

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 21, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 21, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 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 –

Administrative –

State Champion Legislative Recognition -

Dr. Hall reported that both the State Champion High School Girls Basketball team and the Boys Golf team were recognized earlier in the day in the House Chambers in Springfield. They also met and were congratulated by Governor Bruce Rauner. She offered the District's thanks to Representative Keith Sommer for making the arrangements for the day.

Game Ball Run Recognition –

Dr. Hall reported that the Game Ball Run efforts were honored earlier in the day at the Children's Hospital of Illinois (CHOI) with the naming of room 603 on the general pediatric floor for Morton Game Ball Run. Dr. Hall thanked Stacy Litersky and Coach Jarrett Brown for their efforts and leadership for this cause. She noted that about \$100,000 has been raised over the past three years by Morton Schools for the hospital.

Recognition of Gary Watson, Morton Park District Director –

The Board of Education recognized Gary Watson, who is retiring after serving the Morton Park District as Director for the past 34 years. The Board thanked Mr. Watson for the cooperative relationship between the Park and School Districts and noted the impact he and the park district have had on thousands of students' lives through programs and employment over the years.

Mr. Watson expressed his gratitude for the school district's supportive relationship and noted the school buildings have always been open for park district programs.

PTO Reports – Brown, Grundy, Lincoln –

PTO presidents from Brown (Jessica Kapustka), Grundy (Dawn Berg) and Lincoln Schools (Abby Ely) reported on activities that have taken place this school year at their respective schools and on how funds were spent for their schools.

Dr. Hall thanked them for what their organizations do for the schools and for their support throughout the school year.

Facilities Update – Summer Work –

Director of Operations, Rodney Schuck, reported on proposed facilities work to take place during the upcoming summer.

- MEAC – Move the Life Skills room to MHS; 10 year Health/Life Safety – Urgent Items (south wing upgrades to allow continued student use).
- Brown and Grundy – 10 year Health/Life Safety items.
- Jefferson – 10 year Health/Life Safety items; re-landscape/concrete around school sign.
- Lincoln – Move copier, laminator, etc. to make room for assistant principal's office; remodel lounge to accommodate work area for office equipment move; 10 year Health/Life Safety items.
- MJHS – Gas piping re-configure in entire science area for emergency shutoff; gas main re-piping; 10 year Health/Life Safety items.
- MHS – Outdoor athletic facility; door hardware repair/replace; exhaust fan assessment/repair/replace; gas piping work; new melter in Metals Shop – remove gas line/replace with electric; move Life Skills to Art Room 5/Art to room 1G/1G moves to 1D; Move athletic director to conference room/conference room to former distance learning lab; courtyard remodel-improve and increase space (used for lunch in fall and spring; girls softball field at Birchwood Park; 10 year Health/Life Safety items.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that the Board met earlier in the evening with the districtwide special education staff. Board members met in small groups with the staff and discussed topics including iPad use, Erin's law, the positive impact of the art program at the high school for special education students; cooperation between special education and regular education teachers and receipt of a grant for the Early Childhood class at Lincoln School to purchase new tricycles.

Mrs. Scarfe reported on Morton High School student Jeremiah Meritt who won Best in Show at an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Center in Peoria. The show is juried and artwork must be accepted in order to be displayed. There were three other MHS students whose work was also accepted into the show. She credited first-year art teacher,

Mrs. Wyse-Fisher, for her influence and guidance on the students' success.

Dr. Hall noted the next Key Communicators' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Morton Jr. High School on the topic of district finances. There will be a tour of the Jr. High School preceding the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion Items –

Discipline Handbook Changes –

The district Discipline Committee met on April 14 to discuss recommended changes in the discipline handbooks as part of an annual review. The changes were presented to the Board by Kirk Edwards for discussion. Prior to final action, the changes will also be discussed further with the Leadership Team and reviewed by legal counsel. Revisions and/or additions include:

- High School – changes to the cell phone policy; inappropriate iPad searches; updated cyber bullying language per change in law; and added a section on Erin's Law.
- Jr. High School – make-up assignments for excused absences; added a section on Erin's Law; online fee payments; changed name of "Honors Classes Criteria" to "Accelerated Classes Criteria"; updated cyber bullying language per change in law.
- Elementary – language revision for internal suspensions, excused absences and limited excused absences; updated cyber bullying language per change in law; added a section on Erin's Law.

These revisions will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 5, 2015, meeting.

Proposed Art Textbook –

High School Principal Marjorie Johnson explained there are currently no textbooks for Art I and II that will be the two new foundation courses for art at the high school. The book will serve as a resource for both classes. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The committee is proposing buying a 20-book classroom set of textbooks at \$76 each for a total cost of \$1,520. The text will be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days and brought back to the Board for approval at the June 2 meeting.

Proposed MJHS 7th and 8th ELA Textbooks –

Jr. High Principal Lee Hoffman explained the current Language Arts textbooks are over 18 years old. The new books will serve as classroom resources and utilized with the online resources. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The committee is proposing buying a classroom set of books and a 6-year digital subscription for a total cost of \$35,106. The text will

be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days and brought back to the Board for approval at the June 2 meeting.

Proposed MHS Physics Textbook –

High School Principal Marjorie Johnson explained that AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 will replace the current Physics 1 and 2 courses. The AP courses are new to MHS starting in the 2015-2016 school year. The textbook will serve as a resource for both classes. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The committee is proposing buying 100 books at \$286 each for a total cost of \$28,600. The text will be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days and brought back to the Board for approval at the June 2 meeting.

Proposed MHS Pre-Algebra Textbook –

High School Principal Marjorie Johnson explained that the Pre-Algebra course will be replacing Applied Math at MHS starting in the 2015-2016 school year. Pre-Algebra is designed to better prepare students for the rigors of Algebra. Consequently, a new textbook is needed and will serve as a classroom resource. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The committee is proposing using a classroom set of textbooks. The recommended textbook is currently being used as supplemental materials so there would be no further cost to the district. The text will be placed on public display at the Morton Public Library for 30 days and brought back to the Board for approval at the June 2 meeting.

Action Item –

Approve Bid for MEAC Health/Life Safety Urgent Items –

Dr. Hall explained that in order for continued student occupancy in the upper and lower levels of the South addition of the MEAC, the district was mandated by the Regional Superintendent to perform a Health/Life Safety study of this wing. Keach Architectural Design performed the study earlier this year. Health/Life Safety studies segregate deficiencies into three categories – urgent (to be completed within one year), required (to be completed within 5 years) and recommended. Health/Life Safety studies are required to be completed every 10 years, but this was the first such study to be done at the MEAC.

The work to correct the urgent items needs to be completed this summer so students can be allowed to use the wing throughout the 2015-2016 year. All of the work was bid as one package and involves the masonry, carpentry and electrical trades. The work will include adding two paths of egress from the building by adding doors and reconfiguring the corridor in the lower level, adding additional fire alarm devices and emergency lighting in both levels and installing fire rated doors and hardware.

Five companies submitted bids ranging in price from \$81,900 to \$102,000, with the low bid

being submitted by Zobrist Construction.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Heinold that the Board of Education approve the bid from Zobrist Construction to complete the urgent items in the MEAC Health/Life Safety study in the amount of \$81,900.

Mr. Bill emphasized that this is necessary work in order to bring the building up to code for student use – it is life safety work.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the March 31, 2015, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session
- Minutes of the March 31, 2015, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-2-15	Bills 4-6-15	Bills 4-17-15	Payroll 4-10-15
Ed. Fund	\$391,819.49	\$16,518.33	\$101,089.46	\$447,269.13
Bldg. Fund	231,453.08	--	53,557.30	34,256.19
Trans. Fund	46,846.43	--	206,351.66	13,852.23
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	397,257.71
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

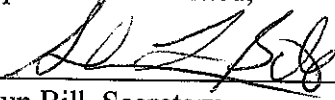
Adjournment -

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

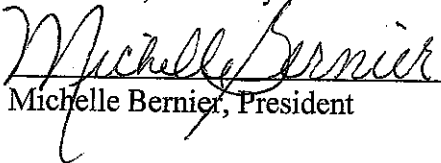
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President