

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 18, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 18 2023, 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 5:32 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—

Dr. Smock welcomed the State Champion 7th Grade Volleyball team. Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, Scott Hammond, reflected on the team and introduced Head Coach, Emma Owdom who reflected on the season, the struggles, their character and coachability of the student athletes, and the big win. She noted that High School volunteer coaches, Tyla Mattson and Hannah Nieukirk were a valuable asset to the team. The Jr. Potters were introduced and shook hands with the Board.

Dr. Smock introduced Mrs. Bethany Scroggs who was hired to be the new Assistant Principal at Lincoln Elementary. She shared her teaching background and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in the new role.

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented a snapshot of the Commercial Property Tax Revenue received by Morton 709, comparing 2021 and 2022. She reviewed current revenue and potential revenue to give the Board a clear picture of anticipated resources. There was discussion. She explained the data and answered questions for clarity. She is double checking on the timeline for tax rate appeals.

Dr. Smock reflected on the soft lockdown that occurred on Friday, April 14th. The incident lasted about 35 minutes. A person of interest for a crime in Dunlap had a cell phone that pinged in Morton. His remarks included gratitude for the outstanding response by our SRO, Aaron Rowe, and the entire Morton Police Department keeping us up to speed during the entire incident. He commended the Administrative Teams in each building for their well-executed responses and for creating a sense of calm in their buildings. We will review what we learned with our leadership team and Officer Rowe to continually improve our processes. We will always choose an abundance of caution. Mr. Neeley commended Dr. Smock and the team for how they handled the situation.

Dr. Smock will present at the Morton Forecast Breakfast on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Many Board members will be in attendance.

President’s Report – Mr .Tim Braker

President Braker and the Board congratulated the State Champion 7th Grade Volleyball team on their success.

Mr. Braker noted that we need to hold a Committee of the Whole Meeting for facilities. We waited to schedule until after the election was over.

Graduation is on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 6 PM.

Mr. Braker expressed appreciation for Cathryn Stump, Amanda Leman, and Andy Roth for being willing to put themselves out there before the community in an election. He noted sincere appreciation. Running unopposed, it was a little less stressful for him and Dr. Cross.

Discussion –

School Lunch Program Overview and In-House Recommendation- Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO

Ms. Kowalski presented a School Lunch Program Overview and In-House Recommendation to the Board of education. Arbor, the current food management company (FSMC), has continued to raise their prices, a FY22 \$3.30 to a proposed FY24 \$4.48 and then negotiated to \$4.34. Ms. Kowalski did months of research contacting other schools who have their cafeteria programs in-house. Out of 1,100 schools in Illinois, only 300 have a FSMC and several of those are considering bring it back in-house. The level of service, quality of food, and low worker wages make the change desirable. We will still be able to utilize USDA commodities and DOD food, but with more control. FSMC’s are for profit companies. We can prepare better food in-house with menus that meet Government established guidelines. The Food Service Director and kitchen staff would be district employees. Other districts reported that is always better in-house. She answered the Board’s questions. Mr. Braker thanked Ms. Kowalski for her willingness to take on additional work to lower costs, improve student meals and to benefit the kitchen staff across our district.

Proposed MHS Earth/Space Science Textbook – Dr. Troy Teater

Dr. Troy Teater presented the proposed MHS Earth/Space Science Textbook with a report from the Science Teachers that he shared with the Morton 709 Teaching and Learning Council (TLC). The current textbook is over 10 years old. They reviewed three different books. Inspire Earth Science – McGraw Hill was chosen for recommendation. The cost is \$19,614. It can be previewed online for 30 days by the Board of Education, parents, and caregivers. Dr. Teater and the TLC recommend Board approval for this textbook.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Treasurer’s Report January 2023
- Approve Purchase of Morton Academy Vehicle
- Approve MHS Student Council Convention Overnight Trip 2023

- Approve MHS Volleyball Camp Overnight/Out of State Trip 2023
- Approve Auditor for 2022-23 School Year Approve
- Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Educational Support Staff
- Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve Minutes of the March 21, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the March 21, 2023, Regular
- Meeting Closed Session Minutes.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-24-23 3-27-23	Bills 3-3-23	Payroll 3-31-23
Ed. Fund	\$633,439.20	\$23,629.09	\$954,887.90
Bldg. Fund	\$ 144,386.64	4,615.52	52,319.18
Trans. Fund	\$5,237.05	\$5,237.05	30,324.53
IMRF Fund			45,935.08

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 and Purchase/Sale of Property. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:23 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:29 p.m.

Adjournment –

A motion by Mr. Cross, and seconded by Mrs. Leman that the meeting be adjourned.

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Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President