

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 5, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 5, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 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

Action Items -

Canvass the 2015 Board of Election Results -

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen that the Board of Education declare Shad Beaty, Michelle Bernier and Jeff Schmidgall elected to serve four-year terms on the Board of Education: further that the “Abstract of Votes” received from the County Clerk be accepted.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Seating of New Board Members –

Dr. Hall asked the newly elected Board members to affirm their duties as Board of Education members by repeating the Oath of Office.

Dr. Hall and other board members acknowledged and thanked Mr. Applen and Mr. Taylor for their service to the district as board members. Mr. Applen and Mr. Taylor had amicable parting words as well.

Adjournment sine die -

With no other action to come before this board, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Bill, Secretary

Michelle Bernier, President

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 5, 2015

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 5, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the reorganizational meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Shad Beaty, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Dr. Hall served as President pro tem until the president was elected.

Organization of New Board –

Elect President –

Dr. Hall asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Heinold nominated Mrs. Michelle Bernier to serve as President of the Board of Education. Mr. Beaty nominated Mr. Tom Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mrs. Bernier; there were four. Dr. Hall asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Neeley; there were three. Mrs. Bernier was declared President. She assumed her seat as President.

Elect Vice President –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Bernier nominated Mr. Heinold to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Beaty nominated Mr. Neeley to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Bernier asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Heinold; there were four. Mrs. Bernier asked for a show of hands in favor of Mr. Neeley; there were three. Mr. Heinold was declared Vice President.

Elect Secretary –

Mrs. Bernier asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mrs. Scarf nominated Mr. Bill to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Bill was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Mr. Neeley stated he is looking forward to the work ahead with the new Board. The democratic process has been exercised.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2015-2016 year the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there has been one request. SmartProcure submitted a commercial FOIA request to Morton School District 709 for an electronic record (without scanning or printing) of purchase orders dated 2010-01-01 to current. The information requested was:

- Purchase order number or equivalent
- Purchase order date
- Line item details
- Line item quantity
- Line item price
- Vendor ID number, name, address, contact person and email address

The request was denied due to undue burden on the district and its employees according to 5 ILCS 140/3(g). SmartProcure then withdrew the request.

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week–

Dr. Hall noted that today is National Teacher Appreciation Day. She extended her appreciation from the Board and Administration to all district teachers for all they do for the students of District 709.

Recognition of Service of Dr. Ben Wellenreiter as MEA President–

Dr. Hall reported that Dr. Wellenreiter has served as MEA President for the past four years. He has successfully negotiated two contracts and played an important and positive role in many areas including the revision of the teacher evaluation instrument and the student growth portion of that process.

Recognition and Introduction of New MEA Officers –

Dr. Hall introduced the incoming MEA President, Therese Scifres and fellow executive officers Laurie Allison, Tony Feleccia and Barb Blanco. Also serving but not present are Edie Larson and Mary Holmgren. Mrs. Scifres noted they believe in collaboration and finding ways to better serve the students.

Recognition of MHS Students: WYSE and Golden Apple Scholar–

Morton High School Principal, Marjorie Johnson, introduced two WYSE Team members who recently placed at the IHSA State competition. Matt Lauer placed 5th in Chemistry and 4th in Math. Maria Feucht placed 4th in English.

Megan Wright is this year's Golden Apple Scholar. The program is designed to prepare future teachers to thrive in the most challenging high-needs school environments where more resilient teachers are desperately needed. The program provides tuition assistance to each future teacher while they pursue an undergraduate education at one of 52 Illinois universities. In return for the financial, academic, and professional development support that is provided by Golden Apple, Scholars agree to teach in a high-need school in Illinois for five years following college graduation.

Rising Star School Improvement and Goals Updates–

Updates were given by principals from Jefferson, Morton Jr. High School and Morton High school on their Rising Star School Improvement plans.

Jefferson – Ms. Grzanich –

- Using data collected over the past two years, the areas of questioning strategies and student engagement were seen as needing improvement.
- K – 2nd grade teachers are using a lesson study process. They meet together, decide a learning standard to design a lesson plan around, visit each other's classrooms to observe how their peers are teaching the plan and come back together to reflect on how students responded.
- Multiple grade bands meet to collaborate; have instituted Google Docs this year to communicate lessons with each other.

MJHS – Mr. Hoffman – Indicators in progress:

- Student Engagement – all teachers will engage all students (e.g., encourage silent students to participate);
- Communication Continuum – expected communication and distinguished communication – the “ongoing conversation” between school personnel and primary caregivers is candid, supportive and flows in both directions.

MHS – Ms. Johnson – Indicator in process:

- School leadership will actively model and foster a positive school environment where staff members feel valued and are challenged to be engaged and grow professionally.
- The MHS School Improvement Team is currently in the process of piloting, evaluating and planning Teacher Classroom Walkthroughs as a format for Focus Groups for next year. This will involve each focus group going into a (volunteer) teacher's classroom, spending 20-30 minutes observing and then meeting to discuss what they observed, what they learned and how they can use the information to improve their own practice. The purpose will be to challenge all teachers to be engaged and grow professionally as a result of observing their peers.

Dr. Hall explained how Rising Star is a template for schools on the “Watch List.” District 709

Administrators decided two years ago to implement the process in all buildings, though only required originally of MHS. She noted the state of Illinois has discontinued the Rising Star program for next year. The Leadership Team is deciding the process to use for school improvement beginning next year.

Crisis Management Plan Update—

Dr. Teater reported the crisis team met May 4, 2015, for their annual meeting to update the Crisis Plan. Also attending were the fire chief, school resource office and other first responders. Dr. Teater noted that evacuation drills were held requiring students to walk to a nearby facility away from the school building.

Moving forward, it was recommended a formalized plan be put in place for spectators at extra-curricular events at the buildings and that the plan be communicated at the beginning of events (exits, safe shelters within the building, etc.).

Dr. Hall thanked the first responders from the community and for their participation in the drills throughout the school year.

Food Service Update –

Mrs. Getz, along with Arbor Food Management employees Kathy Carter and Becky Goldman reported that the participation rate in the school lunch program has held steady throughout the year at 43%. Through March, approximately 44% of the elementary school students were eating a reimbursable lunch during the current year. The numbers are lower for the JH (37%) and HS (36%), as more ala carte items are available for purchase at these schools. The High School changed the offerings and pricing so that ala care items can be put together to form a reimbursable lunch. As a result, reimbursable lunches increased and ala carte lunches decreased this year.

For 11 consecutive years, the food service programs in each building received the Tazewell County Health Dept. Food Service Award of Excellence. This award is given to establishments who exceed the high standards of food sanitation, achieve high health inspection scores and provide the required training each year.

Starting with the 2014-15 school year, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act expanded the nutrition standards to include all food and beverages sold to students at any time during the school day. The initiative referred to as “Smart Snacks in School Rule” impacts the ala carte items sold in the cafeteria, vending machines and fundraising by teams, clubs or parent organizations. These new standards do not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends or off campus fundraising events.

MPTV Update –

Dr. Hall reviewed viewership of online streaming of board meetings since its inception two years ago. She explained that District 709 started live streaming school board meetings in June of 2013. During the 709Connect process in the fall of 2012 a communications audit was conducted. One thing learned from that audit was that many

residents did not have Comcast as their cable provider and therefore did not have access to district programs airing on that cable station. At about the same time, iTV3 came to Morton, providing another local cable provider. Currently MPTV programs air on Comcast Channel 20 and iTV3 Channel 21. The District also started investigating other options and online streaming came to the attention of administration during this time. After meeting with Play-On-Sports, NFHS Network, it was decided to use them as the online streaming provider. They are also affiliated with the IHSA.

The cable stations and the online streaming are communications vehicles used for broadcasting under the District brand – MPTV – Morton Potter TV. Data is not available regarding viewership from the cable providers. The broadcast schedule is displayed on the District website and it is updated at least once per week, sometimes more depending on the number of events taped in a week. School board meetings are aired on both Comcast Channel 20 and iTV3 Channel 21 along with on-line streaming and Video on Demand (VOD).

Data is available for programs streamed through Play-On-Sports. VOD views are unique. If someone watched the same event multiple times from the same device (within a day), those "repeat views" would not count toward the VOD view count total.

Viewership for school year 2014-15 is as follows:

Aug. 5, 2014 – 0 live, 11 VOD
 Aug. 19, 2014 – 34 live, 0 VOD
 Sept. 9, 2014 – 19 live, 0 VOD
 Sept. 16, 2014 – 12 live, 0 VOD
 Oct. 7, 2014 – 0 live, 13 VOD
 Oct. 21, 2014 – 1 live, 63 VOD
 Nov. 4, 2014 – 0 live, 9 VOD
 Nov. 18, 2014 – 0 live, 8 VOD
 Dec. 2, 2014 – 5 live, 11 VOD
 Jan. 13, 2015 – 6 live, 6 VOD
 Jan. 20, 2015 – no data
 Feb. 3, 2015 – 1 live, 49 VOD
 Feb. 24, 2015 – 13 live, 44 VOD
 Mar. 3, 2015 – 14 live, 21 VOD
 Mar. 17, 2015 – 12 Live, 36 VOD
 Candidates Forum – Mar. 24, 2015 – 1 live, 209 VOD
 Mar. 31, 2015 – 0 live, 14 VOD
 Apr. 21, 2015 – 7 live, 19 VOD

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported:

- The next construction meeting for the MHS outdoor facilities is scheduled for May 7. Demolitions in most areas are close to completion, sewer installations and removals are

underway, the band area is fenced, foundation work on Building B started on April 29, and the interior track curb work was to start by May 1. She reported that the project is ahead of schedule for storm sewer work.

- The Park District is discussing cost sharing of the tennis courts at their board meeting tonight.
- The MHS and JH card readers are completely installed, tested and working. Cards can be issued any time.
 - Software on secretaries' computers will be installed next week.
 - Elementary buildings are in progress – currently working at Jefferson, then Brown, Lincoln and Grundy.

Board members discussed the community tour of the Jr. High that took place recently and the physical facility issues that were pointed out at that time.

President's Report –

Mrs. Bernier and Mr. Neeley reported on CIRCLE (Central Illinois Regional Chamber Legislative Effort) Day in Springfield. There was good information shared by local legislators along with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Topics included pension reform, pension cost shift, minimum wage, and workers' comp.

Mrs. Bernier reported that the Central IL Valley Division (CIVD) meeting of the IL Assoc. of School Boards (IASB) will be held May 6 in Peoria. For the sake of the newly seated board members, Mr. Neeley explained the purpose of the divisions and their role in IASB.

Mrs. Scarfe noted she will be seeking a position on the CIVD board as the Resolutions Chair at the May 6th meeting. Mr. Neeley is currently the Director of the Division and will be again seeking that position.

Mr. Neeley noted his appreciation to serve on the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) this past year and thanked Dr. Teater for his Leadership of the committee.

Discussion Items –

Board Goal Discussion - Climate –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of Climate which states – “Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates/fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.” She focused on the last two bullet points that state the board will cultivate an environment of trust and respect with the community and one another; and the board will collaborate and work toward unity of direction and purpose.

Ends Policies Compliance –

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Ends Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Bernier will sign the forms and place them in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Code of Conduct #5 –

President Bernier noted there are 12 points on the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members. The fifth point was reviewed this month. It states: "I will abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

Action Items –

Approve Discipline Handbook Revisions –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the changes for the elementary, Jr. High and High School discipline handbooks for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Beaty, that the Board of Education table the motion.

Mr. Schmidgall proposed that the following be included in the cyber bullying rule in each handbook, as it is part of the law passed by the state legislature. "Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution."

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The revision to the handbook will be brought back to the board as a discussion item at the May 19 meeting.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Final 2014-2015 School Calendar

Approve BFPAC Fees

Approve Auditors
 Approve Food Service Contract
 Approve March Treasurer’s Report
 Approve 2015-2016 School Board Meeting Calendar
 Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2015, Regular Meeting and Closed Session
 Minutes of the April 21, 2015, Regular Meeting.
 Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Personnel
 Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 4-24-15	Bills 5-1-15	Payroll 4-24-15
Ed. Fund	\$2,748.50	\$206,480.73	\$392,129.63
Bldg. Fund	23,189.53	102,292.67	34,358.96
Trans. Fund	--	11,782.36	8,235.96
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	368,855.66
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, 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 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, 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 11:35 p.m.

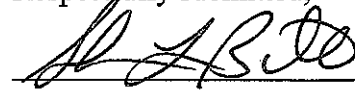
Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Heinold, that the meeting be adjourned.

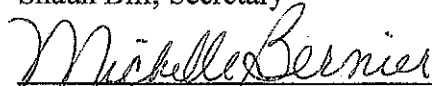
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President