

OFFICIAL

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 10, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 10, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

Member arriving late: Dr. Diane Krall - arriving at 6:27 p.m.

Member absent: Mr. Bart Rinckenberger

Re-Organization of Board-

Elect President -

Dr. Hill, serving as President Pro Tem, asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Rudd nominated Mr. Braker to serve as President. There being no other nominations, Mr. Braker was declared President by acclamation and he assumed his seat.

Elect Vice President -

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

Elect Secretary -

Mr. Braker asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Rudd nominated Mr. Rinckenberger to serve as Secretary. There being no other nominations, Mr. Rinckenberger was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Time and Place of Regular Meetings Set for 2022-23 School Year-

Regular meetings of the Morton 709 Board of Education are set for the first and third Tuesday of every month. The times are set for 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m as noted on the Board of Education meeting schedule. The first meeting of the month is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the MEAC. The second meeting of the month includes designated building meetings at 5:30 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm at the MEAC.

Audience Presentation- Audience presentations are limited to five minutes.

President Braker opened the floor for audience presentations. Dr. Shawn Durbin shared his perspective on recent interactions with school personnel as well as some previous communications. He read from a variety of communication sources and added personal thoughts.

Reports -

Administrative –

Freedom of Information - Dr. Hill reported on a number of Freedom of Information requests. Some have been answered and posted to the website. Others are still being completed and within the time frame required by board policy .

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Hill

- reported on the district's application to the DoIT Consortium to be considered for an internet upgrade that would pay for and provide a superior internet delivery. Faster and more reliable internet between our buildings would be of no cost as provided by the consortium, saving the district around 35 to 40 thousand dollars. Dr. Teater and Ms. Kolwaski are looking into it with their team. We are hoping it will come into fruition. DoIT Consortium bids on the behalf of schools for various internet and fiber services, awarding to the lowest bidder and paid for through the State of Illinois.
- reported the district has received 3.8 million dollars over the past year from CPPRT. In previous years, the revenue totals ranged between 1.2 and 1.8 million dollars.
- reported on the upcoming sports highlights happening in the weeks ahead.
- synopsis and review of extracurricular success thus far:
 - MHS Boys Football- Conference Champs and final four in the state
 - MHS Boys Soccer- Conference Champs and were in the Elite 8
 - MHS Boys Cross Country- Conference Champs and 3rd place at state
 - MHS Girls Cross Country- Two state qualifiers
 - MHS Girls Golf - One state qualifier
 - MHS Boys Tennis - Two state qualifiers
 - MHS Wrestling - An individual 4th Place at state
 - MHS Girls Basketball- Conference Champs and 3rd place at state
 - Dr. Hill noted a good job by athletic director Mr. Jones and the coaching staff in creating a high quality athletic program.
- reported on new legislation impacting the school district. HB 4243 prevents a school from withholding a student's grades, transcripts or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the school's account. HB 4256 allows school districts to waive the evaluation requirement for a teacher or principal who has received an excellent or proficient rating in the previous year. Effective immediately. HB 4257 reduces the number of required professional development hours for educational licensees for the 2021-22 school year. Tracking and waiting for rules and regulations on those changes.
- MHS Graduation 2022 - Saturday, May 14, 2022at 10:00am at Carper Field weather permitting and indoors if weather becomes inclement.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Smock

- Wednesday, May 18, 3:30-5 p.m. there will be a retirement reception in the Bertha Frank Lobby. We will be recognizing and celebrating 18 district retirees, including Dr. Hill and Emily Stubbs. It is a time to thank them for their many years of service and wish them well in retirement.

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated May 2-6, 2022. Mr. Braker offered thanks and appreciation on behalf of the board for all of the hard work that goes on in every building.

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- offered congratulations to the Morton High School graduating Class of 2022.
- Summer meeting schedule discussion. Proposed one meeting June 7, 2022 and one meeting on July 12, 2022. The Cropper enrollment and facility analysis should be completed by that time to continue facilities discussions. Lisa Kowalski will present the budget at that time. In August, the board will resume the regular meeting schedule on Aug 2, 2022 and Aug 16, 2022. The board will review district goals, climate and communications. In September, the board will review goals met and accomplished; we will also update district strategies and goals.
- Mr. Neeley proposed two meetings in July. One for personnel and one for other back to school business. Mr. Neeley acknowledged there is a tight timeline. The July 12th meeting will be long, due to the number of business items that must be completed. The board acknowledged it would be a very full agenda and discussed options and potential challenges, but preferred to only meet once in July on the 12th. Mr. Neeley thanked the board for considering the option.

Discussion Items –

- Student Handbook Presentation by Dr. Teater
 - Cell phone policy reviewed. Elementary and Jr. High will continue to require cell phones to be restricted during the school day. Out of sight and turned off. The High School policy change allows students to check their cell phones during passing periods and at lunch. The intent is to foster responsible use of cell phones. Dr. Teater reviewed high school cell phone policies in districts similar to Morton 709.
 - The dress code policy was reviewed. The changes are intended to simplify the dress code. Any clothing that is distracting and disruptive to the educational environment would be a dress code violation. Administrative Teams will be responsible for addressing dress code violations.
 - PE exemptions have been changed to match current law.
 - All policies will be reviewed by the school district's attorney to ensure they are in line with the current law.
 - Mr. Neeley asked for clarification about the recipients of the cell phone survey. The cell phone survey was completed by high school staff. Dr. Teater listed several schools, some local, with cell phone policies all similar to the changes being proposed. Dr. Hill commented on the desire to preserve the learning environment as much as possible, the challenges of equitably enforcing cell phone restrictions and the desire to teach students to use cell phones responsibly. He noted that parents do use cell phones to communicate with their students, too. Mr. Braker noted the policy change is more realistic.
 - Mrs. Leman asked for clarification. Exemption from PE for those in activities that exempt the student from PE is by semester.
 - Earbuds were discussed with concerns about impact on hearing in class and concerns about the risk for hearing damage.

Action Items –

Approve Re-appointment of Administrators and Approve Salaries for 2022-23

Dr. Hill asked the Administrators to stand and be recognized for their leadership and dedication during some challenging times. He expressed gratitude for their excellence. He acknowledged their professionalism in response to whatever came their way. Their leadership has served our district well.

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Neeley to approve the re-appointment of the following administrators and that each receive a minimum of 3.0% salary increase for the 2022-23 school year.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Krall and Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

Those approved include Faith Waterfield, Lettie Brown School Principal; Michael Saunders, Grundy School Principal; Kate Wyman, Jefferson School Principal; Julie Horchem, Lincoln School Principal; Michelle Peterson, Lincoln School Assistant Principal; Deidre Ripka, Morton High School Principal; Scott Jones, Morton High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director; Jamie Adolphson, Morton High School Associate Principal; Joshua Prichard, Morton High School Assistant Principal; Todd Herrmann, Morton High School Assistant Principal; Lindsay Franklin, Director of Student Support Services; Amanda Rickenberg, Assistant Director of Student Support Services/Morton Academy Principal; Troy Teater, Assistant Superintendent.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Final 2020-2021 Amended School Calendar
- Approve Food Service Contract for 22-23 School Year
- Approve 2022-23 Fee Schedule
- Approve Building Rental Rates
- Approve January & February Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Full Time Support Staff Salaries
- Approve Minutes of the April 26, 2022 Regular Meeting; and the April 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-6-22	Payroll 4-1-22	Payroll 4-15-22	Payroll 4-29-22
Ed. Fund	\$125,810.81	\$860,886.20	\$768,350.98	\$849,218.51
Bldg. Fund	83,640.48	45,840.96	46,843.58	48,261.48
Trans. Fund	24,547.72	27,178.11	16,799.21	24,572.92
IMRF Fund	--	45,354.49	41,723.27	41,723.27

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Krall and Rinkenberger)

Motion carried.

Closed Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Krall and Rinkenberger)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:15p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Rinkenberger, Krall arrived at 6:27p.m.)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:50 p.m.

Adjournment –

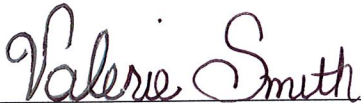
Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Dr. Krall, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie Smith, Board of Education Secretary



David Cross, Vice President



Tim Braker, President