

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 4, 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 5:34 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Dr. David Cross,  
Dr. Diane Krall, and Mr. Jerry Rudd Absent: Mr. Tom Neeley  
Mr. Tom Neeley arrived at 5:36 p.m.

#### Action Items—

##### Appointment and Seating of New Board Member—

A motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd to appoint Andrew Roth to the vacant Board of Education seat.

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0

- President Tim Braker led Mr. Roth in the oath of the office. Mr. Roth took his seat seated at the Board of Education Table. Mr. Braker thanked Mr. Roth for his willingness to serve on the Board and his wife and family for sharing him a couple of nights a month.

#### Administrative –

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

- Dr. Smock noted that after Pumpkin Festival and Homecoming weeks, we have one regular week before Columbus Day and Parent/Teacher Conferences. With Homecoming week, students were active and engaged. He thanked the staff and administration for all of their hard work and organization.
- Recognition of the MJHS Baseball Team: Second in State. They will be introduced at the 10/18/22 Board meeting.
- Dr. Smock invited MJHS Principal Chris Carter to share a little about the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the MJHS Help-a-Thon. Pledges are collected and 500 Junior High Students will be dispatched on October 5, 2022, to volunteer in a variety of locations all over Morton. The gather pledges and the students serve. Those who raise the most money get a

second chance at another service experience. They experience volunteerism and they get a t-shirt.

- Dr. Smock invited Ms. Stephanie Brown, the new Staff and Student Wellness Coordinator, to tell a little about her first months in the position. Her first major task was talking to staff. 72 staff volunteered to talk to her by responding to a survey. Ms. Brown interviewed all 72. She asked, “What systems would they like to see us starting, stopping and continuing?” Wellness in teachers helps them pour into their students. Social Emotional Coaching is part of the job. She is working with those who are in SEL roles in the district (i.e.: Social Workers, Psych and Counselors) and with Ms. Lindsay Franklin and Ms. Amanda Rickenberg who lead the Special Support Services team. She provides Professional Development opportunities to staff. She serves on the MTSS team. She led some activities at MJHS. Ever-evolving is Caregiver Resources for parents and families. She is super honored and thankful to be at Morton 709 in this role. Dr. Smock reflected that he has already learned from her and thanked her for her work.
- Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, introduced our accountant, Mr. Adam Jacob, to present an update to the Board about a decision they made regarding our electricity carrier. Mr. Jacob shared a presentation showing the projected savings are already showing the potential for \$102, 373 in savings this year alone. President Braker thanked him for his presentation and noted the Board appreciates how Ms. Kowalski and her team care for our District finances.

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

- President Braker thanked Mr. Roth for being willing to serve and was grateful we had good people willing to the seat on the Board. He stated it was a great feeling knowing there were so many good people willing to serve our school district as a School Board member.
- Mr. Braker noted the girls Golf team is going to State and it is exciting.

#### **Agenda Building—**

- Mr. Neeley requested that the Board have some discussion around the use of iPads. The Board can talk about it with the Administrative team. Mr. Braker added that technology and screen time in general has come up in discussions. Mr. Braker thanked Mr. Neeley for his suggestion for agenda building. The Board recognizes the value, but is concerned about the negative impact on students, too.

#### **Discussion Items—**

##### **2021-22 School District Audit Report — Ms. Lisa Kowalski**

- Ms. Kowalski introduced auditor, Adam Pulley, who presented the result to the Board from the annual Financial Audit completed in June. Mr. Pulley commended Ms. Kowalski for her team’s good work and preparedness. The District was issued an Unmodified (Clean) Audit to our Audited Financial Statements (AFR). The Government Auditing Standards report were Unmodified (Clean), too. ESSER funds and Child Nutrition programs were the single audit reports this year, giving some districts trouble in their audits because it was complicated by the free lunch program last year. Our business office handled it all well. New accounting standards took extra time, but nothing noteworthy. The Morton 709 audit was excellent.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve 2021-22 School District Audit Report
- Approve Resolution for Bus Lease/Purchase with Better Banks
- Approve MHS Overnight Wrestling Trip to Mascoutah, IL
- Approve MHS Overnight/ Out of State Wrestling Trip, Whitewater University, WI
- Approve Minutes of the September 20, 2022, Regular Meeting; September 20, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session; Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting September 27, 2022; Approve Minutes of the Special Closed Session Meeting, September 27, 2022
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 9-23-22 9-26-22</b>	<b>Payroll 9-2-22</b>	<b>Payroll 9-16-22</b>	<b>Payroll 9-30-22</b>
Ed. Fund	\$487,246.40	\$910,168.17	\$896,320.36	\$935,390.52
Bldg. Fund	561,055.68	49,674.48	50,120.48	51,744.61
Trans. Fund	\$10,207.42	26,770.40	26,211.07	8,118.21
IMRF		48,427.38	45,946.16	49,008.66
TORT	\$2,029.99 --			

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    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 **Student Placement and Special Education. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:06 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                    Yea 7                    Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:35 p.m.

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**Adjournment –**

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

Voice Vote:            Yea 7            Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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