



# MORTON

## UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

#### Administrative Reports—

March 21, 2023

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

- ◆ Dr. Smock shared that last week we recognized our 150 aides across the District. They are in our classrooms, offices, libraries, and cafeterias. They are on our buses and playgrounds. We are very appreciative of them. We couldn't do what we do without them.
- ◆ On March 7th, Mrs. Jessica Belsly, addressed the Board about how difficult our GPA system is to calculate and figure out. Dr. Teater, Dr. Sander, and Dr. Smock, three math people, started digging into her questions. Dr. Smock remarked, "I would just say, she is completely right on that!" More is coming on this topic. He shared a few things they discovered. The system in place is at least 30 years old. Comparing students within District, the system is very fair. Internally fair, externally incongruent and hard to calculate. It is being reviewed. We do not want changes made to have a negative impact on students.
- ◆ The Facilities Committee recently met with the District's architects. They created plans for Morton High School that would create more equality in the locker rooms. Coaching areas, bathrooms and training areas could be improved. The design would likely include a facelift for the gym entrance, making it the primary entrance with a concourse entry way and concessions, much like MJHS. We have just received four different designs. We asked for one more design that is still coming. Mr. Rudd and Mr. Braker were in the meeting. The Board will meet as a Committee of the Whole soon to look at the plans and make some decisions as a Board. Mr. Rudd noted that getting eyes on the plans led them to ask for the fifth plan. Mr. Braker would like to see the disparity fixed between the boys and girls locker rooms while adding in some other good things. Making the entrance look like an entrance would be great. We want to show that our community values education. The Board will have an opportunity review the plans prior to the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
- ◆ The commercial property tax report will be shared by Ms. Lisa Kowalski at the next Board Meeting on April 18th. Ms. Kowalski looked at new revenue coming in from businesses and some revenue will go down due to reassessment requests. It will provide some clarity on how revenue will roll out in the years to come.

#### School Board President —Mr. Tim Braker

- ◆ President Braker noted that it was great to get to the High School for a meal, classroom tours and to talk with the teachers. It is enjoyable to see what is really happening in the classrooms. He offered appreciation to Ms. Ripka and the staff for hosting the Board and for the creative things they are doing to educate our kids. Dr. Krall shared that she enjoyed seeing the joy in the Science classrooms with the updated spaces. It is good to see our District moving forward.
- ◆ Agenda Building: Mr. Braker shared a Dress Code sample with the Board from another school district. He, also, shared the same school district's curriculum information online. Parents want to see what kids are expected to learn. With curriculum access, parents can be more informed and involved. We want to continue to push to have that information online. Dr. Krall appreciated that it included the Standards that relate to the curriculum.

#### Action Items—

- ◆ The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding (2021-24 )Continuation of Release Program. (video 15:35) It has been a great program. Dr. Sander noted that MOU's sometimes get added into contracts. Teachers can choose to come in a full day early at the start of the school year. They can leave early on two half days. The flexibility has been used by many teachers.
- ◆ The Board approved the Law Enforcement Portal Agreement (video 17:25) giving schools access to the Illinois State Policy portal. It gives the District access to submit a "Clear and Present Danger" report. This is an additional reporting requirement. There was good discussion.

#### Consent Agenda —

- ◆ IHSA Membership was approved for renewal.

**Next: Board of Education Regular Meeting— Meetings: April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting—MEAC at 5:30 PM**

**Future Meetings: April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM & May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting— MEAC at 5:30 PM**

*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.*

Valerie Smith  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent & Board of Education