

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 6, 2007, at the District Office.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Ron Hale, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Gary Rassi

Members Absent: Mr. Tom Neeley

Closed Session -

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Zimmerman, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:	Yea 6	Nay 0
-----------------	-------	-------

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:	Yea 6	Nay 0
-----------------	-------	-------

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:58 p.m.

Adjournment –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Rassi, that the closed session meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:	Yea 6	Nay 0
-----------------	-------	-------

Motion carried. The closed session meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Cindy Zimmerman, Mr. Hale,
Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Gary Rassi

Member Absent: Mr. Tom Neeley

Pledge of Allegiance –

The Board of Education recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Russell introduced Ms. Brooke Merker to the Board of Education. She is the Interim Administrative Assistant at the high school for the second semester of 2006-2007. Mrs. Menold welcomed her. She also introduced Mr. Doug Riddle and Mr. John Applen who are candidates running for the school board in April.

Audience Presentations –

There were no audience presentations.

Reports –

Administrative –

Dr. Russell invited the Board members to the February inservice being held at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center beginning with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the theater featuring the presentation of the Master Potter Award. A schedule will be e-mailed when it is finalized.

709 Recognition of Instructional Aides -

Dr. Russell reported that the Instructional Aide Staff is being recognized during the month of February.

Band Trip -

Dr. Russell reported that the high school band has requested that the Winter Guard be allowed to attend a competition in La Porte, Indiana, March 31 and April 1, 2007. They have completed the required paperwork and the high school administration is recommending approval. The request will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at the February 20, 2007, meeting.

School Highlights -

Dr. Russell noted the school highlights submitted by the Principals that were included in the Board packets. He noted that the 7th grade boys' basketball team will be playing for 3rd or 4th place on Thursday, February 8, at Olympia High School. Dr. Russell commended the players and students for their good behavior and sportsmanship he witnessed at the previous games in the tournament. Mr. Crider invited the Board members to the game and to a celebration afterwards at the Pizza Ranch in Morton.

Mrs. Menold thanked the Principals for submitting their school highlights.

Board Committees –**President's Report -**

Mrs. Menold noted as part of the policy that the board visit the schools on a two year cycle for the school improvement plans, the board assignments are as follows: Mr. Hale, Brown School; Mr. Neeley, Grundy School; Mr. Rassi, Jefferson School; Mrs. Overcash, Lincoln School; Mrs. Zimmerman, Jr. High School; Mrs. Kaiser, High School. School Improvement Plan reports will be given in May.

Mrs. Menold reported that at the School Board Convention, she learned that the school board association is no longer lobbying for Gifted Education. She noted that there is interest from several school districts to adopt a resolution to ask the association to again begin lobbying for Gifted Education. Mrs. Menold asked for anyone interested in being a part of the process, to let her know. She also asked for administrative input. Dr. Kilpatrick added that he recently heard from representatives from Dunlap that they are also interested in putting together a resolution.

Mrs. Menold reported that there is an opening in Engaged Learning for a Board member on the technology sub committee. Anyone interested in volunteering for this committee should contact Mrs. Menold.

Public Relations –

Mrs. Kaiser noted that the public relations report was included in their packets.

Policy Committee -

Mrs. Menold reported that she and Dr. Kilpatrick met recently to review parts of sections 3 and 5 of the policy manual. They are mainly making legal changes at this time. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that he has reviewed the policies with one of our attorneys.

Mrs. Menold noted that the policies will be distributed to the Board and the MEA representatives on the policy committee prior to the February 20 meeting for the first reading. The Board will have thirty days to review the policies after that meeting.

Personnel Committee –

Mrs. Overcash noted that the Personnel Committee report is included in their folders tonight. She also mentioned that she appreciated the time Dr. Russell and Dr. Kilpatrick spent with her in their meeting earlier in the day.

Action Items –**Second Reading and Approval Board Policy Section 8 (Excluding Section 8:30) –**

Dr. Russell reported that a review and revision of the various board policies of Section 8 – “Community Relations” are being submitted back to the Board of Education for a second reading and approval. He noted that there is a policy in Section 8 related to Sex Offenders (8:30), and that this policy is being further reviewed by legal counsel. That particular policy will be presented to the Board in the near future.

Motion by Mr. Rassi, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading and adopt these policies of Section 8 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approving and Signing Minutes of the December 5, 2006, Regular Meeting.

Personnel Report, February 6, 2007.

Approval of Bill and Payrolls.

	Bills 1-26-07	Payroll 1-19-07
Ed. Fund	\$86,938.77	\$348,517.13
Bldg. Fund	66,898.30	27,324.18
Trans.Fund	18,182.21	8,901.04
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	316,956.08
Fire & Safety	--	--

Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
Life Safety Amendment – Lincoln Elementary and Morton High School.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the Life Safety Amendment is for removal of asbestos floor tile and replacement in the hallways at Lincoln School this summer. In addition, we are planning on removing the asbestos ceilings and floor tile in the Illinois Street hall in the high school over a 3-year period of time.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Reports –

Administrative –

Dr. Russell reported that the Central Illinois Valley Division of IASB will have their next meeting on Wednesday, March 7, in Washington, IL. He noted there is a session for potential new board members, and that we will want to invite our two Board candidates to attend the meeting. Dr. Russell mentioned that the IASB also provides information for potential new board members that we will want to access for our candidates.

Mrs. Menold asked that the board candidates begin receiving parts of the Board member packets prior to upcoming board meetings.

Board President –

Mrs. Menold reported that John Cassel will be contacted to set up a time for him to meet with the Board members, possibly in March and then again in August. She hopes to have options of dates ready for the February 20 meeting.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Zimmerman, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:29 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Zimmerman, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:41 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Zimmerman, Secretary

Linda M. Menold, President