



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

October 18, 2022

Administrative Reports—

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- ◆ Dr. Smock introduced the MJHS Baseball team, recognizing their 2nd Place finish at the IESA State Tournament. Dr. Smock noted he has watched the team over the season in the wins and in the losses and “the one thing that was the same in all of those games was the class that you played with.”

MJHS Athletic Director, Scott Hammond, echoed that the team played with class all season long. A second place finish at state is a major accomplishment. Mr. Hammond noted the team’s dedication, hard work and sacrifices. They had exceptional parent support. MP-TV did a great job broadcasting. The entire community, including volunteers had a part in the team’s success. He thanked the coaches for their dedication. They showed it at practices and at games, stating it is the wheelhouse for this coaching staff. They did a phenomenal job.

Coach Crawford addressed the board, thanking them for acknowledging the team and the baseball program. 102 teams started. Finishing 2nd is pretty incredible. They outscored opponents 212-49. They went 22 wins—3 losses, committing only 19 errors in 25 games. They were defensively phenomenal and different guys showed up every night to do what needed to be done. He thanked Coach Brandon Parrott who does so much behind the scenes and the volunteer coaches. The students and coaches were individually congratulated by the Board. The coaches gifted Dr. Smock with a plaque.

 - MJHS Boys Cross Country Team placed 2nd at State last weekend. The Board will meet them soon.
 - A decade of MJHS HELP-A-THONS raising funds and teaching students how to give back to their community.
- ◆ Dr. Smock reported on Morton High School Happenings- The MHS Girls Golf team finished 7th at the IHSA State tournament. Reagan Braker finished 26th and Abigail Nieukirk finished 33rd out of 112 of the best student golfers in the state. Congratulations was offered to the Girls Golf Team.
 - The MHS Boys Soccer Team just clenched the Conference Championship with a 7-0 Conference record.
 - The MHS Marching Band finished as Grand Champion at the Lincoln-Way Marching Invitational, notably finishing ahead of Marian Catholic, a very strong marching band for the first time. They were first in General Effect and Percussion. They scored numbers they have never scored before. The state competition is this weekend.
 - The MHS FFA will be attending the national Convention in Indianapolis.
- ◆ First quarter is over. Parent/Teacher conferences happen this week (10/20/-10/21). We hope to see growth in parents coming out and seeing how their kids are doing.
- ◆ Dr. Smock noted that the 2023-24 Calendar is in progress. The first look for the Board will be in November.
- ◆ It is Principal Appreciation Week. Dr. Smock noted that our Administrative teams have been celebrated across the district this week. We have an outstanding team and they are worth a whole week of celebration.
- ◆ Ms. Jamie Adolphson, MHS Assistant Principal, presented the possibility of piloting a 3-Day Finals schedule at MHS. She presented the schedule, the pros, and the cons. The Board asked several questions. The administration will decide soon if they will pilot the schedule as a test, not a committed change for future years.

School Board President —Mr. Braker

- ◆ Mr. Braker congratulated Mr. Neeley on attaining Legacy Board Member recognition for over 24 years of school board service. He, also, congratulated the MJHS Baseball Team and MHS Girls Golf on their success at State.
- ◆ He thanked Ms. Kate Wyman and the staff at Jefferson School for a great dinner and sharing their enthusiasm for kids and learning. Mr. Braker stated we are extremely blessed in Morton 709 to have the staff, the kids, and the families they come. They create this environment we have where kids have an opportunity to learn and grow.

Discussion Item— Ms. Lisa Kowalski presented the 2023-24 Proposed Budget and 2022 Tentative Levy. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions of Ms. Kowalski. It will be presented for approval on 11/01/22.

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.

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Morton Unit School Dist. 709*