

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 1, 2016, at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Audience Presentations –Mandy Swartzendruber, Teresa Oaks, Amy Glass, Adeline Swartzendruber, Matthew Swartzendruber, Tony Feleccia, Emily Heim, Catherine Bowen, Tim Lichtenstein, Ruth Hoerr, Mark Mincy, Susan Scott, Erin Nowlan, Amelia Brysen, James Dryden, Ashley Fischer, John Feser, Philip Spengler, Pam Lichtenstein, Olivia Nieukirk, Ben Harkins, Dr. Diane Krall, David King, Leslie Unger, Abby Chinn, Tracey Greenwood, Jennifer Carrillo, Len Meyer, Cassie Newell, Taylor VanEtten, Nicole Ersland, Theo Bush, Kellen Carter—all spoke of their concerns for or against the proposed student privacy policy. This portion of the archived meeting may be viewed on MP-TV at the 6:30 point.

Action Item –

Approve Student Privacy Policy -

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education approve the Student Privacy Policy.

Discussion included individual board member's reasons for supporting or not supporting the proposed policy. This portion of the archived meeting may be viewed on MP-TV at the 1:43 point.

Roll Call: Yea 3 (Beaty, Neeley Schmidgall)
 Nay 4 (Bill, Heinold, Scarfe, Bernier)

Motion failed.

Discussion Item –

Administrative Procedure 7:10 –

In the absence of the student privacy policy passing, Dr. Hall reviewed Administrative Procedure 7:10. The procedure aligns with current Board Policy 7:10 and comes from

PRESS (Policy Reference Education Subscription Service) and is recommended for practice from the district's legal counsel and from the Illinois Association of School Boards. In working with legal counsel, additional language was added to the procedure to emphasize that any student desiring additional privacy can request that. The addition reads:

"No student or other person shall utilize a gender-segregated area such as a locker room or restroom which is not designated for his or her biological sex prior to notification to a district counselor, social worker or administrator. The district will provide any student access to private or semi-private (individual stalls or changing areas) facilities upon request. At the time of notification, individual student needs will be assessed in a confidential manner by the appropriate school personnel on a case by case basis."

Dr. Hall also asked for consensus from a majority of the board for the district's architect to move ahead with an initial assessment of the district's facilities in order to determine what options are available to provide areas of privacy in school locker rooms. All agreed to the architectural assessment.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Hall noted there was one Freedom of Information request fulfilled on October 13 and results are on the district website. Leslie Unger requested correspondence to or from the members of Morton 709 School Board of Education, as well as between members, either electronic or paper, sent to or from board members' district, personal, or work email accounts or delivered in person, regarding the topics of transgender students, physical privacy policy, access to lockers and restrooms, and overnight trips.

District LEAP Plan –

Dr. Hall reviewed the District's 2016-2017 Learning Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP). The two areas of focus are "709 Above the Line and District Benchmarks.

Goal 1: Teachers will use technology to enhance student learning. "Enhance" means living and working in the "M" and "R" of the "SAMR" model. Teachers will gain a working understanding of the seven components of "709 Above the Line" as this relates to how personal devices can improve and transform instruction and learning. This links to the Board Goal of Achievement.

Goal 2: The district administration will monitor the use of data and specific benchmarks in the district to measure academic progress at various grade levels and subject matter, providing district level support, professional development and resources. Philosophically and ideally, all students should reach certain benchmarks. However, in utilizing and

studying historical trend data, we know that is not the case. In areas where goals are not reached, leadership team members will:

- Investigate and pinpoint possible reasons why this occurred
- Determine how students can be helped who are not reaching benchmarks or goals
- Identify resources needed to do so
- Formulate and ask questions

The benchmarks are found in the Board of Education goal of Achievement:

- 3rd graders reading at or above grade level at end of 3rd grade year
- 3rd and 5th grade math growth goals on MAP
- 7th, 8th, 9th grade ASPIRE data in writing, reading and math
- SAT data for 11th graders
- Graduation Rate
- Enrollment in Dual Credit and AP classes
- Scores on AP tests

Illinois 5Essentials Survey –

Dr. Hall reported that this every-other-year survey will be open online from November 15th to January 15th. The survey will be given to 6 – 12th grade students, teachers and parents. Principals will notify parents of the survey; if parents do not want their children to participate, they need to notify their principal. In order for the district to receive results back from the survey, 20% parent participation is needed.

Illinois School Report Card –

Dr. Teater reported the Illinois State Report Card was released one day prior to this meeting. His preliminary look at the report indicates Morton performed much better than the rest of the state on the PARCC test. The test has been given for the past two years with a format change after the first year. Results include:

- Overall – 53% met/exceeded (state 34%)
- ELA – 53% met/exceeded (state 36%)
- Math – 52% met/exceeded (state 31%)

The participation rate for taking the PARCC test rose to 94% from 91% the first year, but still did not reach the 95% rate required by the state.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported that the Board of Education received a letter from Metamora High School concerning the discontinuation of the Mid-Illini Conference Banquets held after each sports season. The MHS coaching staff was unanimous, along with the other Mid-Illini schools, in agreeing to discontinue the banquets. Board members agreed to defer to the coaches in their decision.

Discussion Items –**Board Compliance – Board/Superintendent Relations –**

Dr. Hall reported that she has reviewed the Board/Superintendent Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. She and President Bernier will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Board Goals Discussion – Communications –

Dr. Hall reviewed the goal of Communication:

The Goal states – Communication: Provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.

- The district will commit to a focused effort to educate the community about board roles and responsibilities as well as issues facing public education.
- The district will continue to enhance and utilize communication through a variety of tools to promote transparency and understanding, with a focus on facilities and finance.
- The district will focus on specific efforts to reach more community members, with a goal of engendering and increasing trust between the community and the school district.
- Board and district goals, objectives and action steps will be regularly communicated to our community members, through various communication tools, including more “grass roots” efforts.

Dr. Hall noted new ways are continually sought to reach out to the community. She commended Amy Greiner for her efforts as Communications Coordinator. Dr. Hall noted her disappointment in the lack of interest for the community dinner, but thanked the sponsors that were willing to financially support the dinner.

Board of Education Code of Conduct #9 – Mr. Bill –

Mr. Bill reviewed the ninth point in the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members: *I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of*

the entire community. Mr. Bill noted the board's willingness to listen to the community earlier in the evening during audience presentations as an example.

Action Item –

Approve 2017-2018 Tentative Budget and 2017 Tentative Levy –

Dr. Hall noted the budget and levy were presented to the Board at the October 4 Committee of the Whole meeting. A public hearing and passage of the Levy Resolution will take place at the December 6th Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Tentative Budget and the 2016 Levy.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion passed.

Approve Resolution for Intervention in Tax Assessment Appeal –

Dr. Hall reported that this resolution allows district legal counsel to provide intervention at the PTAB regarding the assessment of property – LLC/G&D Transportation for tax year 2015.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with ICC: Pell Grants –

Dr. Hall explained that this intergovernmental agreement between ICC and Morton CUSD #709 will enable MHS students who qualify for free and reduced lunch to take advantage of Pell Grants, through ICC, to assist financially with dual credit classes, as well as other expenses related to taking these classes such as books and supplies. Illinois Central College is one of 44 institutions nationwide selected to participate in this pilot program related to Pell Grants. This program would apply to the Strong Start program, and by approving this agreement now, it would go into effect for the spring semester of 2017.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between ICC and District 709 for Pell Grants.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Mr. Bill, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

Approve Personnel Report
 Approve Out of State Trip Request – MHS Choral Dept.
 Approve Overnight Trip Request – MHS Wrestling
 Approve Overnight Trip Request – MHS Boys Basketball
 Approve Minutes of the October 18, 2016, Regular Meeting, and the October 18, 2016, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes.
 Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 10-21-16	Bills 10-28-16	Payroll 10-28-16
Ed. Fund	\$126,561.90	\$130,489.82	\$456,732.06
Bldg. Fund	56,560.45	8,478.50	31,549.57
Trans. Fund	19,337.16	86.98	12,439.26
Capital Projects	--	17,631.91	--
TORT	150.00	--	--
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	445,936.29

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Scarfe, 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 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. Prior to entering closed session, it was determined there were no items for closed session.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Dr. Beaty, that the Board of Education not enter closed session due to lack of items for discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion Carried.

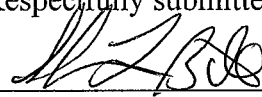
Adjournment -

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

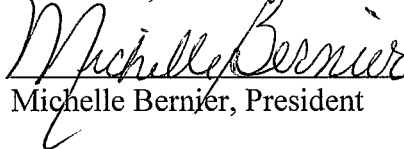
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President