

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

June 6, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on June 6, 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Jerry Rudd. Members Present: 7 Member absent: 0

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock shared a Red Wings video by Andrea White, highlighting the Red Wings program.
- Dr. Smock reported that new information from our insurance cooperative, CIE, with the numbers for the 2023-24. The insurance rate increase came in at 8%, far below the potential 22% increase that was given as an “up to” amount.
- Facility Updates include: Jefferson School’s roof abatement is underway. The District Office is getting paint, carpet, and some furniture upgrades. Saturday, June 17th, is the annual District Garage Sale. Administration and key staff met with the architect regarding possible design options at MHS for areas needing improvement, including locker rooms, PE locker rooms, and the canopy entrance. The updates will resolve some Title IX issues. The most likely plan will cost around 3.5 to 4 million dollars. Funding it will be the next step.
- Potential Facilities Project Funding – Mr. Steve Adams from PMA Securities offered options available to the district for funding needed projects. Options include referendum bonds, non-referendum GO bonds, and other borrowing mechanisms. He presented a financial snapshot of the District’s borrowing potential, and potential avenues for taking on the cost of a renovation/building project. Morton 709 is financially healthy. The District has current working cash bonds will be paid off in January. The Board asked questions. They will review options.
- Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented the tentative FY24 Budget to the Board of Education. There are still some numbers that have not yet come in from the State. Our fund balance varies annually based on projects planned and when we are between projects. The Board’s baseline minimum is 180 days, we doing well. Our fund balances are healthy. She fielded questions from the Board.

President's Report - Mr. Braker President Braker noted that they had been presented with some great ideas for improving the space. It would be great to have it look like a real entrance and spaces that function well. He noted that the Superintendent’s Committees need to be set for the year.

- Dr. Teater will report on the Student Data in August. The SAT data is just coming in. Dr. Teater will review and bring the information to the Board of Education. Mr. Neeley asked about mid-year testing. MAP tests in 3 cycles over the year. Dr. Smock mentioned the importance of balance. Students become test weary. Mr. Rudd mentioned that testing takes up instruction time. Ms. Franklin, SSS Director, added that students are screened 3 times a year for SEL concerns.
- Dr. Krall asked about testing that would measure some areas more traditional testing does not measure. Something like the ASFAB would measure different strengths. Mechanical skills and other skills would

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be measured and recognized. Dr. Smock noted that her question was a good one. Administration will look into it and get back with the Board.

- President Braker noted that the Superintendent's Committees need to be set for the year. The Board is establishing a Superintendent's Committee to review how our Extra-Curricular programming aligns with the Board's mission and goals. Mrs. Leman will be on that committee.

Action Items-

Approve Admission of Non-Resident Students Per Board Policy 7:60

The Board approved three RISE program tuition students were approved for the 2023-24 school year under Board Policy 7:60. The home school pays for transportation and additional aides if needed. The home district is too small to provide similar services. Dr. Smock noted the additional students can enhance our programming.

Dr. Cross moved that the students be accepted. Mrs. Leman seconded.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Approve Tuition Request for the 2023-2024 School Year

The Board approved one tuition request for a RISE student who has been at 709 but moved out of district. The family is responsible for transportation. Mr. Rudd moved that we approve the tuition student. It was seconded by Mr. Roth.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Approve Reviewed Policy Updates

President Braker asked for a motion to approve the reviewed policy updates as presented. With a motion by Dr. Krall and a second by Mrs. Leman, the Board approved the reviewed Policy Updates.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Approve Handbook Changes for 2023-24

The Board complimented the Handbook Committee on its work and the final product. Dress Code policy and Attendance language can be challenging to write. They appreciated the pictures that accompany the Dress Code. With a motion by Mr. Rudd. Second by Dr. Cross, the Board approve the Handbook Changes for 2023-24.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried. The Morton CUSD 709 Handbook changes were approved.

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Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Cross to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Leman.

- Approve Minutes of the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting; Closed Session held May 9, 2023
- Approve Minutes for the May 23, 2023, Committee of the Whole
- Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
- Approve Consolidated District Plan
- Approve Treasurers for 2023-24 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
- Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
- Approve Substitute Rate of Pay
- Approve Complaint Managers
- Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
- Approve Non-Certified Support Staff Salaries
- Approve Reappointment and Salary Approval for CFO
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Approve Building Rental Fees for FY2023-24
- Approve Overnight MHS Basketball Team Building – June 19-20, 2023
- Approve Overnight MHS Cheer Camp – June 20-22, 2023 - SIUE
- Approve Bills & Payroll

	Bills 5-19-23 5-22-23	Bills 6-2-23 6-5-23	Payroll 5-12-23	Payroll 5-26-23
Ed. Fund	\$230,772.61	\$218,711.80	\$940,666.70	\$981,707.75
Bldg. Fund	\$69,679.88	\$67,760.12	48,188.67	49,738.90
Trans. Fund	\$13,527.55	\$1,922.70	32,812.25	31,701.20
IMRF Fund			45,963.68	46,195.78

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session

Motion by Dr. Krall, second by Mr. Roth, 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 Absent 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:34 p.m.

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Motion by Mr. Rudd that the board return to regular session. Seconded by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:46 p.m.

Action Item

Approve Personnel Report – President Braker asked for a motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Neeley and supported by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment –

A motion was made by Dr. Krall to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Cross.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Board of Education Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President