

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 15, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 15, 2017, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tom Neeley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin
Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports –

Administrative –

State Budget Update –

Dr. Hill reported that the State Senate voted to override Governor Rauner's amendatory veto of Senate Bill 1. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives. Dr. Hill noted that of the proposals, Senate Bill 1 is the most favorable to Morton Schools.

Dr. Hill reported that the third categorical payment was received last week from the State for transportation and special education.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hill reported that the Lincoln and Grundy gym floors have been lined and Brown's floor will be lined soon. All new classrooms are ready for the students' first day of school on Wednesday, August 16.

President's Report –

President Neeley set a Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting for Thursday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion Items –**Gridiron Club Ad Proposal –**

Dr. Hill noted that the Board of Education began discussion on this topic at its August 1st meeting. After consultation with legal counsel, Dr. Hill recommended that the Board approve the proposal with the following revisions:

- The MHS administration would determine signage style, size and location
- Proceeds would go to the athletic department and be dispersed in one of two ways:
 - 100% to be divided among all athletic programs
 - 50% to the Football team, and 50% to the athletic department to be divided among the other programs.

Athletic Director, Scott Jones, conveyed to the Board that he assesses which team(s) are in need of funds when donations are made available.

Review and Discuss Board Goals - Finance -

Dr. Hill reviewed the Board Goal - Finance 2016-17 : Support student learning (which includes achievement, climate, facilities, communication) in an efficient and cost effective manner.

- The district will assume conservative financial projections in revenues and expenses in order to maintain fund balances and provide contingencies for the future, as evidenced by the following actions:
 - The district will maintain a balanced operating budget on a yearly basis.
(Excepting major capital projects in excess of \$500,000)*
 - The district will maintain and review financial projections with a 3-5 year outlook*
 - The district will maintain the highest financial rating as determined by ISBE*
- The district will seek out opportunities for financial partnerships with local businesses/corporations and other governmental entities as well as seeking alternative revenue sources.
- The district will continue forward progress with fiscal responsibility, taking into consideration that implementing new programs must be balanced with the ability to sustain those programs financially.
- The administration will strive to communicate financial and budgetary information in a clear, concise, regular and informative manner so that our taxpayers are informed and apprised of board level decision making.

Dr. Hill noted that meeting with public entities is an ongoing process and he will continue to encourage community partnerships when feasible.

Dr. Hill discussed proposed revisions he made to the Board goals. His purpose is to give more description to each goal. He asked Board members to review the revisions over the next two weeks in order to take action at the September 5th meeting. Dr. Hill will review them with the Leadership Team for input.

Action Items –

Approve Tentative 2017-2018 Budget and Schedule Public Hearing–

The District Administration has prepared the Tentative Budget for 2017-2018 and reviewed it with the Board of Education on July 11, 2017. There have been a few changes made to shift some budgeted items between accounts, but there has been no change to the bottom line. The administration recommends that the Board approve the Tentative Budget, put it on display for thirty days and set the Budget Hearing date for September 19, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Tentative Budget, place it on display for thirty days, and schedule a budget hearing for September 19, 2017, at 7:15 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bus Lease –

Dr. Hill reported that the District has decided to lease five additional buses this year in a continuing effort to lower the average age of the District's vehicles and to lower maintenance costs. Presently the District owns 15 large buses (that range in age from 1 year to 10 years) and 16 small buses (that range in age from 1 year to 14 years). The average age of the large buses is 5.1 years and the average mileage of the large buses is 66,000 miles. The average age of the small buses is 6.8 years and the average mileage is 59,400. The annual bus maintenance costs are budgeted to be \$155,000 for this fiscal year. Bus pricing was obtained from Midwest Bus Sales and then lease quotes were obtained from three leasing companies to lease three 2018 84-passenger Thomas buses, one 2017 24-passenger Thomas wheelchair lift bus and one 2017 14-passenger Thomas Bus. The leases were all priced using a 5 - year lease term and the District will own the buses at the end of the lease. The following buses are being traded for the new vehicles:

- Bus 12 – 2007– 114,000 miles
- Bus 17 – 2009– 94,000 miles
- Bus 20 – 2007 – 104,100 miles
- Bus 25 – 2010 – 83,700 miles

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

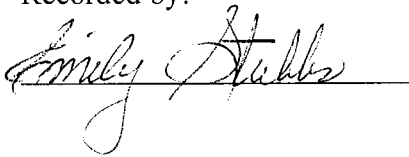
Adjournment -

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

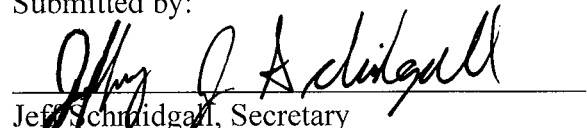
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

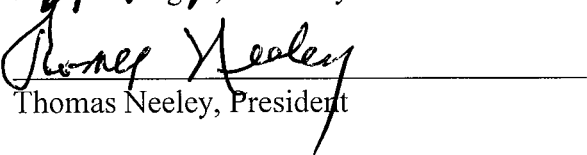
Recorded by:



Submitted by:



Jeff Schmidgall, Secretary



Thomas Neeley, President