



# MORTON

## UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

September 20, 2022

#### Administrative Reports—

##### ◆ Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- ⇒ Dr. Smock thanked Mr. Saunders and the staff at Grundy for an excellent dinner and presentations to the Board of Education showcasing the many good things happening at Grundy School. They did a fantastic job!
- ⇒ Dr. Smock noted it is a full Homecoming Week. He reflected on the great job our administration and teachers do keeping students focused on learning during Pumpkin Festival, Homecoming and other busy weeks.
- ⇒ Friday (9/16) was an early release for students. Wellness is a focus this year. After all the staff has been through with Covid, administration felt it was important to give staff an opportunity to connect and reconnect. Building relationships across the district and with new staff, too. We had bags games, pickle ball, walking and talking. There were food trucks for staff to purchase food. Many helped prepare and plan for the day. In a post-Covid world, we need to reconnect. It is one of our initiatives. The event was a success.
- ⇒ We have submitted the annual Textbook and Material Report prepared by Dr. Teater. Administration presents all of the curriculum materials to the board every year so they are aware of what we are using in our classrooms. Dr. Teater was present to answer a few questions from board members. Mr. Neeley asked about the cost of purchased books compared to rentals. Dr. Krall asked about the current textbooks aligning with standards. Dr. Teater noted that the newer textbooks quite often align better, but there are older textbooks that still align very well with standards. Dr. Teater mentioned the Quaver music curriculum has been really good. Dr. Smock did some quick math showing that the fees charged do not cover the cost of the technology and materials provided to each student.

##### ◆ School Board President —Mr. Braker

- ⇒ President Braker thanked the Grundy School staff for the great meal and the presentation. He remarked that he could see the excitement and love of learning. The Board enjoyed their visit.
- ⇒ The Board has received some applications for filling the empty Board seat. The Board is in the process of filling the Board vacancy. The plan is to seat someone in the October 4, 2022, Board Meeting.

#### Discussion Items —

- ⇒ The concrete has been poured for new bleachers at the girls softball field. The Board granted the go ahead to seek bids for the bleacher project. Dr. Smock was encouraged by the preliminary price quoted. We would be hopeful to have seating in place by spring. Mr. Rudd noted the bleacher quote was much less than last year. Stadium seating is in the price as an option. Dr. Smock noted we have stadium seating at the baseball field and we would like to see it at the softball field, too. Dr. Krall asked about the plan being accessible to all. Dr. Smock said it would have accessibility with ramps, stairs and other features for accessibility. The updates would allow us to host post-season play for softball.

#### Action Items —

- ◆ The Board of Education approved the updated, new, renamed and revised policies.

**Next Meetings— September 27, 2022 at MEAC, 5:30p.m.—Special Closed Session Meeting of the Board of Education**

**October 4, 2022, Reg. Meeting, MEAC, 5:30 p.m.**

**October 18, 2022 Building Meeting at Jefferson School at 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, MEAC, 5:30 p.m.**

*Valerie Smith—*

*Administrative Assistant to Superintendent/School Board  
Morton Unit School Dist. 709*

*If you wish to learn more about a subject, you may view an archived broadcast of the meeting on [MP-TV](#) available on the District website, and/or watch our website for posted minutes after being approved by the Board of Education.*