

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 19, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 19, 2021, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Mr. David Cross, Mr. Bart Rinkenberger
Dr. Diane Krall, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Jerry Rudd

Elect Vice President – With the resignation of President Jeff Schmidgall, board policy 2:110 states that the Vice President performs the duties of the President when the office is vacant. Mr. Braker will fill the vacancy, leaving the office of Vice President vacant. The same policy states the Vice Presidency is filled by a special Board election.

President Tim Braker asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the board of Education. Mr. Rinkenberger nominated Dr. Cross to serve as Vice President. There being no other nominations, Dr. Cross was declared Vice President by acclamation.

Action Items –

Approve Resignation of Board Member, Jeff Schmidgall –

At the October 5, 2021, Board of Education meeting, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall announced his resignation as a member of the Morton Unit School District 709 school board effective the following day, October 6, 2021. The resignation must be approved by the remaining school board members prior to filling the vacancy his resignation created.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Board Member Jeffrey Schmidgall effective October 6, 2021, with regrets.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Reports -

Administrative –

Master Board Member Recognition –

Dr. Hill recognized Mr. Neeley for maintaining his standing as a Master Board Member with the Illinois Association of School Boards. He presented Mr. Neeley with a certificate and thanked him for his continued service to the Morton School District as well as the State of Illinois. Mr. Neeley encouraged other board members to be involved in the IASB Board Leader Recognition Program to continuously learn by taking workshops within the program.

6th Grade Wrestling Proposal –

MJHS Athletic Director Chris Carter proposed adding 6th grade boys and girls to the MJHS Wrestling team to provide opportunities to additional students. It will help grow the program that currently struggles to fill a full line up in all weight classes. Current coaches have asked for the addition of 6th graders and the Morton Youth Wrestling program is supportive. Board members agreed to the proposal. Since no additional coaches are needed, a board vote is not required.

District Dashboard Update –

Dr. Hill reviewed the strategy page of the dashboard that is organized by Board goals. Dr. Teater will give an update on the goal of student achievement at the November 2 board meeting.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Hill reported that:

- as of today, there are 2 positive COVID student cases. He expressed his appreciation to parents for keeping their students at home when they are ill.
- there have been 100 new education laws signed during the COVID pandemic. One of them is Public Act 102-0519 which implements an automatic levy increase to be applied by county tax extension officials each year in the amount of the aggregate property tax refunds paid by a taxing district in the prior year for certain types of refunds. This refund recapture authority will apply to three categories of property tax refunds – the issuance of a certificate of error, a court order issued in a valuation tax objection complaint, and a decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB). Many questions remain to be answered as to how this will affect Morton School District and those that file property assessment challenges.
- the Tazewell County Health Department has asked Morton School District to be allowed to survey parents with three questions concerning vaccinating 5-11 year olds. “What high school serves your residence?; Do you plan to have your 5-11 year old vaccinated when vaccines become available to that age group?; Would you utilize your local high school if it is designated a clinic site to receive the vaccine?” The TCHD is attempting to determine where to hold clinics and if they would be utilized. Board members agreed to this request, though they asked that it be made clear to those being surveyed that the District is collecting the information for the health department. It is the desire of the district to ensure parents' privacy and continue to support their right to choose the best course of health care for their students.

President's Report –

Mr. Braker thanked Mr. Schmidgall for his years of service to the school district.

Mr. Braker reported that:

- the Board had met earlier in the evening with teachers from Grundy School. He noted that reports were given from each grade level and department on current projects taking place in the classrooms.

- the resolutions packet for the Delegate Assembly at the School Board Conference is included in board member folders. He asked board members to review the proposals for discussion at an upcoming meeting prior to the Conference in November.
- he hopes to install a new board member from the pool of candidates at the November 2 board meeting. Candidates' letters of interest will be discussed in closed session.

Action Items – Continued -

Approve 2022-23 Proposed Budget and 2021 Tentative Levy –

The Board of Education reviewed the 2022-23 Proposed Budget and 2021 Tentative Levy at its October 5 meeting. This year the proposed levy is under the 5% or more increase threshold, so a notice and hearing are not required. However, a hearing will be held for the purposes of inviting public comment on the levy at the November 16, 2021, Board of Education meeting. The levy resolution will be brought back to the Board for final approval at that meeting.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the 2022-23 Proposed Budget and 2021 Tentative Levy at the CPI rate of 1.4%.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve IASB Delegate and Alternate –

Each year the Board of Education approves the Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Annual Conference Resolutions Committee per Board Policy 2:120.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education appoint Jerry Rudd as Delegate and Tim Braker as Alternate for the 2021 IASB Annual Conference Resolutions Committee.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Krall, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the October 5, 2021, Regular Meeting and the October 5, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

Approve Bills

	Bills 10-8-21
Ed. Fund	\$238,531.65
Bldg. Fund	127,728.40
Trans. Fund	23,612.94

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Neeley reported the Executive Committee of the IASB Board of Directors, of which he is President, met recently. The National School Board Association (MCUSD is not a member) recently sent a letter to President Biden asking for Federal assistance to stop threats and acts of violence against public schools and boards of education. In response, Attorney General Merrick Garland instructed the FBI to take the lead on a task force addressing threats against school officials. State Boards of Education advocate for allowing and encouraging the public to have meaningful input into the decision-making process without interfering with the board’s ability to conduct its business or subjecting individual board members to threats of violence, abuse, or harassment. Dealing with such interference, though, should be handled at the local level, not by federal officials. Mr. Neeley noted there are states threatening to leave the membership of the NASB in light of this situation.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinckenberger, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel, Litigation, and Board Vacancy. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Rinckenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:18 p.m.

Adjournment –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd, that the meeting be adjourned.

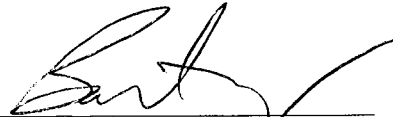
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

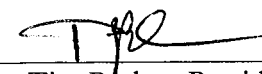
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Tim Braker, President