

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 19, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 19, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Neeley, 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 6:55 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Audience Presentations --

Evelyn Becker, 26891 Hickory Lane, addressed the Board concerning the changes to the healthcare plan included in the ratified MEA contract. She asked why competitive bids were not sought.

Mary Beth Pederson, 22076 Timber Lane, accompanied by Kelley Pinter, addressed the Board concerning the Dyslexia Parent Group's dissatisfaction with the District's progress in identifying dyslexic students, training teachers and communicating with parents.

Action Item --

Dr. Hall reported that the Morton Education Association (MEA) and Morton CUSD 709 Board of Education recently negotiated and tentatively agreed upon a contract for the 2015-2016 through 2017-2018 school years. The MEA membership has ratified the contract and the contract was presented to the Board of Education for approval.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between the Board of Education Morton Unit School District 709 and the Morton Education Association for the years 2015-2016 through 2017-2018.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Abstain 2 (Beaty, Schmidgall)

Motion carried.

Mr. Heinold noted his appreciation for the cooperation between the MEA and the District in the negotiations process. Mrs. Bernier also noted her appreciation for the interest-based bargaining process.

Reports --**Administrative --**

The Board of Education recognized:

- Janice Sherman, Morton Public Library Director for the past 36 years. Dr. Hall noted that under her direction, the library has positively impacted many students over the years. There is an iconic link between the schools and the library that offers a caring, safe environment for students to study and perform research. Two examples given as a result of Mrs. Sherman's efforts include:
 - Writing and receiving a grant for materials for English language learners when the school district added this to the curriculum a few years ago.
 - Setting aside space in the library to collect artifacts found across the area after the central Illinois tornado in November 2013.

Mrs. Sherman noted that the cooperation goes two ways and the schools and

administrators have always met the requests and needs of the library.

- Morton Red Wings – students, coaches and volunteers. Jamie and Ashlie King coached the Morton Special Olympics track team for the first time and many of the students have qualified for state competition. High School students Jack Zern, Pete Kuhl and Trae Young were recognized for their volunteer efforts with the Red Wings. Red Wings sponsor Abby Everett introduced the athletes in attendance and thanked the coaches and volunteers for their support.
- MJHS Scholastic Bowl, IESA State Runners Up – Mr. Carter reported the team had an 18 – 4 overall record. He commended the students, who combined have a 4.1 GPA and are involved in many other activities throughout the school year. Coach Don Swearingen (12th year coach) introduced the students. Coach Megan Hurley noted how the students showed character in receiving runner up. The captain of the team presented a plaque to the District.

Rising Star Updates –

Updates were given by principals from Brown, Grundy, and Lincoln Schools and the District Office on their Rising Star School Improvement plans.

Brown – Mrs. Waterfield –

- Reported on indicators completed–
 - Reviewed student learning data – continued to target writing instructional strategies during the 14-15 school year.
 - Completed the social/emotional screener, which was developed by Morton CUSD 709 district social workers and psychologists in order to monitor student social/emotional data.
- Staff Handbook Update – teachers received electronic version in January 2015; instructional aide guidebook was completed in May 2015; office and custodial staff guidebook will be completed this summer.
- Communication between school personnel and primary caregivers– parent leadership breakfast was held in October 2014, and a parent leadership tea held at the end of the year in order to share information and foster open communication with parents. A parenting column was added to the Lettie Brown newsletter by social worker, Leslie Willis.
- Next Steps –
 - Using pre-tests to differentiate instruction will be a focus of specific staff meetings next year.
 - Increase communication with parents. In order to encourage parents to be active participants in the learning process, Lettie Brown will implement an additional parent night each year, which emphasizes practical strategies to reinforce academic competencies.

Grundy – Mr. Saunders –

- Reported on three new goals–
 - Environment of School will be safe, welcoming and conducive to learning. A character education curriculum will be rolled out in August along with a new positive reinforcement program developed by the social worker.
 - Professional Development for the whole faculty to include assessment of strengths and areas in need of improvement. The school Leadership Team will analyze both PARCC and MAP data and come to consensus regarding building level professional development priorities for the 15-16 school year.
 - The school Leadership Team will facilitate the development of a shared understanding of student engagement and a menu of instructional practices that truly engage students in learning.

Lincoln – Ms. Albers –

- Reported on indicators completed–
 - School Improvement and Professional Development needs – provided training to staff to help better interpret MAP data; grade level team meetings to review Spring MAP data and trends as a grade level and discuss academic strengths/weaknesses of each grade level; a building climate discussion was initiated with teachers in May 2015. Follow through planned for 15-16 school year.
 - Principal monitors curriculum and classroom instruction regularly – Danielson domains discussed and specific examples shared at September and October teacher meetings; peer observations continued to be encouraged.
 - Yearly learning goals set for the school utilizing student learning data – technology use survey completed by staff; information was used to plan technology professional development for teachers and will be used to plan “tech talks” for Fall 2015.
 - School Compact outlines the responsibilities/expectations of teachers, primary caregivers and students – planned parent/student family education night – iPad Expo in April 2015.

District – Dr. Teater –

- Focused on two goals–
 - Data-Technology training – provide professional development for MAP, ASPIRE and PARCC reports; continue to adjust Inform to house newest data.
 - Regularly look at school performance and aggregated classroom observation data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs – define aggregated classroom observation data to guide school improvement; define frequency and expectation of data usage; create a method for tracking classroom observation data; principals will involve teachers in regularly scheduled discussions using learning data; develop a plan for evaluating school programs.

External Counseling Report - MHS -

Dr. Hall reported on the early intervention provided by Illini Family Counseling to MHS students. A summary of contacts made with students throughout the school year was provided. Dr. Hall noted the school district is fortunate to be able to offer this service and support to high school students.

Board Reports –

President Bernier reported that the high school musical “Happy Days” was a huge success. She offered the Board’s congratulations to the students, staff and volunteers involved in the production.

Dates to remember –

- Thursday, May 21, 5:00 p.m. – Board self-evaluation meeting
- Friday, June 5, 12:15 p.m. – dedication of Hannah’s Reading Garden at the Morton Public Library

Mr. Neeley asked that the Board have a discussion on the District’s dyslexia program at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Hall suggested the July 7 meeting.

Discussion Item –**Discipline Handbook Revisions –**

Dr. Hall reported that the Administration is recommending the addition of language to all discipline handbooks as follows:

Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites - School authorities may require a student or his or her parent or guardian to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website if school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that a student's account on a social networking website contains evidence that a student has violated a school disciplinary rule or procedure.

After some board members shared their concern for requiring students to provide their passwords, it was decided the Administration would write an Administrative Procedure for implementation of this rule. Dr. Hall noted the rule is reflective of state statute and would be used on very rare occasions.

Dr. Hall noted the change suggested at the May 5, 2015, Board meeting for the addition to the cyber-bullying rule concerning the “...right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion...” to the handbook was not being recommended by the Administration. This is covered in Board Policy 7:180 and state statute. Board members asked if a general statement at the beginning of the handbook to refer to Board policy for additional clarification of rules was feasible. Dr. Hall will verify with the District’s

attorneys as to the legality of doing so.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2015, Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- Minutes of the May 5, 2015, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Personnel
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 5-8-15	Bills 5-12-15	Payroll 5-8-15
Ed. Fund	\$138,820.91	\$18,979.76	\$488,393.13
Bldg. Fund	386,409.88	7,626.78	34,504.47
Trans. Fund	7,327.59	3,711.98	15,417.26
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	421,249.54
Tort	138.00	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Dr. Beaty, 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 9:09 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

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Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:04 p.m.

Dr. Hall noted she will meet with the two parents that made the presentation on dyslexia earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment -

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

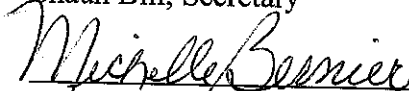
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President