

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**MARCH 1, 2016**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 1, 2016, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

**REGULAR MEETING –**

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 5:47 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 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/sale of property, litigation, negotiations and/or school building safety and security. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 5:47 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Schmidgall, 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 6:40 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Michelle Bernier called the Public Hearing to order at 6:47 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

Mrs. Bernier declared the Hearing open for the purpose of public comment and/or questions concerning requests for waivers of the school code. The first waiver would allow the district to bank fifteen school hours from school days in excess of the 5 hour minimum. Such hours would be used for three days of staff development activities suggested by school improvement plans, during which time students would not be in attendance. The second waiver would be to change the maximum fee for drivers education courses from not to exceed \$50 to not to exceed \$250. This will allow the district to be more fiscally responsible in fulfilling the requirement on instruction on the operation of motor vehicles.

There were no questions or comments from the Board members or the audience.

**Adjournment -**

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Bill, that the public hearing be adjourned.

Voice Vote:            Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The public hearing adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:48 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 –**

Mrs. Angel Fisher and Mrs. Barbara McMullen of Morton thanked each board member for voting to put the upcoming referendum on the March 15<sup>th</sup> ballot.

Mr. Aaron Seaman of Morton spoke in favor of the upcoming referendum.

Mrs. Susan Scott of Morton also thanked the board and noted she is grateful she has been

allowed to meet and speak to many Morton citizens due to her involvement in the referendum.

## **Reports --**

### **Administrative --**

#### **Freedom of Information Requests --**

Dr. Hall reported the district is in the process of fulfilling a FOI request and information will be placed on the district website when it is completed. She will report on the request at the April 12 Board of Education meeting.

#### **Aide Appreciation Day -- March 16, 2016 --**

Dr. Hall reported that the second annual Aide Appreciation Day will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>. This day is set aside to recognize all support staff aides for the work they do for the students of District 709. The day is in honor of Amy Hardin's legacy, a Lincoln School aide who tragically lost her life in October of 2014 in an automobile accident. Her birthday is March 16.

#### **Update on Google --**

Lee Hoffman gave an update on the district's use of Google Apps for Education (GAFE). GAFE is a set of productivity tools specifically designed for schools. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/>. Advantages include:

- Promotes student and staff collaboration
- Works well on iPads
- Integrates productivity tools seamlessly.
- Integrates well with Microsoft Office.
- Cost and resource savings.

GAFE is hosted by Google and all GAFE data is the property of the district. Google, along with 240+ other companies, have agreed to the terms of the Student Privacy Pledge at <https://studentprivacypledge.org/>.

### **President's Report --**

President Bernier read a thank you note from Reatha Owen, field service director for the Central Illinois Valley Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards. She recently held a workshop for division members in the lower level of the MEAC.

President Bernier reported that the Communication Committee met earlier in the day and discussed upcoming opportunities for sharing the facts concerning the referendum. They include:

- Town Hall Meeting in Groveland at the Groveland Missionary Church on Monday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m.

- Pancake Day at the Morton Community Church on Saturday, March 5.
- Morton Public Library
- Eli's Coffee
- Assisted Living Residences

Dr. Hall reported there was good attendance and good questions at the Town Hall meeting held on Monday, February 29, at Lincoln School. In response to frequently asked questions she has been hearing, she gave the following responses:

- The land on S. Fourth Ave. is not in a flood plain.
- The district has owned 17.66 acres of land on Harding Road for the past 20 years. At the request of former Jefferson School Principal, Eliza Ackerman, who owned the property at the time, a token amount was paid by the district. In 2001, an acre of the land was sold to Cilco (now Ameren-Illinois). At this time, the district would be interested in selling the land. It is zoned commercial, not farm land.
- Q. What happens when the bonds are paid off? A. At the end of the 7-year period, the district is no longer able to levy for the amount of the bonds. The tax rate increase ends after 7 years.

**Discussion Items –**

**Board Goal Discussion – Finance –**

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of Finance – *Support student learning (which includes achievement, climate, facilities, communication) in an efficient and cost-effective manner.*

Dr. Hall reviewed the Budget Calendar for the upcoming year. It includes:

- December, 2015 – review staffing needs for upcoming year
- January - March, 2016 – review enrollment; meet with department heads to review needs; approve administrators and non-certified salaries; review health benefits
- Late June, 2016 – present tentative budget to board of education
- July, 2016 – Board of Education approve tentative budget and put on public display.
- August, 2016 – Board of Education holds public hearing for budget and approves.
- September, 2016 – present 2016 levy to Board of Education
- November, 2016 – Board of Education approves tentative 2016 levy and tentative 2017-2018 budget.
- December, 2016 – Hold public hearing and approve Levy.

Dr. Hall also spoke of the continuing uncertainty of funding from the state of Illinois.

**Code of Conduct – #1**

Dr. Beaty reviewed the first point in the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members: *I will represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse*

*to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.* He added that all board members are elected to serve the community as a whole and opinions and decisions should not be shaped by outside forces.

### **New Course Proposal at MHS – Computer Science –**

High School Principal, Marjorie Johnson, presented a new course proposal to the Board of Education. *Computer Science Principles* aims to provide students with an introduction into the field of computer science by offering a look into possible career fields and the powerful tool that coding can be. The course also aims to lay the groundwork for future computer science classes by studying the fundamentals of how computers share information and how that information can be controlled through programming.

*Computer Science Principles* necessitates daily use of a computer, which must include an up-to-date browser, a text editor (such as notepad) and AppLab (a free online resource from Code.org). The textbook for the course is a free online copy of *Blown to Bits* ([www.bitsbook.com](http://www.bitsbook.com)). The textbook is only supplemental in the fact that the class will not be taught from the book, but rather used as a reference.

Ms. Johnson anticipates one section of *Computer Science Principles* for the upcoming school year if the course is approved by the Board of Education.

### **Action Items –**

#### **Approve Banking of Hours for Full Day school Improvement –**

Five years ago the district submitted and received a waiver allowing school improvement in-service training programs to be scheduled in full day sessions during which students would not be in attendance. The waiver allows the district to bank fifteen school hours from school days in excess of the 5 hour minimum. Such hours would be used for three days of staff development activities suggested by school improvement plans, during which time students would not be in attendance. The waiver will expire this spring and it is time to reapply in order to continue to follow this format.

A public hearing for the purpose to hear comments and questions regarding this waiver was held earlier in the evening.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe that the Board of Education approve the application for waiver to bank hours for full day school improvement days.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Application for Waiver of School Code Regarding Driver Education –**

This waiver would be to change the maximum fee for drivers education courses from not to exceed \$50 to not to exceed \$250. This will allow the district to be more fiscally responsible in fulfilling the requirement on instruction on the operation of motor vehicles. The waiver will be good for the next five (5) years once it is approved. This waiver will expire this spring and it is time to reapply.

A public hearing for the purpose to hear comments and questions regarding this waiver was held earlier in the evening.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the application for waiver for limitation of Driver Education fee.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Recognition of Building Administrators –**

President Bernier acknowledged and introduced the building administrators. She noted that they will each be approved for re-appointment for the 2016-2017 school year in the following Consent Agenda. She thanked them for all they do for the students and staff of District 709.

Those recognized were: Faith Waterfield, Brown School Principal; Michael Saunders, Grundy School Principal; Kate Wyman, Jefferson School Principal; Julie Albers, Lincoln School Principal; Michelle Peterson, Lincoln School Asst. Principal; Lee Hoffman, Jr. High Principal; Chris Carter, Jr. High Asst. Principal; Marjorie Johnson, High School Principal; Scott Jones, High School Asst. Principal/Athletic Director; Kirk Edwards, High School Asst. Principal; and Josh Gschwend, High School Asst. Principal.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Reappointment of Administrators

Approve January, 2015 Treasurer's Report

Approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2016, Regular Meeting.

Approve Bills and Payrolls

	<b>Bills 2-19-16</b>	<b>Bills 2-26-16</b>	<b>Payroll 2-19-16</b>
Ed. Fund	\$37,833.66	\$152,413.10	\$482,142.81
Bldg. Fund	--	53,222.92	32,049.03
Trans. Fund	--	24,686.02	14,368.54
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	420,998.13
TORT Fund	--	2,026.00	--

Roll Call:                                Yea 7                                Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, 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/sale of property, litigation, negotiations and/or school building safety and security. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote:                                Yea 7                                Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:50 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 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote:                                Yea 7                                Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

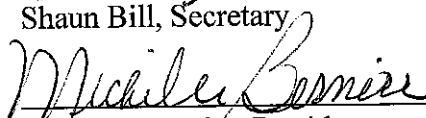
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Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President