

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

November 15, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held **November 15, 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 7:17 p.m.

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

Administrative –

Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Craig Smock

- November 15th is Board Member Appreciation Day. Dr. Smock offered gratitude for the Board of Education for their leadership. He read notes and thoughts from Lettie Brown, Grundy, Jefferson and Lincoln schools. Students shared their appreciation for the Board of Education. Dr. Smock echoed his appreciation.
- Dr. Smock recognized Mr. Tom Neeley for his 33 years of service on the school board. The Illinois Association of School Boards recognized him as a Legacy Board Member. He is one of only six School Board members from across the State of Illinois to receive this status. Mr. Neeley accepted the award with gratitude for the opportunity to serve with so many great people over the years.
- President's Report – Mr. Tim Braker
- Mr. Braker thanked Lincoln School and Mrs. Horchem for their hospitality, the great meal and seeing what the teachers are doing in their buildings. It is great to see the schools in action and pouring into our students. He stated agreement with Mr. Neeley's remarks that is an honor to serve. He noted it is humbling to see all that the teachers and staff pour into their students. What the Board does is important, but what the teachers and staff do is more important. Morton is a great town and the schools are a big part of what makes Morton a great. He offered thanks and appreciation for the Administration, Teachers, and Staff who do the hard work to meet the goals set for them.
- Mr. Braker offered appreciation for the time taken to interpret and explain to the Board the School Report Card data that does not tell the whole story at first glance. Dr. Smock thanked Dr. Teater for his work.

Discussion Items—

- **School Board Conference Selections—** The Board members shared the topics of the workshops they are planning to attend at the Joint Annual Conference for School Boards in Chicago. There were a broad range of topics offered and the Board shared the ones they plan to attend.
- **IASB Conference Resolution Discussion---** The Board's Delegate to the Assembly, Mr. Rudd, led a round table discussion for Board input on the items that will be under discussion and resolutions to be voted on at the assembly. The Board expressed their thoughts. Mr. Rudd noted the Board's decision on each resolution with permission to be flexible if the discussion brings to light something he knows goes against 709 Board's mission and values. Mr. Neeley gave deeper insights into the process and how it benefits our district. Dr. Smock asked for some further clarification and Mr. Neeley provided answers.
- **Summer 2023 Facilities Project – Rodney Schuck---** The Summer 2023 Facilities was presented by Mr. Rodney Schuck. The Board of Education asked questions and clarified with Ms. Lisa Kowalski- CFO that we would have the funds necessary to cover these necessary projects if we went over budget. We could add items into the 2023-24 budget if necessary. The Board will vote on 12/13/22.
- **Tax Relief Grant Presentation: Lisa Kowalski ---** Ms. Kowalski presented the Property Tax Relief Grant. She asked the Board for permission to apply for the grant again this year. We did not receive it last year. She explained that once we receive the grant, we do not have to reapply. The annual dollars may vary. This year, the FY23 amount is \$877,663. The Board asked questions for clarification. Dr. Smock recommended the Board approve it. The Board will vote on 12/13/22.

School Calendar 2023-24--- Assistant Superintendent, Joe Sander presented the draft of the 2023-4 School Calendar after meeting with the Calendar Committee. The option the committee selected would mean a teacher start date of August 15, 2023 and a student start date of August 16, 2023. The first semester will end before Christmas.

Dr. Sander presented the calendar to the MEA for their input and support. There was MEA discussion about doing Parent/Teacher conferences on different days for the grade schools and the upper grades. The Board listened to Dr. Sander describe what it would look like. The Board asked questions for clarification and understanding. Dr. Sander responded.

The Board liked the later start date in August. Mrs. Leman noted gratitude for the later start date. Mr. Rudd and Dr. Krall asked some questions about the possibility of different P/T conference days. It was noted that childcare might be challenging for some with different P/T conference days. Dr. Krall commented that Spring Break with Easter is good for families to be able to travel and gather for an important holiday.

Dr. Smock noted that we set one calendar at a time, so there is no commitment to the change if it does not work. Dr. Smock reiterated that the Board of Education sets the School Calendar. The 2023-24 School Calendar will come back to the Board for approval on 12/13/22.

Action Items—

Approve Varsity Softball Bleacher Bid –

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd and seconded by Dr. Cross to approve the Varsity Softball Bleacher Bid as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

The motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

President Braker asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented.

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

- Approved Personnel Report
- Approved Treasurer’s Report
- Approved Minutes of the November 1, 2022, Regular Meeting; and the November 1, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approved Bills and Payroll

	Bills 11-4-22 11-7-22
Ed. Fund	\$134,296.80
Bldg. Fund	\$327,079.93
Trans. Fund	\$38,740.73

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:47 p.m. Dr. Cross left at 9:57 PM.

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 (Absent: Dr. Cross)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:10 p.m.

Return to Open Session ---

Mr. Neeley asked if we have places where we can add on to buildings. What is the vision? The Board will look at scheduling a Committee of the Whole in the New Year.

Dr. Smock noted that the Board Room updates are happening. Carpet and other room updates are coming. Also, if the Board has any specific questions about iPads and Technology, please let him know so they can be addressed when Dr. Teater gives his presentation.

Adjournment –

A motion was made by Mr. Braker that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Roth.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent: Dr. Cross

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President