

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JANUARY 13, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 13, 2009, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser,
Mr. John Applen, Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. Gary Rassi, Mr. Doug Riddle

Pledge of Allegiance –

The Board of Education recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports –

Administrative –

National Certified Teachers -

Dr. Kilpatrick and Mrs. Menold presented certificates to teachers Heather Hochstettler, Scott Lynn, and Shelley Reichert in recognition of their designation as National Certified Teachers. Each one explained the rigorous process involved for this designation.

709 Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Certified Staff is being recognized during the month of January. He encouraged those in attendance to send comments through the accolades section on the District website.

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the principals' school highlights were included in board member packets. He pointed out that the "Den" at Brown School is nearing completion. It is a room that will be used for RtI students that was transformed with grant funds from Verizon obtained by Teri Horner, reading specialist at the school.

Mrs. Menold commended all the fundraising and student service projects that took place in all of the buildings in December prior to the holidays. She expressed her appreciation to the principals for the highlights each month.

Annual Enrollment Projections –

Dr. Kilpatrick updated the Board of Education on the annual enrollment projections. He pointed out that Dr. Teater had just started researching these particular projections last year. The enrollment projections go through the year 2013 and appear to be fairly stable. Using live birth rates to project kindergarten enrollments, there seems to be no large increase in students.

Technology Credit –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that since 2004, students are required to have ½ credit in technology for graduation. He will be recommending at a future meeting that Project Lead the Way classes be counted as technology credit.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there was one request for information recently and he has responded to that request.

Board President –

Mr. Applen noted that the December Transportation committee report was included in the Board member's folders tonight. He noted that he included reports that are now being done to track maintenance completed on each bus. Ridership will also be tracked. Mr. Applen also reported that the state funds for transportation that were vouchered in October have not been received.

Mrs. Menold noted that the Policy Compliance Monitoring form for Personnel has been updated and should be replaced in board member's Policy Compliance notebooks.

Discussion Items –

First Reading and Discussion of Policies from Section 2, 4, 6 and 7 -

Mrs. Menold reported that various board policies from Section 2, 4, 6 and 7 are being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from the Illinois Association of School Boards. She noted that a review report was included describing the reason for the revisions. These policies will be brought to the board for approval at a future meeting.

Board Policy Compliance – Instruction Policies –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that as a part of the new policy compliance monitoring practice, a review of the Board Instruction Policies was conducted as part of our annual process. After review, Dr. Kilpatrick has determined that the school district is in compliance with

these policies. He will sign the compliance form and place it in the Policy Compliance Manual at the District Office. Mr. Neeley suggested that the compliance forms be added to the Board of Education website.

Action Items –

Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Selected Board Policies – Personnel

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that selected policies from Section 5 are being recommended for adoption in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from legal counsel.

Motion by Mr. Rassi, second by Mr. Neeley that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading of Board Policies 5:35, 5:90, 5:150, 5:240, 5:250 5:290 and 5:330 and adopt these policies as presented and revised.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2009 – 2010 School Calendar –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that discussion has been conducted with the Administrative Council and the District Calendar Committee concerning the 2009-2010 school calendar. (The calendar committee consists of administrative representation from the district office, high school, junior high and elementary levels, and teacher representation chosen by the Morton Educators Assoc.) Several key considerations (i.e., the calendar's impact on student achievement and school attendance, ISAT and/or PSAT testing dates, parent/teacher conferences, the length of the school terms and quarters, final exams, the dates of holidays, proposed calendars of other surrounding districts) are taken into account in the development of our calendar recommendations each year.

Mrs. Menold asked that next year the committee consider concluding finals prior to Christmas break.

Dr. Kilpatrick added that there should be no need for a heat schedule next school year if all goes as planned for the final phase of the air conditioning.

Motion by Mr. Appen, second by Mr. Riddle that the Board of Education approve the school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

PERSONNEL REPORT

January 13, 2009

I. CERTIFIED STAFF

A. RESIGNATIONS

B. VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

C. INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

D. APPOINTMENTS

1. Amanda Graves – substitute teacher
2. Dana Wenger – substitute teacher
3. Tamara Hodel – substitute teacher
4. Sarah Zobrist – substitute teacher
5. Timothy O’Toole – substitute teacher
6. Tara Prather – substitute teacher
7. Tina Owen – substitute teacher

E. REHIRES

F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Dawn Miles – returning to her position as an elementary teacher for the 2009-2010 school year following a one year leave of absence.

G. RETIREMENT

H. DISMISSALS

II. EXTRA-DUTY

A. RESIGNATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS

C. SUSPENSION

D. DISMISSALS

III. SUPPORT STAFF

A. RESIGNATIONS

B. VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

C. INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

D. APPOINTMENTS

1. Sheri Mitchell – part time ECE instructional aide at Jefferson School effective January 14, 2008.
2. Patricia Hall – substitute instructional aide

E. REHIRES

F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

G. RETIREMENTS

H. DISMISSALS