

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

December 14, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 14, 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 5:34 p.m.

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

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

Dr. Hill reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

Student Support Services Report -

Director of Student Support Services, Lindsay Franklin, gave an update. The goal of Student Services is to have a continuum of services to meet the needs of students in the least restrictive environment possible. She reported on special education student and staff numbers; continuum of services for the Early Childhood program; RISE program; LIFE Academy; Social/Emotional Learning program; Morton Academy; outplacements; Multilingual program; and nursing care. She reported on staffing and space needs along with a cost analysis. The entire presentation may be viewed [here](#).

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported:

- on the district's current legal situation. Morton 709 is named in a lawsuit along with 145 other school districts from Illinois for following the Governor's orders. The case will be heard in Sangamon County and more should be known in January.
- MHS has three skilled trade apprenticeships - Morton Industries, Grimm Chevrolet, and Lighthouse Buick. Participating students will earn a certificate that will make them marketable after completing the apprenticeships.
- in an effort to provide a less invasive test for our staff, SHIELD has been pursued as a vendor for testing. One of their requirements is that we test some students. Only students who have to be tested for some other reason (for ICC for instance, or an employer) could be tested. He stressed this would only be done on a voluntary basis.
- Jamie Adolphson was selected as Central IL Region Assistant Principal of the year by the

IL Principal's Assoc.

- 1st semester highlights include: Morton Band Grand Champions in their class at the ISU Invitational; Boys and Girls Cross Country at State meet; JH Baseball at State; MHS Football in final four; 7th Gr. Girls Basketball at State; MHS Girls Basketball are currently state ranked and undefeated; MHS Yearbook staff received a Gallery of Excellence award; US News ranked MHS #91 in Illinois and MJHS #60; NICHE ranks Morton 709 the 10th safest school district in Illinois; District is in good financial shape; hired new Assistant Superintendent to begin July 1, 2022.

President's Report –

Board members shared feedback from their attendance at the Joint Annual Conference in November. All expressed their appreciation to the school district for the opportunity to attend and connect with other board members from around the state.

Discussion Items –

Policy 7:40 – Non-public School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students/Extracurricular Participation -

Board members again discussed this policy that addresses parochial and home schooled students' extracurricular participation in public schools. The district currently requires attendance for at least half of the regular school day to participate. More information was gathered since the first discussion in November and it was decided to continue with the current policy.

2022-2023 School Calendar –

Dr. Smock reported that a meeting of the calendar committee was held on November 2. The committee has administrative representation along with teacher representation chosen by the Morton Education Association. An attempt is made to balance the two semesters as closely as possible. The final recommendation will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at the January 18 meeting.

New Course Proposals for Morton High School –

The following courses are being recommended by the high school. Dr. Teater reported the courses are to be implemented at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The classes have been reviewed by the MHS Honors Committee, Teaching and Learning Council, and has been discussed and approved by the District's Leadership Team. He noted he does not anticipate the need for additional teachers for these courses. They will be brought to the Board as an action item at the January 18 meeting.

- AP Psychology

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BKJoAURKVjXGVySOt1NwnGdLoSh-PHxDxBK38fm5ad0/edit?usp=sharing>

- Broadcast Journalism

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ykAiPmymWowEFCZtTHyceQODaVj9OGE6pxMxpsODyfg/edit?usp=sharing>

- Intro to Skilled Trades

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fJM6YiLDwgdz9x2p0WnnUu35pydJLz7KsBL4pX1Wx_Q/edit?usp=sharing

- College Prep Algebra with Trig

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m5Q47gi8ez1KnVB8rbCoLmcZ9lZMoG3rnJxU0OB5gaU/edit?usp=sharing>

Action Items –

Approve Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joe Sander –

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Joe Sander as Assistant Superintendent of Morton Unit School District 709 effective July 1, 2022.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Revision of Board Policies –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the revision of policies from Sections 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 as recommended by PRESS Policy Service.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Property Tax Relief Grant Submission –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the application for the Property Relief Grant.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Fee to the Law Offices of Featherstun, Gaumer, Stocks, Flynn, & ECK, LLP

Approve Minutes of the November 16, 2021, Regular Meeting, and the
November 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 11-19-21	Bills 12-03-21	Payroll 11-12-21	Payroll 11-26-21
Ed. Fund	\$568,624.78	\$40,295.16	\$843,207.62	\$877,923.81
Bldg. Fund	129,240.07	63,838.67	47,363.58	47,872.69
Trans. Fund	5,950.15	10,313.76	25,146.47	23,899.99
IMRF Fund	--	--	48,393.42	50,506.37

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:46 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:40 p.m.

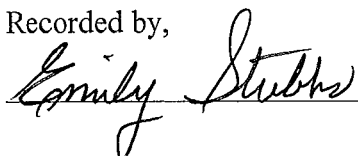
Adjournment –

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the meeting be adjourned.

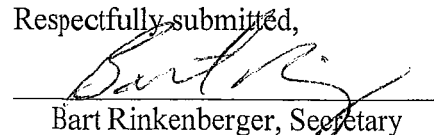
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

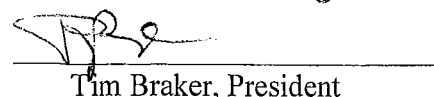
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Tim Braker, President