

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 17, 2015, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 7:18 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

Reports –

Administrative –

Recognition of MHS Marching Band –

Dr. Hall introduced band director, Jeff Neavor and noted the Marching Band repeated as State Champion for the 11th year among numerous other awards this season. Mr. Neavor introduced the Senior band members and acknowledged them for their four years of participation and accomplishments.

Board Member Appreciation –

Dr. Hall reported that November 15th was the statewide observance of Board Member Appreciation Day. She thanked Board members for their efforts on behalf of the students of District 709. Thank you notes from students throughout the district were acknowledged.

Recognition of Donors for Transportation Complex Flag Pole –

Dr. Hall reported that a flag pole has been installed at the Transportation Facility in memory of Ike and Kay Reardon. Mr. Reardon was a bus driver and Mrs. Reardon was a bus aide for the district for many years. Dr. Hall acknowledged those contributing toward the project: Morton American Legion, Morton American Legion Auxiliary, District 709 Transportation Dept., Marlynn Gunn and Charlynn McClure. A dedication ceremony will be held on Monday, November 30.

Discussion of Annual Conference/Selections of Workshops –

The upcoming IASB School Board Conference is an excellent opportunity for school board members to obtain training and professional development now required by law. The conference includes workshops, general sessions and an exhibit hall. The board members discussed individual workshops they are interested in attending in order to coordinate attendance to maximize exposure to the information available at the conference.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported the Board of Education met earlier in the evening with the Lincoln School staff. A video was shown titled "50 Reasons to Roar" featuring Lincoln students. As Lincoln School building representative, Mr. Bill reported on a recent visit to the school.

Mrs. Scarfe reported she attended the recent Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting. The subject matter of the meeting included a discussion on "Teaching Above the Line."

Discussion Items –**Facilities Discussion –**

Dr. Hall explained that petitions were turned in on Friday, November 6, that prevent the District from issuing Working Cash Bonds at this time. The bonds would have financed Phase 1 of the 3-phase plan. Board members discussed options for completing the urgent needs identified and agreed upon by the board at past meetings. The options discussed were:

- Option 1 - Place Working Cash bonds on the ballot in March 2016 along with building bonds (two separate ballot questions). This option would be confusing as there would be two separate bond issues on the ballot.
- Option 2 - Use only reserves, do not issue debt. This option would not cover the amount of work identified as urgent. The Board would need to reprioritize urgent needs and cut costs down from \$12 million to \$2-\$3 million. The urgent needs have already been cut significantly.
- Option 3 - \$12.1 bond issue on March 2016 ballot. This option would have a higher tax rate increase than any other option.
- Option 4 - Restructure financing to pay for both phases: Issue Working Cash Bonds for 2 years for \$1.1 million; utilize \$1.5 million in reserves; and \$10 million bond issue on the March ballot. This option preserves some reserves; preserves the ability to levy for Working Cash Bonds as has been done in the past; uses a combination of Working Cash, reserves and voter approved bonds; the work would no longer be divided into two phases; Working Cash Bonds are not a tax increase.

The Board discussed the sizes of the elementary gyms and including more work at the Jr. High, i.e. expanding the cafeteria. Dr. Hall urged the Board to continue with the current list of urgent needs and not to change course at this point.

Board members reached consensus to pursue option 4. Dr. Hall explained that the Board will need to pass a resolution in December in order to have a bond issue in March, as the ballot question must be filed with the County Clerk by mid-January. An additional Board meeting will be scheduled for December 15, 2015.

Action Items –

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with ICC – Strong Start Program -

Dr. Hall noted that the Strong Start Program at ICC was a discussion item at the November 3 meeting. The agreement is required in order for MHS to participate in the program.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between ICC and District 709 for the Strong Start Program.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the November 3, 2015, Regular Meeting; and the Minutes of the November 3, 2015, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

| | Bills 11-6-15 | Bills 11-13-15 | Payroll 11-13-15 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ed. Fund | \$187,471.62 | \$962.56 | \$455,729.96 |
| Bldg. Fund | 37,880.75 | 699.47 | 35,437.02 |
| Trans. Fund | 14,468.91 | 5,566.27 | 13,140.72 |
| Payroll Accts. Pay. | -- | -- | 425,947.14 |
| Fire & Safety | -- | -- | -- |
| Tort | 2,010.00 | -- | -- |

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, 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 Dr. Beaty, 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 9:32 p.m.


Adjournment -

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

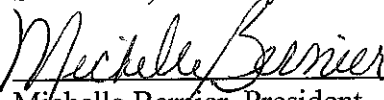
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President