

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 9, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 9, 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center seating the newly elected Board Members.

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. Andrew Roth, Mr. Jerry Rudd, and Mr. Tom Neeley

Action Item –

Approve Regular Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2023, Open and Closed Session–

The Board of Education approved the minutes from the April 25, 23, Regular Meeting and the April 25, 23, Regular Meeting, Closed Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting and April 25, 23, Regular Meeting, Closed Session.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve the Canvass of the April 4, 2023 Election–

The Board of Education approved the Canvas of the April 4, 2023 Election, accepting the results from the Tazewell County Clerk as a true and accurate count of all votes cast. Tim Braker was re-elected to serve another 2-year term on the Morton C.U.S.D 709 Board of Education. David Cross (unincorporated), Amanda Leman, and Andrew Roth were elected to four-year terms on the Morton C.U.S.D 709 Board of Education.

Seating of the Newly Elected Board of Education Members–

The newly re-elected Board of Education renewed their Oath of Office.

President Tim Braker congratulated the newly re-elected Board Members. Superintendent, Dr. Craig Smock, expressed congratulations and gratitude for their willingness to serve a second term. It is a sacrifice and their willingness is appreciated. He looks forward to working with them for another term.

Adjournment –

President Braker called for adjournment sine die.

A motion by Dr. Krall, and seconded by Mrs. Leman that the meeting be adjourned sine die.

Voice Vote: 7 Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 9, 2023

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 9, 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 5:36 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

President Pro Tem –

President Braker called for a motion to elect a President Pro Tem for the purpose of nominations and voting for President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Jerry Rudd moved to nominate Dr. Craig Smock to the office of President Pro Tem. Dr. David Cross seconded. There were no other nominations, so the nomination did not require a second.

Dr. Craig Smock was declared President Pro Tem until the new president was elected.

Reorganization of the Board--

Elect President –

Dr. Smock asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Tom Neeley nominated Mr. Tim Braker to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations no second is required. Mr. Braker was declared President by acclamation. He assumed his seat as President.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Braker asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Rudd nominated Dr. David Cross to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, no second is required. Dr. Cross was declared Vice-President by acclamation.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Braker asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Dr. Cross nominated Mr. Jerry Rudd to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, no second is required. Mr. Rudd was declared Secretary by acclamation.

President Braker noted that the Board of Education will hold regular meetings for the 2023-24 school year on the first and third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. The first meeting of the month is at 5:30 PM. The second meeting of the month is at 7 PM. Meetings are held at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise announced.

Administrative Reports--

Superintendent's Report– Dr. Craig Smock—

Dr. Smock introduced the 8th Grade Volleyball team who finished 4th at the IESA State Tournament. Mr. Scott Hammond, Coach Jordan Williams and Coach Emma Odom were present along with the student athletes, who were introduced to the Board and congratulated for their success. Coach Williams expressed gratitude for the students, the parents, and the community.

Dr. Smock reflected on the amazing work Ms. Tiffany Beard and Mr. Chad McFarland have done with the program this year. Ms. Beard was recognized at the state level. Ms. Jamie Adolphson shared the many areas where Morton 709 students were competing. Ms. Adolphson noted that the local community support has truly impacted the program. Our local business partners include Otto Baum, Lighthouse Buick/GMC, Caterpillar Building KK, Morton Collision Repair, Inc., Morton Firefighters, Peoria Firefighters Explorers Post #50, Peoria Illinois Fire Dept, and Deer Creek Fire Department. Mr. Clark Ingwersen spoke about SkillsUSA and introduced the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalists in attendance: Andrew Zeithammer, Landon Boerke, Andrew Krall and Emma Belsly. Mr Zeithammer earned a spot at the National Competition in Georgia. The students impressively fielded questions from the Board.

President Braker noted the great value in getting students prepared for careers in the trades. The Board asked them about problem-solving and their potential mentoring of the students who come behind them.

Dr. Smock thanked the Morton Mentors, local business people who are allowing students a taste of being in business and some workplace experiences. The list of the Morton Mentors will be in the Potter Post on Friday.

The GPA discussion continues with the Administration. The goal is to not let any changes harm students in the process.

The Administration is looking into what we can do to be intentional about showing and growing hospitality in our school district in response to a question from the Board. We are already working on gathering information about what we already do and where we might improve.

Dr. Teater has been gathering data on discipline, attendance, and test scores. What and when are the tests? How do we tweak things based on data gathered? For the Board to monitor how we are doing, we need to share data. We will share more at the June 6th meeting.

Care-U received some great feedback from the book study on “The Gifts of Imperfection.” Dr. Smock shared some of the comments made by participants. The Care-U podcast has received over 1100 hits. He thanked the Board for investing in the Wellness Coordinator position. Mr. Rudd encouraged everyone to listen to the Care-U Podcast.

President's Report – Mr .Tim Braker

President Braker acclaimed the success of the 8th Grade Volleyball team and the SkillsUSA students for all of their success. He is happy to see the SkillsUSA doing so well and the shift to recognize careers in the trades and that every student is not college bound. Graduation is May 20th and we are looking forward to it. Policy committee will meet soon. On June 6th, we will restructure committees for those interested in changing, contact Mr. Braker or Dr. Smock. Please let Mrs. Smith know your plans for the IASB Conference. Registration opens up in June.

We are canceling the May 23, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. There will be more information coming.

Agenda Building---

Mr. Braker asked that we review all of our extra-curricular activities to see if they support our Board goals and help students achieve the main goal of a good education. The Board would like to clearly articulate the goals in extra-curricular activities that can be communicated and shared. Is it trophies, to grow kids, or both? Mr. Neeley would like to find a way to measure the benefits. Education is our main goal. Programs like SkillsUSA do both. Dr. Cross noted that even potentially college bound students can benefit from the real-world experiences in SkillsUSA. Problem solving, critical thinking, coding, creating and real time problem solving all happen through the program. Dr. Smock added that there is Social Emotional Learning that occurs through the SkillUSA program. Mr. Rudd noted it is something positive to be involved in. Mrs. Leman expressed the value of a common mission in our extra-curricular activities. Dr. Smock added that we might like a mission statement that defines our expectations. When hiring coaches, we are looking for coaches that grow students.

Discussion Items –

The Board Meeting calendar was presented for review for the 2023-24 school year.

Action Items –

The Board of Education approved the Administrators Re-appointment and Salary Increases for 2023-24. Mr. Rudd noted that our administrators in our buildings are doing a fantastic job. They are appreciated. He has appreciated seeing first-hand what is happening in the buildings. Mr. Braker acknowledged that policy can only do so much. What happens in the buildings is what is important. Dr. Krall noted hearing positive feedback on the MJHS transition with Mr. Chris Carter as the new Principal. She recognized Dr. Smock's leadership in that decision choosing Mr. Carter. Dr. Smock read off the names of the 2023-24 Administration Team for Morton 709. He noted that they are a fabulous team of people who lead with integrity, hard work and they are a great team to be with.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Dr. Smock noted we are not increasing student fees or lunch prices this year. We will re-evaluate after this year. School lunch programs are intended to break even, not profit. We have had no feedback on the two new textbooks.

Dr. Krall noted that the AP organization really directs the material content. She reviewed the AP World History book. We want our students to get the value of textbooks. AP approved textbooks give students the best opportunities to be prepared for college. Voting to approve the AP textbooks is voting for the opportunity for our students to be prepared for college. It is not approval or agreement with all of the content in a selected textbook.

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

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve Treasurer’s Report - February 2023
- C. Approve Inspire Earth/ Space Science Textbook for MHS
- D. Approve Traditions and Encounters AP World History Textbook for MHS
- E. Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Cheerleading Camp – Northern Illinois University, Dekalb IL
- F. Approve 2023-24 Student Fees
- G. Approve Final Amended 2022-23 Calendar
- H. Approve Bills & Payroll

	Bills 5-5-23 5-8-23	Payroll 4-28-23
Ed. Fund	\$ 391,798.27	\$ 881,063.22
Bldg. Fund	\$41,606.38	47,763.21
Trans. Fund	\$16,948.50	25,540.46
IMRF		39,512.56
Torte	\$8,145.43	

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of **Personnel, Student Discipline, 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 6:32 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 7:51 p.m.

Board Members were invited to participate in the Crisis Plan meeting on Thursday. Mr. Rudd plans to attend.

Adjournment –

A motion by Mrs. Leman, and seconded by Dr. Krall that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President