

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 16, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 16, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

PUBLIC HEARING -

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15 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

President Bernier declared the Public Hearing open for the purpose of answering questions from the public on the proposed 2014-2015 Budget. There were no audience questions or discussion.

President Bernier declared the public hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 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

Reports –

President's Report –

President Michelle Bernier reported that the Board of Education met earlier in the evening with members of the Jr. High School teaching staff and administrators. The Board meets annually with staff from each school in the District. Tonight Jr. High School students and staff demonstrated and gave positive feedback on iPad use. Board members noted their appreciation for the teachers taking the time to meet with them. They learned that the iPads are being used as a tool to enhance lessons and that teachers are excited for the opportunities they offer in the classroom.

Discussion Items –

CropperGIS Facility Usage Report –

Dr. Hall introduced Mr. Matthew Cropper and Dr. Jerry McKibben of CropperGIS. They were retained earlier in the year to conduct a facilities utilization/capacity study. Dr. McKibben reviewed the enrollment forecasts that were a part of their February 2014

demographic study. The forecast should not deviate +/- 2% from the actual enrollment. This year's elementary enrollment taken on the 6th day is slightly lower (21 students) than what was forecasted, Jr. High School is 14 students higher than the forecast and the High School forecasts are within 5 students (high) of actual enrollment. In all, the actual enrollment for 2014 is within 12 students of what was forecasted or 0.4%.

Mr. Cropper reported the findings of the capacity/utilization study. To calculate capacity, floor plans for each school were provided by the district. Student to teacher ratios were collected and discussed with the district, and the desired class sizes were implemented with calculating capacity – Kind – 20; 1st thru 3rd - 23; 4th thru 6th - 26; 7th thru 12th - 26; Pre-K/Sp. Ed. – 10. He explained that this part of the process is critical as it helps to confirm/validate the use of classroom spaces. It is not uncommon to see space that could be used as a classroom but may currently not being utilized as a classroom because there is not a demand for the room. These spaces could be included in the total capacity for the building, as long as there are still adequate spaces available for special uses. Cropper set aside spaces that are not included in the capacity that included at the elementary level special education pull-out/resource rooms, music, art, library and computer labs. Computer labs, music and art were calculated in the Jr. High and High School capacity because of the nature of how education is delivered at the upper grades.

The floor plan was evaluated for each building and capacities calculated based on the number of rooms counted. There were several schools that had rooms being used for special instruction, but were included in the capacity. These rooms were included only if there was an adequate number of pull-out spaces set aside already and/or if the principal indicated the space could be utilized as a classroom.

The table below reflects a classroom count per building along with the total calculated capacity.

School	Classrooms								
	Type	Grade KG Classrooms	Grade 1-3 Classrooms	Grade 4-6 Classrooms	Grade 7-12 Classrooms	Pre-K/ Special Education	Total Classrooms	Total Classroom Capacity	Pull-Out/ Music/Art/ Labs
Grundy ES	ES	2	8	7			17	406	10
Jefferson ES	ES	3	6	6			15	354	7
Lettie Brown ES	ES	2	6	6		1	15	344	4
Lincoln ES	ES	2	9	7		3	21	459	8
Morton JHS	JHS				23	2	25	618	9
Morton HS	HS				42	4	46	1132	N/A
Total		9	29	26	65	10	139	3,313	38

Utilization Assessment – Mr. Cropper explained that the utilization percentage of a school can be found by dividing the enrollment by the capacity. The table below shows the utilization, or percent full, of spaces based on the existing school grade cohorts. There is a utilization factored for K-6, 7-8 and 9-12. The table shows that, as a whole, schools used to educate K-6 grade students will become over utilized by 2015-16. Jr. High space is forecasted to be below 70% utilization through 2015-16, with a moderate increase in utilization after 2015-16. High School space will continue to tighten up in terms of utilization as it will climb from 86% in 2014-15 up to 98% in 2023-24.

The table’s cells are color coded based on utilization: **green** – below 70%; **yellow** – 70-89%; **orange** – 90-99%; **red** – over 100%.

Morton District 709: Forecasted Utilization																
Config.	Capacity	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total:																
K-6	1563	84%	86%	88%	92%	96%	98%	101%	102%	104%	104%	102%	103%	103%	103%	103%
Total:																
7-8	618	68%	68%	66%	67%	69%	68%	65%	72%	77%	77%	88%	91%	84%	85%	88%
Total:																
9-12	1132	89%	89%	87%	84%	82%	80%	81%	80%	79%	82%	82%	86%	95%	96%	98%
Total:																
K-12	3313	82%	84%	84%	85%	86%	86%	88%	89%	90%	92%	93%	95%	97%	97%	98%

In summary, if the district were to continue to operate their buildings with the same grade cohorts, elementary school space is forecasted to be over 100% utilized beginning in 2015-16 school year. The Jr. High school is operating at a comfortable utilization currently, but will begin to feel a continued tightening of space through 2023-24. The High School is operating at 86% of utilization as of 2014-15 and is expected to increase to 98% utilization by 2023-24.

Mr. Cropper also spoke of the core spaces in the buildings – cafeteria, gymnasium, library and restrooms. The Jr. High core spaces are not able to support the number of students that would fit in the classrooms. Going over 80% capacity puts a strain on the core areas. Going into the 90% range puts a strain on the building and there is not flexibility for programming.

Mr. Cropper noted that the administration is doing the best they can with the space available by adapting and being creative. There is very little extra space available in the buildings.

President Bernier thanked Mr. Cropper and Dr. McKibben for attending the meeting and presenting the compiled information.

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 8:37 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Bill, 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 8:46 p.m.

Dr. Hall noted she will email her goals to the board members for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment -

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

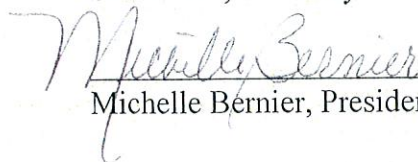
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President