

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 25, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 25, 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 7:07 p.m.

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

Administrative Reports--

Superintendent's Report– Dr. Craig Smock—

Dr. Smock shared that the MHS was on a soft lockdown that day for while the Morton Police Department came through with drug detecting dogs. None were found.

He noted that MHS has 19 students competing at the Illinois SkillsUSA State competition. He expressed pride in their accomplishments and gratitude for the teaching team and administration supporting them at MHS. Dr. Smock received an invitation to a Caterpillar Signing Day for two students, Drew Bankert and Keegan Mulkey, who are committing to an internship program at Caterpillar.

President's Report – Mr. Tim Braker

President Braker shared that the Board had a great dinner and visit to Lettie Brown. It was good to see all they are doing there related to the SEL initiatives we are focusing on at the District level. Along with the core subjects, they are teaching them to be good citizens, growing their coping skills, and learning about respectful discourse. It was great seeing how they are bringing those goals into the classroom. He noted, “We want our students to grow into responsible adults.” He thanked Lettie Brown for all that they shared.

Agenda Building---

Dr. Krall asked for ideas as to how we might grow our District in the area of hospitality. What can we do to make visitors to our schools and events feel welcome?

Discussion Items –

Dr. Troy Teater introduced the proposed High School AP World History Textbook with a report from the MHS Social Studies department. The book is available online for parents to review at the District website. The textbook selected is the one that aligns best with what AP will approve. Dr. Smock noted we are streamlining the administrative procedure for efficiency when reviewing new textbooks.

Action Items –

The Board of Education approved the In-House School Lunch Program for the 2023-24 school year. Several Board of Education members noted that they appreciate the Administration’s willingness to take on more work to make things better for our students and to improve the lunch program. Dr. Smock noted this is a place we can improve and be more efficient. We are very hopeful as we proceed. He expressed appreciation for everything Ms. Lisa Kowalski did to help us investigate and proceed with the change to an In-House School Lunch Program. She gathered people and crunched numbers before making her recommendation. She is equally optimistic about what we can do for our district.

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the In-House School Lunch Program.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Before the approval of the Consent Agenda, Dr. Smock invited Dr. Sander to elaborate on the Tazewell Education for Employment Intergovernmental Agreement (EFE #320). It serves 10 school districts in our region, including Morton 709. It helps member districts distribute and account for Federal Funds that com through a Federal Grant for vocational education. MHS has received about \$65,000 in funding for vocational education that provides for staff and growing the program opportunities. After this year, the agreement will need to be re-approved every three years.

Consent Agenda –

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

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve MHS Girls Basketball Camp 2023 – University of Wisconsin
- C. Approve MHS Illinois FFA Convention 2023 – Springfield, IL
- D. Approve Tazewell Education for Employment Intergovernmental Agreement
- E. Approve Resolution for Peoria County Cooperative Purchasing Program Membership
- F. Approve Resolution to Authorize Preparation of the FY24 Budget
- G. Approve Minutes of the April 18, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the April 18, 2023, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes.
- H. Approve Bills

	Bills
	4-21-23
	4-24-23
Ed. Fund	\$724,074.29
Bldg. Fund	\$288,346.57
Trans. Fund	\$36,049.79
Torte	\$13,788.00

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Cross second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of **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 7:25 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:00 p.m.

President Braker noted that we will be scheduling a Committee of the Whole for facilities.

Adjournment –

A motion by Mr. Cross, and seconded by Dr. Krall that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President