

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 8, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 8, 2022, 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 were two Freedom of Information requests that have been fulfilled. The information is available on the district website.

SEL Report -

Student Support Services Director Lindsay Franklin gave a presentation on Social-Emotional Data. Information compared the 19-20, 20-21, and 21-22 school years for number of – in school suspensions; out of school suspensions; office referrals; behavior plans; check-in/check-out at MJHS and MHS; students withdrawn from school due to SEL concerns (homeschooled); Tier II and Tier III SEL supports; admissions to hospital for SEL reasons; days of hospitalization; and the cost of hospital stays. Mrs. Franklin explained how the three tiers focus on academic and behavioral strategies in the general education setting.

Potter Hour Update –

MHS Principal Deidre Ripka updated the board on Potter Hour. She explained the history of Potter Hour that began in the 2019-2020 school year. She explained the activities for the current school year and a survey that was given to students and teachers on the pros and cons of Potter Hour. Plans for the future include SEL programming, academic intervention, and Potter Mentors.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill:

- reported administrators are continuing to monitor COVID-19 numbers, but have discontinued the weekly chart due to low numbers.
- congratulated the MHS Lady Potters and Coach Becker on their 3rd place finish at the

IHSA State Basketball tournament. He noted his appreciation for Mrs. Ripka, Mr. Jones, Mr. Herrmann, Mr. Prichard, and resource officer Aaron Rowe for their assistance with student fans at the games.

- congratulated Dr. Lee Hoffman who will be leaving the school district at the end of the school year to assume a new position as a leadership consultant. He thanked him for his dedication and leadership at Morton Jr. High School.

President's Report –

Mr. Braker also congratulated the Lady Potters on their incredible year.

Discussion Item –

First Reading and Discussion of New and Revised Policies –

A revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB PRESS services and legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions were presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board. Dr. Hill noted that policies 6:50 and 6:135 were tabled by the committee at this time for further study. The district will not be moving forward on policy 6:60. There is a reference in the policy to the National Sex Education Standards, but since the district does not have comprehensive sex education curriculum, it is not required to teach these standards.

Action Items –

Approve OCR Resolution Agreement –

Morton District 709 is entering into a resolution agreement with the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) concerning Title IX compliance. The agreement provides that the District will provide for Title IX training for certain administrators, conduct a school wide survey concerning athletic interests and assess and report to OCR on existing programs, facilities, and equipment over the next two years. The agreement contains no finding or admission of wrongdoing or District non-compliance with Title IX. The Office of Civil Rights has concluded its investigation at this time.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rinkenberger that the Board of Education approve the OCR Resolution Agreement.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Nania Energy Services Agreement –

Becky Thompson of Nania Energy Advisors presented to the board at its February 8, 2022 meeting. Nania would conduct a live reverse auction to obtain the lowest electricity rates for Morton 709. If the Board approves, the next steps would involve a service agreement between Morton 709 and Nania Energy Advisors. Nania would conduct an initial analysis of accounts and qualifying RFP for suppliers as well as the approval of auction price threshold and execution of agreements on auction day. Nania Energy Providers are paid by the

suppliers, so there is no upfront cost for school districts to work with them. The District has received an estimate of potential savings using average historical data of other Illinois public school districts who have completed live auctions. While electricity rates may vary until the live auction occurs, at this time the potential cost containment would be \$40,337/year, or a 19% savings, for a 42 month contract when compared to current IEC rates.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education approve entering into a 1-year service agreement with Nania Energy Advisors.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Treasurer’s Reports
- Approve Summer SOAR Program
- Approve MHS Summer School – APEX
- Approve Summer Challenge Program
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Boys Tennis – 4/29-30; MHS Student Council – 5/5-7
- Approve Minutes of the February 22, 2022, Regular Meeting, and the February 22, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 2-25-22	Payroll 2-4-22	Payroll 2-18-22
Ed. Fund	\$260,651.31	\$849,595.16	\$846,785.96
Bldg. Fund	330,862.46	48,334.68	46,711.36
Trans. Fund	19,056.29	24,320.89	22,385.15
IMRF Fund	--	43,873.99	42,430.97

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:40 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:35 p.m.

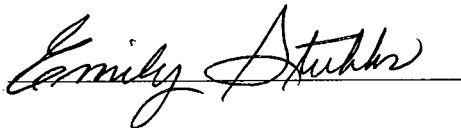
Adjournment –

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

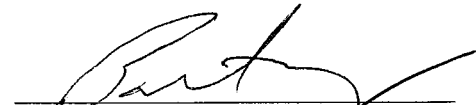
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Tim Braker, President