

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 5, 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 5:37 p.m.

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

Members Present: 7 Member absent: 0

Board of Education Statement – The Board of Education President, Tim Braker, read a prepared statement at the start of the meeting. The statement included that the Board had responded to the FOIA request from an administrator's district email, the Board Policy on allowing District emails for some personal use, and defined expectations for the Public Comments portion of the meeting. The Board spoke in full support of Grundy Principal, Michael Saunders, reflecting on his many years of exemplary service to Morton CUSD 709. Mr. Braker clarified that the Board would listen to public comment but would not respond until the next Board Meeting.

More than 230 people were in attendance. 22 spoke to the Board. All were given an equal amount of time to speak. President Braker reminded attendees to act and behave with proper decorum during the meeting. The Board listened. Each speaker was heard.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock Dr. Smock thanked everyone for their courage and boldness to speak up, whatever their viewpoint.

- MHS Principal, Ms. Deidre Ripka, presented the data on the MHS Advanced Placement Test Scores and five year trend. MHS Students are using the Advanced Placement opportunities and excelling based on the data. We are fortunate to have teachers qualified who work well together to help students master the skills to prepare them for AP testing and possible dual credit. Some teachers volunteer time to give practice tests to prepare students.
- CASEL (SEL) Presentation by Ms. Stephanie Brown (Asst. Director of SSS and Wellness) and Ms. Morgan Bush (Social Worker) to educate the Board and the Community on SEL standards including what SEL (Social Emotional Learning) looks like in the classroom and across the District. They shared the 40 skills under the competencies and offered some examples to the Board. They shared that "soft skills" look much like "citizenship" expectations from 90 years ago in education. They shared a little about the "Second Step" program that is fueled by CASEL standards. It is online, has quick lessons, and is user friendly. The feedback has been excellent.
- The 6th Day Enrollment Summary was presented by Assistant Superintendent, Joe Sander. We do this every year on the 6th Day of attendance for students. This year we are up 70 new students for a total of 3310 students.
- The Superintendent's Committees: Mr. Braker and Mr. Rudd have met on Facilities with key District personnel. The Policy Committee, Dr. Krall and Mr. Roth, completed work on PRESS Issue #112 to be

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and is ready for Board approval. The Finance Committee, Mr. Braker and Dr. Cross, will meet again before the next Board of Education. The new Superintendent's Extracurricular Mission Committee met with Dr. Sander, Mrs. Leman, and Mr. Neeley reviewing mission and coaches handbooks. Key Administration and Extracurricular personnel are on the committee.

- Dr. Smock met with the attorney today about the sale of the 123 acres of farmland. The intention of the Board is to sell it to one buyer. The sealed bids are due by 12:00 PM on September 29, 2023, with a decision by October 5, 2023

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- President Braker thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and their support.
- President Braker reminded everyone that District Leadership is serving at the Pumpkin Festival on Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 4 - 7 PM.
- Mr. Braker reminded everyone to let Valerie know if they are attending the IASB Meeting on October 4, 2023 in Pekin.

Board Member Input – Mr. Neeley shared that he attended the COSSBA conference. Founded by state school boards associations in late 2021, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. He was pleased with what he saw. It is a nonpartisan group discussing some of the current challenges in education. Mr. Neeley plans to go to Washington, D.C. to advocate for more funding for education.

Discussion Item(s) –

Latest Revisions of the MHS Renovation Project and Phasing Plan --- Mr. Lee Gerrietts, from Keach Architectural Design, presented the latest revisions to the MHS Renovation Project and Phasing Plan. There have been many versions of potential plans with revisions based on feedback from Administration and Coaching staff. The Board asked questions and Mr. Gerrietts responded as they reviewed the potential plans, including potential Phases for implementation.

The Board discussed looking at where they might add on to other properties to meet other space needs. We need to look at finances with the Finance Committee to determine how to pay for the projects the Board chooses to move forward with for FY24. Dr. Smock noted that we need to vote for approval at the next Board of Education meeting so we can move forward with the selected design plans and secure bids.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Policy Updates Reviewed and Recommended for PRESS Issue #112

The Board of Education reviewed the recommended updates for PRESS Issue #112 on August 22, 2023, including an update to Policy 4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery. A motion was made by Mr. Rudd to approve the policy updates as recommended. The motion was supported by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Wrestling Overnight Trip (Mascoutah High School)

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- Approve MHS Wrestling Overnight Trip (Geneseo, IL)
- Approve Minutes of the August 22, 2023, Regular Meeting; the August 22, 2023, No Closed Session was held.
- Approve Bills

| | Bills 8-25-23 8-28-23 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ed. Fund (10) | \$546,252.46 |
| Bldg. Fund (20) | 137,525.73 |
| Trans. Fund (40) | 7,208.27 |

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 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. Rudd

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. with a voice vote.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President