

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**December 13, 2022**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 13, 2022, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting focus included **District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

**LEVY HEARING –**

**Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Tim Braker called the Levy Hearing to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

President Braker declared the Levy Hearing open for the purpose of answering questions from the public on the proposed 2022 Levy. Ms. Lisa Kowalski (CFO) was present to answer questions and report balances at the end of FY22. Ms. Kowalski provided Fund Balances for FY23 Truth in Taxation, on paper and she read them out loud.

<b>2022 Levy Hearing: FY23 Truth in Taxation School Board Meeting – December 13, 2023 All Balances as of 6-30-22</b>	
<b>Education Fund</b>	<b>\$22,504,025</b>
<b>Operation, Building and Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$8,474,873</b>
<b>Bond &amp; Interest Fund</b>	<b>\$153,662</b>
<b>Transportation Fund</b>	<b>\$871,963</b>
<b>Municipal Retirement Fund</b>	<b>\$651,858</b>
<b>Working Cash Fund</b>	<b>\$3,155,145</b>
<b>Tort Cash Fund</b>	<b>\$375,305</b>

There being no audience questions or discussion, President Braker declared the levy hearing closed at 5:37 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call –**

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

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

## **Administrative Reports--**

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

**Recognition of MHS Marching Band** – The Board of Education recognized the MHS Marching Band for its many accomplishments during the fall season. Director Tim Gray introduced section leaders and drum majors that were in attendance at the meeting. At the Illinois State Marching Band Invitational, the band won 1st place in Class 2A (for the 17th straight year) and 1st place Overall Grand Champion with all the classes combined. Mr. Gray thanked the Board of Education and the school district for their support and resources provided to the band. Board members congratulated those present for the band's accomplishments.

**Athletics and Activities Report** – The MHS and MJHS Administrators who oversee Athletics and Activities presented interesting numbers showing high rates of involvement in extra-curricular activities including sports, music, and clubs. Ms. Jamie Adolphson, Mr. Scott Jones, and Mr. Scott Hammond noted that students are driving some of the new offerings. Dr. Sander presented the need for more coaches and sponsors for the growing programs. Dr. Smock and the Board thanked them for their work.

**Faculty and Extra Duty Positions** – Dr. Joe Sander presented the need for hiring extra duty positions. The six classrooms of ECE are nearly full with a semester to go. Morton Academy is stretching and growing to serve as many students as they can. Dr. Sander stated, “It is all about the delivery of services.” We want to meet educational needs and serve students well. The Board inquired about the impact of full classes on teacher retention, how students are identified, potential tuition students, and Covid's impact. Dr. Smock noted there has been a trending need for increased Special Education services in ECE and SEL, even before Covid. Data shows that students who receive early services are more likely to return to the regular classroom. Ms. Franklin and Ms. Rickenberg were recognized for their work gathering data and defining needs.

**Technology in the Classroom Report** – Dr. Troy Teater responded to a Board of Education request to look at the impact of technology on students. Dr. Teater researched and gathered data. He presented on screen time and other technology-related concerns. There are challenges and benefits for students as digital citizens. The Board asked thoughtful questions generating good discussion. Do these devices make achieve more academically? That is difficult to answer, but it prepares them for technology beyond our schools. The Board wants Morton 709 students to be good and well-prepared digital citizens. The data showed lower socioeconomic students spend more time on the screen. Dr. Teater invited the board to contact him with any further questions. The Board expressed appreciation for his work.

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

He and the Board welcomed and congratulated the Band on their successful season. They will have a Facilities Committee meeting coming up soon. February 28<sup>th</sup> will be a Committee of the Whole to discuss Facilities. Policy Committee has their meeting soon.

## **Discussion Items –**

**Illinois Joint Conference Discussion** – The Board of Education discussed the workshops and meetings they attended at the School Board Conference in Chicago. There were a variety of offerings. Mr. Rudd shared feedback from the Delegate Assembly. Members offered feedback on what they saw and learned on various topics related to School Board Leadership.

**Action Items -**

**Approve 2022 Levy Resolution –**

A motion was made by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education approve the 2022 Levy Resolution as presented.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Property Tax Relief Grant Application –**

A motion made by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Neeley that the Board of Education approve submission of the submission of a competitive Property Tax Relief Grant.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Summer 2023 Facilities Projects –**

A motion made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Dr. Cross to approve the Summer 2023 Facilities Projects. Mr. Braker noted the next step is getting bids for the work.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve 2023-24 School Calendar –**

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Roth, that the Board of Education approve the 2023-24 School Calendar as presented.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

A President Braker asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Cross, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve September and October Treasurer’s Reports
- Approve Minutes of the November 15, 2022, Regular Meeting and the November 15, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.

- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 11-18-22 11-21-22</b>	<b>Bills 11-28-22 12-2-22 12-5-22</b>	<b>Payroll 11-11-22</b>	<b>Payroll 11-25-22</b>	<b>Bills 12-9-22</b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$435,318.55	\$186,421.74	\$887,829.34	\$905,623.00	\$32,590.17
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$79,117.68	\$58,858.79	\$52,091.95	53,521.72	\$358.93
Trans. Fund (40)	\$30,253.63	\$19,331.69	\$28,948.45	24,949.98	\$162.70
TORT (80)		\$4,547.50	--	--	
IMRF Fund	--		\$47,464.42	47,398.69	

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of **Personnel, Purchase/Sale of Property, and Student Discipline. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:53 p.m.

A motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Roth, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:35 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

A motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Krall, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 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