

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**November 28, 2023**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on November 28, 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. **The meeting included the District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – President Tim Braker called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 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.

President Tim Braker declared the Hearing open under the provisions of the Bond Issue Notification Act to receive public comment regarding a proposal by the Board of Education for the Proposed Issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 to Construct Board Approved Facilities Upgrades.

Mr. Braker opened the floor for Board discussion and comments. Mr. Braker asked Secretary Jerry Rudd for any written testimony to which, there was none. Mr. Braker opened the floor for public written or oral comment, to which there was none.

There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Braker asked for a motion to close the hearing Mr. Neeley motioned to close the public hearing, second by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Dr. Smock briefly reviewed the process and the purpose of the issuance of the working cash fund bonds for needed facilities projects.

Motion carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – President Tim Braker called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Board of Education Statement:** President Braker read this statement from the Board of Education addressing public comment and expected behavior and conduct at meetings:

“During the public comments segment of our recent board meetings, there have been a number of threats of lawsuits and claims of complaints being made to governmental oversight agencies such as the Illinois State Board of Education, the Federal Department of Education, and the Office of Civil Rights. Therefore, the Board will no longer comment on these matters.” He noted professional decorum is expected. Behavior outside of that will not be tolerated.

**Audience Presentations:** President Braker opened the podium for audience presentations, reminding the audience about expected behavior. Each community member was given five minutes to share his/her thoughts. Emma Belsly and Caiden Brubaker offered their gratitude to the Board for their support of the many opportunities MHS students receive through SkillsUSA and being involved SkillsUSA State leadership.

The following community members addressed the Board: Heather McMeekan read for Julie Peters, Tammy Woodmancy, Dan Countryman, Nathan Fay, Lesley Shanks, Gabriel Birkey, Megan Bohn, and Gretchen Hohulin. Each community member received five minutes to share his/her thoughts.

## **Administrative Reports**

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

- Dr. Smock thanked Grundy staff for the meal and all that they shared at their building meeting. Grundy achieved exemplary status this year. He noted being proud and excited for their success. He commended Mr. Saunders, the staff, and students at Grundy for their hard work.
- The Business Office will return to their renovated space soon. It looks fantastic.
- He reminded everyone of the Special Meeting added to the Board Meeting Calendar for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, to approve a bid that will be opened and decided on December 13, 2023. It is the only Action Item on the agenda on December 19th. (note: bid opening date moved to 12/15/23 on 12/11/23)

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

President Tim Braker thanked Grundy teachers for their hospitality. They learned many things listening to the staff share about their classrooms. The Board was happy to celebrate their recent success with the exemplary status.

### **Agenda Building -**

Mr. Braker noted that the Board plans to review and discuss the Audience Presentation Policy at the next Board of Education meeting.

### **Discussion Item(s) –**

#### **School Board Illinois Joint Conference Discussion**

The Board briefly shared highlights from the Joint Annual School Board Conference. The Board noted the value in many of the workshops. A common goal for all involved is to improve students' lives.

### **Action Item(s) –**

#### **Approve Property Tax Relief Grant**

Mr. Rudd moved that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Property Tax Relief Grant. Dr. Cross seconded the motion.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

#### **Approve Morton High School Asbestos Removal for Locker Room Project**

Mr. Neeley motioned to approve the Morton High School Asbestos Removal Project. Dr. Cross seconded the motion.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda –**

Dr. Cross motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Rudd supported the motion.

- Approve Personnel Report

- Approve MHS Wrestling Out of State/Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Minutes of the November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting; the November 14, 2023, Closed Session Meeting
- Approve Bills & Payroll

	<b>Bills 11-17 11-20</b>	<b>Payroll 11-10</b>	<b>Payroll 11-22</b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$641,751.20	\$ 967,043.69	\$987,145.06
Bldg. Fund (20)	30,873.31	49,421.04	48,131.68
Trans. Fund (40)	6,507.25	33,574.75	31,269.85
IMRF (50)		49,373.41	50,330.49

Roll Call:      Yea 7              Nay 0

Motion carried.

### **Closed Session –**

Motion by Dr. Cross, seconded by Dr. Krall that the Board of Education enter into closed session for the discussion of **Personnel. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call:                      Yea 7    Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 8:15 p.m.

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 7              Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board re-entered open session at 8:32 p.m.

### **Action Item(s) –**

#### **Approve Board Rulings on Complaint Appeals (7 Rulings)**

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #1** Motion by Dr. Cross, seconded by Mr. Roth. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7              Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #2** Motion by Dr. Krall, seconded by Mr. Rudd. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #3** Motion by Mr. Braker, seconded by Mr. Neeley. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #4** Motion by Dr. Krall, seconded by Dr. Cross. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #5** Motion by Mr. Rudd, seconded by Mr. Roth. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #6** Motion by Mr. Roth, seconded by Dr. Cross. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Complaint Appeal Response Ruling #7** Motion by Mr. Neeley, seconded by Dr. Krall. For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Neeley motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rudd.

Voice Vote:        Yea 7            Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

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Jerry Rudd, Secretary

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Tim Braker, President