

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**January 23, 2024**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on January 23, 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 7:01 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.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

## **Audience Presentations:**

### **Administrative Reports**

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

Dr. Smock thanked Mrs. Lindsay Franklin and the Student Services team for the meal and conversation. She will present at the February 6, 2024, Board of Education Meeting on the Student Services Program

Jamie Adolphson (MHS), Scott Jones (MHS), & Scott Hammond (MJHS) will present the Extra-Curricular Activities Report at the February 6, 2024 Board of Education meeting. They needed to be present in their buildings for rescheduled activities due to weather cancellations.

Dr. Smock noted that the difficult weather conditions of the day provided some lessons learned. Not all country roads were equally clear. He shared appreciation for everyone who did their part to make school possible. Dr. Smock wanted to be clear that it is a parent’s decision regarding the safety of sending their student to school. He shared regret for not making that abundantly clear in the communication with families.

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

Mr. Braker shared the Board’s appreciation for the meeting with Lindsay Franklin and the Student Support Services team. He reflected on the good conversation with the Board. The Board appreciates getting to know them and learning about their many programs.

Mr. Braker mentioned that Dr. Smock and the Administrative Team have tough decisions to make on bad weather days. Our goal is to have kids in school and to get them there safely. The Board appreciates Dr. Smock and the Administrative Team and their efforts on those days.

**Agenda Building -** Mr. Tom Neeley mentioned that he was in Springfield for “Vision 2030.” He is on the finance sub-committee. He participated in a teleconference with the State Superintendent. He shared two things: 1) Many districts were upset with the way the State determined rankings on the School Report Card. Outstanding schools did not get ranked appropriately. It will be discussed with the Governor. 2) Absenteeism needs better data across the state. Reporting needs to be clearer. The addition of mental health days Post-Covid is new. How to measure if personal days are mental health days is not well established. Absenteeism is three-times greater across the nation. It is not just Illinois.

**Action Item(s) –**

**Approve 2024-25 School Year Calendar –**

Mr. Rudd moved that the Board approve the 2024-25 School Year Calendar. Dr. Cross seconded the motion.

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Dr. Smock gave further explanation about the MHS Marching Band Disney Trip. Board approval is a necessary first step. Board approval means they can begin planning and fundraising to determine if the trip is feasible. The Board asked some questions about the cost for students. Dr. Smock noted that they have a booster club and can fund raise. The last big trip of that sort was to march in the Inaugural Parade for President Obama.

The Board and Dr. Smock expressed appreciation for local two local businesses, Better Banks & Precision Planting, for their donations to benefit the MHS Activities Fund.

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

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Treasurers Report – November 2023
- C. Approve MHS Activities Donations – Better Banks & Precision Planting
- D. Authorize the Opening of Closed Session Minutes July 2023-December 2023
- E. Approve MHS Marching Band Trip to Disney – Orlando, FL – November 2024
- F. Approve Minutes of the January 16, 2024, Regular Meeting; the January 16, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- G. Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b><u>Bills</u></b> <b><u>1-19-24</u></b>	<b><u>Payroll</u></b> <b><u>1-5-24</u></b>	<b><u>Payroll</u></b> <b><u>1-19-24</u></b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$265,046.75	879,134.87	845,036.99
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$18.08	50,741.09	51,767.36
Trans. Fund (40)		21,378.57	15,327.02
IMRF (50)		39,024.04	33,848.62
Torte (80)			

Roll Call:            Yea 7            Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Audience Presentations:**

Bryan Groth and Dr. Ashley Fischer requested time to address the Board regarding non-agenda items. Each spoke for five minutes to the Board of Education.

**Closed Session** – President Braker called for a motion to enter into closed session for the matters of **Personnel**.

Dr. Cross motioned for the Board to enter into closed session. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:24 p.m.

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

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

The Board re-entered open session at 8:06 p.m.

**Adjournment** –

Mr. Neeley motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote:       Yea 7        Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 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