

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 12, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 12, 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, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Jerry Rudd

Member arriving late: Mrs. Amanda Leman – 7:25 p.m.

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information -

Dr. Hill reported there was one Freedom of Information request that has been fulfilled. The information is available on the district website.

Teaching and Learning Update -

Dr. Teater gave a presentation on the Standards Driven classroom and how curriculum, instruction, and assessments are aligned to Standards. He also shared the Fall-Winter MAP Growth Summary for 3-6 ELA and Math; and, 9-11 SAT Growth Summary ELA and Math. Dr. Hill added that monthly early dismissal professional development meetings and the investment in Literacy Coaches have paid off.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill:

- noted that at the April 26th Board of Education meeting, he will be reporting on facility needs for the future and offer optional financial scenarios.
- reported several bills have been passed by the Illinois legislature concerning education. Those include school construction; food services; property tax omnibus package; curriculum requirements; restricting academic assessments; substitute flexibility; lowering paraprofessional age requirements; remote learning assessment plans; interpreters; due process 504 plans; funding emergency residential placements; evaluations; professional development requirements being reduced; employee mental health and bereavement leave; employment verification; government efficiency and organization; sick time for COVID vaccinated teachers - administration is awaiting further information on how to implement.

Action Items –

Approve MJHS Bowling and Golf –

At its March 22, 2022, meeting, the Board of Education discussed the possibility of offering Interscholastic Bowling and Golf at Morton Jr. High School. Due to the popularity and success of the current golf and bowling intramural programs, Morton Junior High School would like to create two interscholastic programs by separating each of our current intramural golf and bowling programs into two separate opportunities: intramural and interscholastic. By separating these programs, both experiences will be expanded and improved. Students in both programs will benefit by each season being lengthened and through receiving additional instruction. General team member expectations would mirror that of all other interscholastic teams, e.g., baseball, volleyball, basketball. Intramural expectations will continue unchanged.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross that the Board of Education approve Interscholastic Bowling and Golf at Morton Jr. High School

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Tuition Student – 2nd Year –

The Board of Education in the past and by Board Policy has allowed non-resident students to attend school in the district on a tuition basis. A Morton student’s family moved out of Morton School District during the summer of 2021. The student attended Morton High School during the 2021-2022 school year as a Freshman. The parents are seeking approval for the student to continue to attend Morton High School as a Sophomore on a tuition basis for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the student requesting to attend Morton School District for the 2022-2023 school year on a tuition basis paying the maximum amount allowed by State law.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Algebra 3 Textbook –

The textbook selection committee is recommending *Algebra and Trigonometry: Real Mathematics, Real People 7e* for the College Prep Algebra with Trigonometry course. There has been a growing need for a fourth year standard level mathematics course at Morton High School that would allow seniors who have completed Algebra Two Standard an option for a fourth year of mathematics education that does not require them to take Honors Pre-calculus or Honors AP Statistics. This course would also be appropriate for juniors who have completed Algebra Two Standard during their sophomore year, who are not yet ready to take Honors Pre-calculus. *Algebra and Trigonometry: Real Mathematics, Real People*, would provide a bridge for these juniors that would allow them to have an additional year of preparation of extending and deepening their algebraic knowledge and skills, while simultaneously introducing them to new topics that will be developed more fully in the Pre-

calculus Honors curriculum. This new text would provide for the needs of both students looking to enter into post-secondary education as well as preparing other students for the challenge of an honors mathematics course for their fourth year at MHS. This textbook was introduced to the Board of Education at its February 22 meeting and has been on display for 30 days on the District Website.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Dr. Krall, that the Board of Education approve the College Prep Algebra with Trigonometry textbook to be used starting the 2022-2023 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Threshold for NANIA Electrical Rate –

The administration is recommending the bidding of electricity due to increase in energy pricing. The market continues to escalate amid supply shortages and economic uncertainty, and the market is not expected to return to normal levels for quite some time. To minimize the costs, NANIA Energy will host a live reverse auction on April 13, 2022. NANIA has collected sealed bids to qualify suppliers for the live reverse auction, and we anticipate a very robust competition during the live event.

NANIA received sealed bids from nine suppliers, with the average rates creating a price threshold of \$.09214 for a 1 year term, \$.08610 for a 2 year term, \$.08303 for a 3 year term, and \$.08234 for a 4 year term.

NANIA Energy Advisors representative Becky Thompson presented the sealed bid qualifying round results and answered board member questions. Board members expressed their preference of a 2-year term, but will wait to see the results of the auction.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Rinkenberger, that the Board of Education approve the threshold rates as presented, allowing the district administration to sign a contract if the energy rate falls at or below the threshold terms.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Bus Bid –

A new special education bus with a lift is needed to help transport special education students. Administration is opting to utilize ESSER III funds to purchase the new bus.

The bid opening for the Special Education bus was held on April 7, 2022. The District received a bid from one company – Midwest Bus Sales. The bid was \$124,278.

Mr. Braker noted he will be voting against, as he does not approve of receiving just one bid for purchases or projects.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education accept the bid from Midwest Bus Sales in the amount of \$124,278 for the purchase of the new special education bus.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 1 (Braker) Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property –

This resolution allows our district legal counsel to provide intervention at the PTAB regarding the assessment of property – Kroger, Inc. for tax year 2021.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the resolution allowing for intervention regarding assessment of property by district legal counsel.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Approve Cropper Enrollment Study and Building Capacity Study –

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education accept the proposal from Cropper to perform a demographic and school capacity/utilization study.

This proposal has been developed as a response to Morton Unit District 709’s (district) request for demographic and capacity/utilization study services. Cropper GIS Consulting (Cropper) has worked with the district on projects over the past several years, including a school capacity/utilization study and demographic study in 2014 and a demographic study in 2018. Their forecasts have been tracking accurately but there is a need to update the study given the impacts on housing and enrollment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the district has made physical changes/updates to various schools within the district since 2014 and is considering having Cropper perform an updated capacity/utilization study.

After following up with the board's question regarding the capacity of the school architect to do this type of work, the administration is recommending that the district accept the proposal from Cropper. The option of in person or virtual presentation and the costs associated is still to be determined.

Mr. Rudd stated the capacity/utilization study is not necessary at this time. He is, however, in favor of conducting the enrollment study. A discussion took place with some agreeing with Mr. Rudd and others in support of conducting both studies. It was suggested that Dr. Hill contact Cropper to determine if the studies could be done in a shorter time frame at a lower cost.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Neeley, that this item be tabled at this time to be brought up at a future meeting. More information will be obtained so the board can better discuss the issue.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Boys Basketball Overnight/Out of State Trips (3)
- Approve 2022-23 Board of Education Meeting Dates
- Approve Minutes of the March 22, 2022, Regular Meeting, and the March 22, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-25-22	Bills 4-8-22	Payroll 3-4-22	Payroll 3-18-22	Payroll 4-1-22
Ed. Fund	\$524,344.17	\$280,394.93	\$832,609.20	\$857,137.38	\$860,886.20
Bldg. Fund	39,143.78	45,440.71	47,612.10	46,825.69	45,840.96
Trans. Fund	10,691.98	126,275.71	22,235.61	26,297.48	27,178.11
TORT	1,834.00	205.00	--	--	--
IMRF Fund	--	--	41,222.45	44,525.46	45,354.49

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

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, and Litigation. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Leman)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:29 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:12 p.m.

Adjournment –

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


Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

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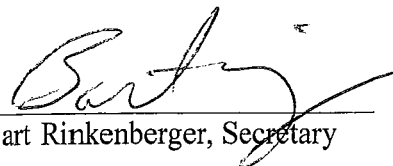
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Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.


Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Bart Rinkenberger, Secretary



Tim Braker, President