

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 26, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 26, 2022, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Public Hearing

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Public Hearing to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

President Braker declared the Public Hearing open for the purpose of answering questions from the public on the Interfund Transfer from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of the District. There being no audience questions or discussion, President Braker declared the hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports -

President's Report –

Mr. Braker reported board members met with the High School staff prior to this meeting. Updates were given by Mrs. Karen Gardner, FCS, Mr. Chad McFarland, IT, and Mr. Corban Williams. They updated the board on certification programs and SkillsUSA.

Discussion Item –

Facilities Planning –

Dr. Hill gave a presentation on Facility Planning Goals that included:

- Assess capacity in all schools to guide decisions toward facilities.

- Continue to update aspects of Morton High School to provide high quality experiences for students, staff, and the community.
- Create/Identify capacity for program growth and enhancement at Morton High School.
- Create/Identify capacity for growth and enhancement of Student Support Services programs.
- Identify multiple financial scenarios to fund facilities priorities.

Next steps include the enrollment/space utilization study by Cropper. The entire presentation can be viewed [here](#) beginning at the 5:00 minute mark.

Action Items –

Approve Chris Carter as Morton Jr. High School Principal –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education approve Chris Carter as Morton Jr. High School Principal effective July 1, 2022.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Smock noted Mr. Carter has proven himself over the years as Assistant Principal at MJHS and is well versed in the culture there. He is looking forward to his leadership.

Approve Cropper Enrollment/Capacity Study -

Mr. Braker asked for a motion to bring back to the table the approval of Cropper/Enrollment/Capacity study that was tabled at the April 12th meeting. Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mrs. Leman, that the approval of Cropper Enrollment/Capacity study be brought back to the table.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Hill reported that after discussion with Cropper GIS regarding the original proposal, he asked them for a revised timeline and cost to better meet the needs of the district. The new proposal includes a price reduction to \$24,300 from \$27,000, which is a 10% reduction, and a timeline of 10-12 weeks to conclude the work once all the information is submitted by Morton 709.

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Krall, that the Board of Education approve the revised proposal from Cropper for an Enrollment/Capacity study.

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

Motion carried.

Approve Tax Abatement for Precision Planting –

The Village of Morton has reached an agreement with Precision Planting for a new development, which includes tax abatement provided by all the taxing bodies in Morton. The abatement schedule is articulated in the agreement with the Village. Dr. Hill noted that our attorney has reviewed the agreement.

Motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the tax abatement for Precision Planting according to the abatement matrix.

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

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Dr. Hill asked that Consent Agenda Item D, Approve Food Service Contract for FY23, be pulled for consideration at a future meeting.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Consent Agenda be approved with the exception of Item D.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Re-Employment of Non Tenure Staff
- Approve Auditor for 2021-22 – CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Approve Transfer of Food Service Funds from Ed Fund to O & M Fund
- Approve Minutes of the April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting; and the April 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills

	Bills 4-15-22	Bills 4-22-22
Ed. Fund	\$14,057.69	\$485,303.19
Bldg. Fund	842.11	77,811.78
Trans. Fund	278.49	2,449.00
TORT	--	14,260.50

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

Motion carried.

A cake reception was held for Mr. Carter prior to closed session.

Closed Session

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

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

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:51 p.m.

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

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

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:28 p.m.

Adjournment –

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


Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Rinkenberger)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.


Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



David Cross, V. President



Tim Braker, President