



# MORTON

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## UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

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### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

August 16, 2022

**Audience Presentation—** Morton 709 Board of Education member, Bart Rinkenberger, resigned during the audience presentation. Mr. Rinkenberger has acquired partial ownership of Lighthouse Automotive, Inc. where Morton 709 has been doing business for more than 20 years, long before Mr. Rinkenberger was elected to the school board. When elected, he did not have substantial ownership. Growing his business has made him ineligible to continue on the board. Mr. Rinkenberger, once aware, resigned immediately.

Dr. Smock noted that Bart is a man of moral character and was an outstanding board member. He and other Board members commented that his energy, his passion for kids, and his excellent contributions to our board would be missed.

#### **Administrative Reports—**

##### ◆ Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- ⇒ The Board of Education toured the new S.T.E.M. Labs and updates at MHS. The newly renovated spaces are excellent and the tour was fabulous. Mr. Rodney Schuck and Ms. Deidre Ripka were thanked for their efforts on the projects. MJHS had some second floor updates that Dr. Smock encouraged people to see if they get the chance.
- ⇒ We've had an excellent start to the school year, beginning with the faculty breakfast. He noted thanks for those Board members who were able to attend. Spirits are high with this year feeling more normal. The enrollment numbers are marked on the "6th day". We look to be up 20-30 students, but that could change.
- ⇒ Our auditors have been busy working with the business office. Their final report is expected in October.
- ⇒ Morton Park District's, Joel Dickerson, sent a note of thanks for the use of the golf cart for Morton's Independence Day festivities. Rodney Schuck, Scott Jones and Lene Shumaker were thanked for their efforts.
- ⇒ Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Teater, presented numbers and trends as we compare to ourselves through achievement testing. Test data is reviewed against standards, our own students and students in other districts. MAP testing provides some of the best data. Covid has impacted learning. We look forward to the data that compares us against similar districts in a future report.

##### ◆ School Board President —Mr. Braker

- ⇒ Noted he was impressed at the MHS tour and noted the vacancies needing filled on the Board of Education.

#### **Discussion Items —**

- ⇒ The Final FY23 Budget was discussed. Ms. Kowalski updated some numbers that came in after the initial presentation. The budget is available for review at the District Office and online in the Board Packet for 30 days. The FY23 Budget Hearing will take place September 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

#### **Action Items —**

- ⇒ The E-Learning Plan for 2022-23 was approved. A hearing was held prior to the start of the official meeting for questions. The approved plan will be good for three years. Not every snowy day will be a "Snow Day". It is another tool in our tool box. The plan allows for E-Learning days when necessary. It was noted that having students and staff in school whenever possible is a high priority.
- ⇒ The Back to School Covid Plan for the 2022-23 School year was approved. Healthy students can be in school. There will be no school district directed healthy quarantines. The plan offers parental options that emphasize the role of the parent in managing their child's health and offers some choices for parents with concerns.
- ⇒ The Board approved the Employee Covid Paid Administrative Leave – Memorandum of Understanding with the MEA.

#### **Next Meetings— September 6, 2022, Regular Meeting, MEAC**

**September 20, 2022 at 5:30pm Building Meeting at Grundy School. Regular Meeting, MEAC, 7:00 p.m.**

**October 4, 2022, Reg. Meeting, MEAC, 5:30 p.m.**

*If you wish to learn more about a subject, you may view an archived broadcast of the meeting on [MP-TV](#) available on the District website, and/or watch our website for posted minutes after being approved by the Board of Education.*

*Valerie Smith—  
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Morton Unit School Dist. 709*