

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**August 22, 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 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, and Mr. Jerry Rudd. Members Present: 6 Member absent: 1 (Mr. Tom Neeley)

#### **Administrative Reports:**

##### **Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock**

- Dr. Smock shared with the Board that we reached to Washington High School to offer support as they process the loss of student, Logan Smith. They have offered us grief support in the past, and we wanted to do the same for them, as well as keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. Our community grieves with theirs, as some of our staff and students knew him.
- Due to the extreme heat of the week, our sports and activities have adjusted times and rescheduled to safely manage the heat and to stay within the IHSA guidelines for extreme heat conditions.
- Dr. Smock updated the Board on the plans for renovations at MHS. We clarified that we are moving forward with the understanding that the Board is going to support the project, with the understanding that the project is not officially approved until the Board approves the construction bids. There are some significant expenditures as we get the project ready for bid. We can afford to do this project with our current fund balance.
- Additional projects discussed will require a financing plan. Ms. Kowalski will share more on September 5, 2023 about funding possibilities for other key projects. The potential sale of property at a minimal price of about \$2.4 million may provide potential funds. Our Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) is estimated to be \$3.1 million budgeted conservatively.
- Dr. Smock noted that several of the Superintendent's Committees need to meet including the Facilities Committee. The District Administrative Team will first look at our buildings and where we might add on to create new spaces for learning. The Finance Committee met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and gave Ms. Kowalski and Administration great direction. The Policy Committee met on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Tonight the Board will review and discuss the policy updates as recommended by PRESS and reviewed by the Policy Committee. The Extracurricular Activities Committee meets Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Sander. They will begin by looking at the coaching handbooks to make sure they reflect the Board's mission, serving as a guide for our coaches so there are clear expectations and guidelines. The Board noted their desire for all Extracurricular Activities to be reviewed in the process.
- President Braker will form the Negotiations Committee soon. The MEA has asked if we have any dates. Dr. Smock shared that it usually happens the first or second week in February. The Board asked if they would meet in the evening or during the business day. Historically, it has been during the business day, but evening times could be considered. Board members noted the scheduling of the Negotiations Committee should be as inclusive as possible so the best qualified from the MEA and the Board of Education can be on the committee and at the table. Communication goes out to the Board after each day so all Board members can provide input.

August 22, 2023

- Dr. Troy Teater presented the Board with the Academic Achievement Report. He organized and dove into the data with the Board. The Board asked questions. Dr. Teater responded. It was noted that the data still must be viewed through the lens of pre-Covid, post-Covid, and the related educational losses. This data measures academic achievement. We are being very intentional about recovering lost achievement goals measured by testing. The Board reflected on the great job our teachers did through some big challenges. There needs to be balance between academic achievement and growing the soft skills that are not measured by standardized tests.
- Dr. Sander reflected on the great success in the early weeks of the new Food Service Program. He read some feedback received from administrators. Some are enjoying it so much, they would like larger portions. Growing children sometimes need more food. Dr. Sander reminded us that the Government sets the meal portions. The board noted it is not enough if you are growing teens and burning calories in sports after school. The lunch team is spending more time in preparation to give our students better food. The Board is hearing great things about the quality.
- Dr. Smock noted that the Custodial team did an amazing job getting things immaculate before school started.

### **President's Report - Mr. Braker**

- President Braker reminded the Board about the IASB meeting October 4<sup>th</sup>, let Valerie Smith know if you plan to attend. September 14<sup>th</sup> (4-7 PM) some of the Board and Administration are serving in the Pumpkin Festival Food Tent. Confirm that with Valerie, as well.
- The Board reiterated that the Superintendent's Committees do not make decisions. The Board makes decisions as a whole. The Committees help them be more efficient, and they like the process. It works.

### **Discussion Item(s) –**

#### **Final FY24 Budget Discussion**

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO was present to answer budget questions.

#### **PRESS Policy Updates Discussion - First Reading of Policy Updates from PRESS Issue #112**

The Board of Education discussed the first Reading of Policy Updates from PRESS Issue #112. The Superintendent's Policy Committee met on August 9, 2023. Most recommended changes were legal reference updates, changes in language, higher court decision reference updates, and policies under a five year review.

**Policy 4:45- Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery** was reviewed and discussed with recommended update to include additional language recommended by PRESS. **Policy 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities** updates are recommended for approval. The committee recommended this policy go to the Extracurricular Committee for review. The Board was encouraged to share any feedback or concerns if they have any. The Board will take action at the September 9, 2023 Board Meeting.

#### **Action Items-**

**Approve Construction Bid for District Business Office** - The Board approved the Construction Bid for the District Business office renovations by Bishop Brothers.

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried.

August 22, 2023

**Approve Student 2023-24 Handbook Revisions - McKinney-Vento & Artificial Intelligence (AI)-**

Dr. Krall made a motion for the Board of Education to approve revisions to the 2023-24 Student Handbook in response to McKinney-Vento updates and swiftly developing Artificial Intelligence. Mrs. Leman supported the motion.

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The Board of Education approved the changes to the 2023-24 Student Handbook.

**Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property (Hopkins) -**

Dr. Cross made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution allowing for the Intervention Regarding Assessment of the Hopkins Property. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The Board approved the Resolution to intervene.

**Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property (Matcor) -**

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution allowing for the Intervention Regarding Assessment of the Matcor Property. Dr. Cross supported the motion.

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The Board approved the Resolution to intervene.

**Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property (Tiber) -**

Mr. Roth made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution allowing for the Intervention Regarding Assessment of the Tiber Property. Mrs. Leman supported the motion.

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The Board approved the Resolution to intervene.

**Approve Resolution for Sale of District Property-**

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution allowing for the sale of District Property. The property to be sold is approximately 123 acres of farmland on S. Fourth Ave, south of Queenwood. Dr. Cross supported the motion.

Roll Call:                    Yea 6                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried.

The Board approved the Resolution for the sale of property. The attorney is preparing the paperwork needed for the sale. We will have three weeks of public notice. The attorney is preparing a packet for interested buyers. The land will be sold through a sealed bid process with a minimum bid of \$22,000 per acre due September 29, 2023. We hope to finalize the process on Monday, October 2, 2023.

August 22, 2023

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Madrigal Trip
- Approve Opening of Closed Session Minutes for Jan 2023- June 2023
- Approve Minutes of the August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting; the August 8, 2023, No Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 8-11-23 8-14-23</b>	<b>Payroll 8-4-23</b>	<b>Payroll 8-16-23</b>
Ed. Fund	\$246,615.95	\$721,118.90	\$754,520.24
Bldg. Fund	394,007.93	75,546.65	66,007.82
Trans. Fund	36,784.00	11,238.66	10,334.27
TORT Fund	2,819.50		
IMRF Fund		25,556.79	28,906.08

Roll Call:                    Yea 6    Nay 0                    Absent 1

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 6                    Nay 0                    Absent 1 (Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

---

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

---

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

---

Tim Braker, President