

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 21, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 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

#### **Reports –**

##### **Administrative –**

##### **Staffing for FY18 -**

Director of Student Support Services, Carlie Owens, made recommendations for additional special education staff – 1.0 FTE Instructional Teacher at Lincoln School, 1.0 FTE School Psychologist and 1.0 FTE School Social Worker. These recommended additions are due to an increase in student enrollment and the need for compliance with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education ACT (IDEA).

Jr. High Principal, Lee Hoffman proposed a new 9-week class called “Career Maker” that would fit into a 4-class rotation for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is an enrichment class that would introduce students to hands-on career learning opportunities, which will initiate early exploration of potential career paths. Adding this class to the three other units courses will free teachers to teach one more section of their subject area and eliminate the exploratory classes that teachers currently teach. The need for the extra section is due to the increase in enrollment at the Jr. High for the upcoming school year. The enrollment is expected to increase minimally by 30 students for the upcoming school year at the Jr. High.

Dr. Hall added that a third class will be added at Lincoln School for the next school year. With that addition, all grades at Lincoln School will have three sections. She noted that in working with Barb Getz on the FY18 budget, they will be looking for ways to fund the new staff. Board members agreed by consensus to post the special education and Jr. High positions. Dr. Hall noted the postings will not obligate hiring for them, but will generate a candidate pool.

##### **Lawsuit about Education Funding –**

Dr. Hall reported that a lawsuit is being brought by some Illinois school districts against ISBE due to unfunded mandates. Those bringing the lawsuit are on the foundational formula of funding and should receive \$6,119 per student. That amount has been pro-rated for several years by the state of Illinois. Morton schools are on the alternative formula and receive between \$300-400 per student. Morton School District will not be taking part in the lawsuit.

Dr. Hall and Mr. Neeley reported on the Alliance Leadership Summit they attended in Springfield today.

#### **Update on Follow Up to Security Breach –**

Dr. Teater reported on measures that have been taken to tighten security throughout the District including additional training for employees who have access to social security and other private employee information; review of database for additional scam emails; additional one-year credit monitoring from Experian for all those impacted by the security breach.

#### **President's Report –**

President Bernier reported that the Board met earlier in the evening with the Special Education staff. Some students from the Guardian Angel home served as greeters and the meal was prepared and served by TCRC. The staff shared information with Board members along with some of their concerns.

President Bernier reported the Insurance Committee met earlier today. She noted that claims are at a better pace than last year and there is a possibility of a new Rx plan. No decision has been made at this time.

President Bernier reported that a Special Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at 7:15 a.m. to hire the new superintendent.

#### **Action Items –**

##### **Second Reading and Approval of Revision of Policy 2:125 –**

Dr. Hall reported that a revision of board policy 2:125 is being recommended in order to update this policy due to a change in legislation effective January 1, 2017. The policy implements the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act. The new law prohibits reimbursements for entertainment expenses and requires school districts to regulate expenses and pass a resolution regulating how travel, meal, and lodging expenses are reimbursed for officers and employees.

Policy text is amended to inform the general public that school board members are volunteers

and serve without compensation to help remedy a common misconception that school board members are paid. The rest of the policy outlines the logistics of implementing the new law.

The policy was brought to the Board for a first reading and discussion on February 7.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to Board Policy 2:125.

Roll Call:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Resolution Regarding Reimbursement of Board Members for Expenses**

Dr. Hall reported that along with the revision of board policy 2:125, the Board of Education must pass a resolution regulating how travel, meal and lodging expenses are reimbursed for officers and employees.

The resolution was brought to the Board for a first reading and discussion on February 7.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for Board Policy 2:125.

Roll Call:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda –**

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

Approve Personnel Report  
Approve Minutes of the February 7, 2017, Committee of the Whole – Facilities Meeting; February 7, 2017, Regular Meeting; February 7, 2017, Closed Session; February 9, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting and the February 9, 2017, Committee of the Whole Closed Session.

Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 2-10-17</b>	<b>Bills 2-17-17</b>	<b>Payroll 2-17-17</b>
Ed. Fund	\$134,492.42	\$7,591.42	\$498,246.00
Bldg. Fund	17,128.34	--	30,723.61
Trans. Fund	18,145.43	--	14,536.89
Payroll Account Payable	--	--	467,143.86

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 8:48 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, 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 9:06 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

Motion by President Bernier, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

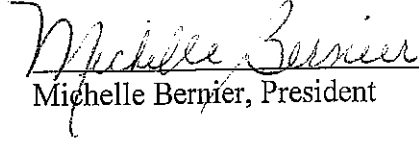
Respectfully submitted,

February 21, 2017

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Shaun Bill, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Bernier", written above a horizontal line.

Michelle Bernier, President