

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709
Special Meeting of the Board of Education

December 19, 2023

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call – President Tim Braker called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Audience Presentations:

The following community members addressed the Board: Heather McMeekan and Brian Groth. Each community member received five minutes to share his/her thoughts.

Discussion Item(s) –

Draft Revision of Policy 2:230: Public Participation at School Board Meetings & Petitions –

The Board reviewed the draft revision to Policy 2:230. The Board wants meetings to be efficient, respectful, and agenda focused. The Board wants to hear public comments with the Freedom of Speech. Other school boards in the area and the nation have split public participation at school board meetings into two sessions of public comment.

The first session is for public comment on the current agenda discussion and action items. This ensures constituents are heard before the Board moves forward or votes on an agenda item. The second public comment session ensures freedom of speech for constituents. It provides voters a voice regarding Board of Education matters that are not necessarily on the current agenda.

The public comment cards will require the speaker's name and topic so those speaking are placed in the corresponding session of current board business or public comment to the Board not on the current business agenda. The public comment cards must be turned in before the beginning of the first segment of public comment. The Board President presides with the authority to stop, warn, or dismiss a speaker for misconduct.

The Board typically allows five minutes per speaker, but the Board President can adjust that time (per Board Policies 8:30 and 3:30). Speakers who have topics that fit into both sessions will be given 3 minutes at each session unless speaker times have been adjusted for time constraints to allow more constituents to be heard.

Dr. Smock will update the draft for approval at the January 16, 2024, Board of Education meeting.

Action Item(s) –

Approve 2024 High School Locker Room Renovation & North Entry Addition –

The bid opening for the High School Locker Room Renovation and North Entry Addition project was held on December 15, 2023.

Dr. Smock shared a spreadsheet with the Board of Education. It showed some changes to the scope of the project after receiving from Lee Gerrietts from Keach Architectural Design. Mr. Gerrietts was present to answer any questions.

The District received bids from three companies, Johnco Construction, Peoria Metro Construction, and Zobrist Construction. The base bids ranged from \$6,943,000-\$8,132,000 and the base bids with recommended alternates ranged from \$6,972,000-\$8,163,000 with Peoria Metro Construction submitting the low bid.

The High School renovation is a complex project. Administration, Mr. Rodney Schuck, Facilities Director and Ms.Lisa Kowalski, CFO, reviewed the scope of the project, including these discussion points:

- Preventing a costly sewer emergency with sewer improvements.
- Adding new and improved HVAC when it is less costly makes sense.
- New air-conditioned spaces will be gained.
- New and improved spaces for students and guests will be added, improving ADA accessibility
- Creating a clear entrance for Morton High School will benefit the Morton 709 community and our visitors.

Upon completion, the High School will have newly renovated locker rooms, east gym HVAC and roofing, the north entry addition, as well as other renovations in the north wing. Morton High School will be fresh and new in the renovated spaces.

Proceeding with the project now will save time and money in the future. The current projected cost is now, 7.1 million, \$803,000 over what was previously projected. Some of the additional \$803,000 funding can be captured by adjusting timelines on already scheduled building maintenance. The District has \$2.8 million from the sale of land, too.

The Administration recommended that the Board of Education accept the base bid plus Alternate Bid 1 from Peoria Metro Construction in the amount of \$6,972,000.

Dr. Cross moved that the Board of Education approved the 2024 High School Locker Room Renovation and North Entry Addition. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting; No Closed Session
- Approve Bills

	Bills 12-15-23 12-18-23
Ed. Fund (10)	\$348,229.93
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$121,036.30
Trans. Fund (40)	\$38,862.84

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session – The Board did not hold a closed session.

Adjournment –

Dr. Krall 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 6:27 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President