

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 19, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on September 19, 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. **The meeting included the District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

FY24 BUDGET HEARING ---

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:07 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.

The FY24 Budget was displayed for no less than thirty days. Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, was present for questions. It is the same budget that was presented for discussion, with an additional \$500,000 that came in with the official numbers from CCPRT funding. No questions were presented. The FY24 Budget Hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m. The Budget Hearing came to a close and the roll was called.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:09 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 recognized the over 200 people who attended the September 5, 2023 Board Meeting and the 22 who addressed the board to express their heartfelt beliefs on many different sides of the issues. The official Board statement is attached to the minutes.

Audience Presentations: Six community members presented to the Board of Education. Ms. Jodi Melton, Mr. Brent Dyke, Mr. Bryan Groth, Ms. Tamara Woodmancy, Ms. Shannon Burns, and Dr. Ashley Fischer addressed the Board. Each community member was given five minutes to share his/her thoughts.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

Dr. Smock shared that nine bid packets had gone out for the farmland the District plans to sell in a sealed bid process. The bids are due at 12:00 PM on September 29, 2023 and will be opened at that time. Several Superintendent's Committees will need to meet soon, including: Policy and Finance. The new PRESS Issue #113 is expected in October with new policies to review. We need the Board to review the 24 summer projects that will go to bid soon. It is about 1.5 million dollars in work. The other Superintendent's Committees will meet soon, too.

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Dr. Sander and the Extracurricular Committee are looking at both of the coaches handbooks. Mrs. Amanda Leman and Mr. Tom Neeley are on that committee. The Superintendent's Negotiations Committee will meet soon to prepare for negotiations for the new MEA teacher contract. The Board will discuss more in closed session.

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- President Braker thanked Lettie Brown, the faculty, and staff. It was a great night hearing how they are helping students achieve success at Lettie Brown. Mrs. Waterfield does a great job caring for her staff, too.

Discussion Item(s) –

Facilities and Financial Presentation --- Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented on future projects that have been discussed over time based on the growing needs of our students. She presented them for the Board to consider. She showed multiple projects, multiple implementation phases, and several options for funding the various projects. Mr. Lee Gerriets, from Keach Architectural Design was present to answer questions. Potential projects include: High School/ Locker Room Renovations, Early Childhood Education space, a Morton Academy facility, and a Life Skills building. The presentation included phases of implementation. The scope and project costs may vary depending on size and timing. If all projects are approved, the estimated cost would be \$18.625M dollars. The cost of projects will only increase over time. The Board decides on all projects one at a time.

Ms. Kowalski went through different ways of financing this kind of project. Dr. Smock asked that the Board think about it and talk about it. Dr. Smock and Board both noted the importance of transparency and communication with taxpayers about potential projects and costs. Both Administration and the Board are focused on the importance of meeting the needs of our students. Ms. Kowalski provided options that do not increase the tax rate.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Final FY24 Budget

The Board has discussed and reviewed the final FY24 Budget. The budget has been posted for more than the required thirty days. The budget hearing was completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Roth to approve the FY24 Final Budget. The motion was supported by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve MHS Renovation Plan Phase 1 (A & B) for Bid & Commence Bid Design Process ---

The Board of Education had discussed moving forward with the MHS Renovation Plan Phase 1 (A & B) for bid and commencing the bid design process.

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd to approve moving forward with bids for renovation and the design process. The motion was supported by Mrs. Leman.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

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Consent Agenda –

A motion was made by Mr. Neeley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Dr. Cross.

- Approved Personnel Report
- Approved Minutes of the September 5, 2023, Regular Meeting; No Closed Session was held on September 5, 2023.
- Approved Bills

	Bills 9-8-23 9-11-23
Ed. Fund (10)	\$278,067.72
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$287,166.93
Trans. Fund (40)	\$15,032.77
TORT (80)	\$1,256.00

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

A motion was made by Dr. Cross, seconded by Mr. Rudd that the Board of Education entered closed session for the discussion of **Negotiations. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Roth left at 8:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Krall to re-enter open session. Dr. Cross seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried. The Board re-entered open session at 8:59 p.m.

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. Roth let at 8:50 p.m.)

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Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. with a voice vote.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President