASB's Foundational Principles of Effective Governance, through participation in and support for board development programs and events. The primary focus of this program is on full board development and participation rather than individual board member efforts.

Effective school boards understand that excellence in local school board governance requires full board commitment to obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities critical to good governance.

It is that commitment that provides the opportunity for the board to practice and model continuous improvement and life-long learning for the staff, students and community. In return, the board becomes better prepared to make a difference, to provide leadership for district improvement and to leave a lasting legacy for the district, the community and, most importantly, its students.

The Board of Education will receive the award at the Central Illinois Valley Division meeting on October 1.

Discussion Item –

Board Goals Discussion – Facilities –

Dr. Hall reviewed the board goal of facilities. She then gave a brief overview of recent history for facilities planning. Following the recommendations from the Facility Advisory Committee last March, **709Connect:Facilities** is the next step for the school district and community in the long term facilities planning process. These community engagement sessions will give our owners the opportunity to provide feedback and input to the Board of Education and administration about the long term facilities planning options that were generated by the Facilities Advisory Committee. The meetings will also include background information, facts and documents gathered thus far throughout the facilities planning process. The community may also offer ideas and/or comment on other building options, as well as have questions answered and concerns addressed.

Meeting dates are:

- October 22 – 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. – Education and Administration Center
- October 28 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Education and Administration Center
- November 3 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Education and Administration Center
- November 6 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Morton High School Cafeteria

Dr. Hall noted the findings from the meetings will be summarized at the November 18 board meeting. Board members agreed to have a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss facilities planning prior to the first 709Connect meeting.

Consent Agenda –

Mr. Neeley asked that the closed session minutes be pulled from the consent agenda.

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Application for Recognition of Schools
- Approve July Treasurer's Report

Approve Overnight Trips per Board Policy 6:240
 Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2014, Regular Meeting
 Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 8-22-14	Bills 8-29-14	Bills 9-5-14	Payroll 8-29-14
Ed. Fund	\$120,294.12	\$5,292.23	\$141,088.24	\$460,841.42
Bldg. Fund	150,519.32	--	717,940.82	43,487.54
Trans. Fund	6,273.54	60.22	4,994.60	10,698.19
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	248,751.21
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--
Tort	--	--	6,200.00	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Taylor, 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 7:55 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 8:40 p.m.

It was agreed to post board members personal phone numbers on the district website.

Dr. Hall and board members agreed that the resolution passed by the board in June, 2014, concerning unfunded mandates by the state of Illinois was sufficient as compared to the recently passed resolution by the East Peoria High School District.

Adjournment -

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

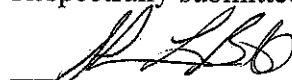
Voice Vote:

Yea 7

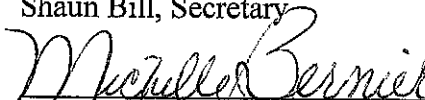
Nay 0

Motion carried.. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President