

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**September 20, 2022**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held **September 20, 2022**, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting focus included **District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities and Finance**.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

#### **Administrative –**

##### **Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Craig Smock**

- Dr. Smock thanked Mr. Michael Saunders and the Grundy staff preparing an excellent dinner and a great presentation. It was a great reminder of why we are all here. They did a fantastic job!
- Dr. Smock recognized the challenges of trying to keep kids on track for learning with things like Pumpkin Festival, especially Jefferson School. Pumpkin Festival being followed immediately by Homecoming Week this week keeps things busy. He noted that our staff across the district does a great job of teaching even with the challenge of many distractions. He appreciates all teachers and administrators do to keep students on task.
- On Friday (9/16), we continued the tradition of an early dismissal day for students. We had a staff event that included Food Trucks at the High School where the teachers and staff had an opportunity to come together. There were activities including bags, walking, conversing, and pickle ball. Reconnecting after Covid is one of our initiatives, as well as building relationships with newer staff members. Many people helped make it happen. How productive is it? In a post-Covid world, we need to get reconnected. He expressed thanks for all who helped make the day happen.
- Dr. Troy Teater has assembled the Textbook and Materials Report. It is presented to the Board of Education every year so they are aware of what materials are being used in classrooms. Dr. Teater was available for questions. Mr. Braker affirmed with Dr. Teater that there have been no new materials added in the past few months.

The Board of Education asked some questions. Mr. Neeley asked about the cost of purchased books compared to rentals, and noted some books were outdated faster than others. Dr. Smock and Dr. Teater noted this is not an analysis they have completed, but it would be interesting to do that analysis comparing the cost of books versus rentals. Book fees charged do not cover the cost of books and materials.

Dr. Krall asked about the current textbooks aligning with standards. Dr. Teater noted that the newer textbooks quite often align better, but there are older textbooks that still align very well with standards. Dr. Teater mentioned the Quaver music curriculum has been really good. Dr. Smock did some quick math showing that the fees charged do not cover the cost of the technology and materials provided to each student. 6 years of \$45 do not recoup the cost of an iPad.

### **President's Report – Mr. Tim Braker**

- President Braker echoed Dr. Smock's comments, thanking Grundy for their hospitality. It was great to see their passion, enthusiasm, and love for the kids. The staff does a great job of showing what goes on at Grundy. It is exciting to see their enthusiasm. There is collaboration and excitement. They make learning fun. The Board appreciated the great meal.
- The Board received some applications from those interested in the School Board vacancy. The School Board Appointment is in process. The Board has received some applications for filling the empty Board seat. The plan is to seat someone in the October 4, 2022, Board Meeting.

### **Discussion Items—**

#### **Girls' Softball Field Bleachers—**

- Dr. Smock reported the concrete has been poured for bleachers at the girls' softball field. There is a plan for splitting and recycling the old bleachers. We would like to improve bleacher seating at the softball field. Better sightlines and better accessibility with the inclusion of some stadium seating are some of the goals. Dr. Smock was encouraged by the preliminary price quoted. We would be hopeful to have seating in place by spring. Mr. Rudd noted the bleacher quote was much less than last year. Stadium seating is in the price as an option. Dr. Smock noted we have stadium seating at the baseball field and we would like to see it at the softball field, too. Dr. Krall asked about the plan being accessible to all. Dr. Smock said it would have accessibility with ramps and stairs and two points of entry/exit. Like our boys' fields, the updates would allow us to host post-season play for softball. The Board granted the thumbs-up to seek bids for the new bleacher project and the costs associated. Dr. Smock thanked the Board for their support.

### **Action Items—**

#### **Approve Updated, New and Revised Policies—**

- The Board approved the updated, new and revised policies discussed at the September 6, 2022 meeting.

A motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approves the updated, new and revised policies as presented.

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Boys Golf Overnight Trip
- Approve Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Minutes of the September 6, 2022, Regular Meeting; the September 6, 2022, Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 8-26-22 8-29-22</b>	<b>Bills 9-9-22 9-12-22</b>
Ed. Fund	\$190,971.46	\$175,043.05
Bldg. Fund	329,350.72	88,005.85
Trans. Fund	26,040.64	85,287.53
TORT	--	

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

A motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, for the Board of Education, to enter into a closed session for discussion of Board Member Selection, Purchase/Sale of Property, and Personnel. **(5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:19 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 5                    Nay 0    Absent 1 (Dr. Cross left at 8:10)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:27 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

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

Voice Vote:                    Yea 5                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Dr. Cross left at 8:10)

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Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

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Jerry Rudd, Secretary

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Tim Braker, President