

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 8, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on August 8, 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. **The meeting included the 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 7:38 p.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 gave a full report on the many things happening in the district. It included New Teacher Orientation and Dinner. The new Morton 709 Food Services provided an amazing dinner. Crystal Lohnes and her staff did a fabulous job. Steve Stein has an excellent article in Peoria Magazine about our decision to bring food management back in-house.
- Facilities updates and growing needs were reviewed. Mr. Braker and Mr. Rudd noted that getting things right takes time. Achieving equity in the men's and women's sports spaces by design has meant revisions in each plan. We are almost there.
- Land Sale – At the previous meeting, the Board discussed selling the farm acreage on 4th Street though a sealed bid process. The process would involve published notice for three consecutive weeks (21 to 30 days). Dr. Smock will follow up with our attorney. The Board hopes for some conclusion by the end of October.
- Finance – Dr. Cross, Mr. Braker, and Ms. Kowalski are a part of the Superintendent's Finance Committee looking at the best ways we might fund much space and space inequalities. Ms. Kowalski stated we still have some unknowns in the budget, but we expect news on this year's CPPRT funding soon.
- We have an unexpected high number of new students. The Superintendent's new Extra-Curricular Activity Committee with Dr. Sander, Mrs. Leman, and Mr. Neeley is starting soon. The Superintendent's Policy Committee meets on August 9th to review the latest updates and recommendations from PRESS Plus. Administrators will be seeking out students who are not plugged into any extracurricular.
- Dr. Smock noted many ways the District is planning for excellence in the new year including, SEL Standard, intentional transitions between 6th and 9th grades, improving test scores while maintain balance.

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- President Braker noted the value in getting to know the new teachers. Dr. Sander shared a little about New Teacher Orientation. 90 people were involved in the New Teacher/ Mentor Luncheon.
- He was excited to hear 12 CHI students have already been hired.
- Mr. Neeley and Mr. Braker expressed the importance of meeting our District Goals.

August 8, 2023

Discussion Item - Presentation of the Final FY24 Budget

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO presented the Final budget to the Board of Education. She explained that we are in the middle of our annual audit. We will have our final numbers when they are finished. She answered questions and made clarifications on what funds we have and what might be available if we took on some projects. The 180 days in reserve is our standard operating procedure. Ms. Kowalski noted everything costs more.

Dr. Smock noted we are not committed to any project. Projects are built into the budget, but the Board decides which projects the District takes on.

As a District, salaries and benefits are our biggest expenses. There are no longer ESSER funds (Covid). Federal Grants exist for some things.

Action Items-

Approve 3-Year Intergovernmental Agreement with Morton Public Library

The Board approved the 3-Year Intergovernmental Agreement with Morton Public Library that allows Morton C.U.S.D. students and educators who do not live in the Morton Library District to receive library cards and the use of Morton Public Library services.

Mr. Neeley motioned for the Board to approve the Extra Duty revisions. Dr. Cross supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Approve 6th Graders Participating in JH Girls Softball for the 2023 Season

MJHS Girls Softball numbers were not sufficient to fill rosters. It was requested that District 6th Grade girls be allowed to try-out to fill the roster, to increase numbers and to build the program. Mr. Rudd made a motion that the Board of Education approve 6th graders participating in MJHS Softball for the 2023 Softball Season. Mrs. Leman supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

The Board appreciates that Scott Hammond, AD, and head coach, Jennifer Rabe, came up with an idea to help this season, and hopefully grow the program. Dr. Krall noted appreciation for Dr. Smock communicating with the Board about the situation when there was a short timeline to find a solution for the season.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Cross to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rudd.

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Treasurer’s Reports: May 2023 & June 2023

Approve MHS Girls Tennis Overnight Trip

Approve Donation Report

Approve Minutes of the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting; the July 11, 2023, Closed Session Meeting.

Approve Bills and Payroll

August 8, 2023

	Bills 7-14-23 7-17-23	Bills 7-21-23	Bills 7-28-23	Payroll 7-7-23	Payroll 7-21-23
Education	\$189,580.84	\$246,137.39	\$118,366.32	\$719,411.09	\$746,666.38
Building & Operations	780,758.67		60,950.52	72,581.53	66,992.26
Transportation Fund	135,500.54		646.53	15,696.62	14,026.07
IMRF				27,646.01	26,488.40
TORT	175,658.00				

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session – No closed session was held.

Adjournment –

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

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0 Absent 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President