

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 16, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on January 16, 2024, 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 Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

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

Audience Presentations:

The following community members addressed the Board: Elaine Hopkins, Heather McMeekan, and Bryan Groth regarding Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings & Petitions to the Board. Each community member received five minutes to share his/her thoughts.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock and the Board of Education congratulated Scott Jones, MHS Athletic Director for his recent recognition as the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA) District 6 Athletic Director of the Year. Dr. Smock recognized Mr. Jones for his work ethic and desire to bring good opportunities for all students. Mr. Jones has led as the District in expanding programs for boys and girls. Mr. Jones expressed his gratitude for the recognition for doing something he loves doing. He appreciates the Board, community, and family support.
- Officer Kristi Falk was welcomed by the Board. She is the new School Resource Officer with the Morton Police Department. She is excited about her new role. She is already learning and leading in her role. She has been in law enforcement for sixteen years, twelve of them in Morton. The Board expressed appreciation for her work.
- Dr. Smock reflected on recent weather related decisions. He asked the Board for feedback. Starting an hour late was new for Morton. Dr. Smock commended the building administrators for their quick response to the altered schedule to make it work in their buildings and with shared building staff. Dr. Smock gave all the credit to the leadership in each building for their management of starting school an hour late.
- The Facilities Committee Meeting looked at summer projects.
 - The schedule for summer projects was reviewed. Jefferson will have the other half of last summer's project completed. By adjusting timelines slightly, a job may move up or down on the list of slated work, funds already slated for building maintenance can be worked into the MHS renovation project. No maintenance project is eliminated. Timelines are adjusted.
 - When the sale of the land is complete, another 2.8 million dollars becomes available for renovations.
 - The "Preschool for All" grant means we are looking at where we will house the program. There are not many spaces available.

- The MHS renovation will begin in March while school is in session. Safety is always a high priority.

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- Mr. Braker thanked everyone who helped clear away snow for the late start day, recognizing that it is a big job to clear sidewalks and parking lots. He thanked administration for making the decisions they did for the late start.
- Mr. Jones was congratulated and thanked for his leadership in expanding programming and hard work.
- Mr. Braker thanked Officer Falk for her efforts to keep our students safe. Safety requires constant vigilance. She is appreciated.

Agenda Building - The Board discussed needing a plan when speakers in the public comment time veer off subject of the agenda items.

Discussion Item(s) –

2024-25 School Year Calendar – Dr. Joe Sander returned to the Board with the final suggested 2024-25 School Year Calendar for review with one revision. Morton 709 will attend school on Columbus Day 2024. The Board will approve the 2024-25 School Calendar at the January 23, 2024, Board of Education meeting.

Proposed High School AP Biology Textbook– Dr. Teater reported to the Board that the textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for the high school AP Biology course. Choices for AP textbooks are limited by the College Board. The committee reviewed the College Board options. They selected Biology for the AP Course. The selection was shared with the Teaching and Learning Council(TLC) and a presentation made to the Leadership Team. The materials will be available for the community to review for 30 days on the website.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings & Petitions to the Board

Dr. Krall moved that the Board approve Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings & Petitions to the Board revisions. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Dr. Cross motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Rudd supported the motion. The Board expressed gratitude to Mangold Ford for their donation.

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve Key Club Trip request per Board Policy 6:240 – February 23-25, 2024
- C. Approve Morton Academy Donation – Mangold Ford
- D. Approve Minutes of the December 19, 2023, Special Meeting; No Closed Session
- E. Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 12-15-23 12-18-23	Bills 1-12-24 1-16-24	Payroll 12-8-23	Payroll 12-22-23
Ed. Fund (10)	\$348,229.93	\$355,570.18	947,386.65	987,015.01
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$121,036.30	\$248,613.36	49,451.4	50,739.62
Trans. Fund (40)	\$38,862.84	\$113,284.26	23,098.25	32,481.22
IMRF (50)			43,242.3	51,277.05
Torte (80)				

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

Motion carried.

Audience Presentations:

Dr. Ashley Fischer requested time to address the Board regarding the Sale of the farmland on 4th Street. She, additionally, commented on the updated Public Comment procedure. She received five minutes to share her thoughts.

Closed Session – President Braker called for a motion to enter into closed session for the matters of **Personnel, Board Appeals, and Negotiations**. Dr. Cross motioned for the Board to enter into closed session. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

The Board re-entered open session at 8:39 p.m.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Board Rulings on Complaint Appeals (3 Rulings)

Complaint #9 (11-4-23) Appeal Response Ruling 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. Motion by Dr. Cross, seconded by Mr. Roth.

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

Motion carried.

Complaint #10 (11-8-23) Appeal Response Ruling 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. Motion by Mr. Braker, seconded by Dr. Krall.

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

Motion carried.

Complaint #11 (11-8-23) Appeal Response Ruling 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. Motion by Mr. Rudd seconded by Mrs. Leman.

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

Adjournment –

Dr. Krall motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Roth.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President