

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**February 6, 2024**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on February 6, 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 5:35 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. Andrew Roth, and Mr. Jerry Rudd. Absent at Roll Call – Dr. David Cross (arrived at 5:39 p.m.)

Roll Call:            Yea 6            Nay 0            Absent 1

Dr. David Cross arrived at 5:39 p.m.

## Administrative Reports

### Superintendent’s Report— Dr. Smock

**Extra-Curricular Activities Report**– Jamie Adolphson (MHS), Scott Jones (MHS), & Chris Carter (MJHS) presented the annual Extra-Curricular Activities Report to the Board of Education.

- Ms. Adolphson noted that the students involved in extra-curricular activities increased by 12% at MHS this year. There are 69 current activities. Some are seasonal. Some ebb and flow with student interest. Some are student led and some are school sponsored. Activities for girls have increased. Only a small percentage of students are not engaged in any club, sport, or activity. Some not in the count are involved in other things like work or community activities. Worth noting, SkillsUSA students are building stairs for Physical Therapists to use in buildings with no stairs.
- Mr. Carter shared the MJHS numbers for activities and sports. MJHS added competitive cheer and dance, increasing Title IX numbers. Mr. Carter noted that there is a continued increase in interest from students. Students show up for new opportunities. They would like to add pickle ball, but space continues to be limited across the district.
- Mr. Jones reported MHS has 28 sports and 60 teams. He expressed the value in keeping track of the data. The increase in offerings for girls continues. Boys bowling went to state in their second season. Competitive Dance and Cheer continue to thrive with appearances at the State level. Twenty-two girls expressed interest in intramural badminton. There are no other teams within 100 miles. He shared that the MHS weight room is booked from 6 a.m. into the evening hours making it the most used classroom at MHS. Working out is a part of health and wellness. He highlighted “giving back” and doing positive things in the community is an intentional component. He expressed gratitude for the many ways our board, parents and community support our students.

**Student Support Services Report.**– Lindsay Franklin, Director of Student Support Services, Stephanie Brown, Assistant Director of Student Support Services and Wellness, and Bethany Scroggs, Assistant Director of Special Education, presented a full report to the Board of Education. Mrs. Katie Bolkema, Payroll and Grants Coordinator shared financial components of the Pre-K for All grant. Finding space for the expanded programming is a challenge.

**“I Love U Guys” Training** -- Dr. Sander shared feedback from the “I Love U Guys Foundation” training that thirty-four Morton 709 Employees attended. It was a one-day session offered on two days. A local Regional Office of Education grant covered the cost of the training. A main goal is common language in an emergency. The trainer, Staci Avila, was the actual police negotiator the day Emily Keyes lost her life at Platte Canyon H.S. John Michael and Ellen Keys refused to let the tragedy be their daughter’s legacy. They provide free resources across the nation to build Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Methods (SRM). Dr. Sander and Mr. Rudd discussed how it uses the basic procedures of Incident Command Response training. Dr. Sander reiterated the importance of drills and reviewing each drill for improvement.

Dr. Smock reported the MHS renovations begin next week. Safety is our first priority. Mrs. Ripka will send clear communications about logistics during the renovation. Dr. Smock is looking for opportunities to share about the project with some 3-D renderings. The Board suggested a community night.

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

- Mr. Braker shared that between Pink Night and the Gameball Run over \$250,000 was raised for great causes.
- Mr. Braker appreciates what Dr. Smock is doing to get the word out on the MHS renovations so the community has an opportunity to see what is coming.
- Mr. Braker thanked all of those who presented reports. Student involvement in Extra-Curricular Activities and the Student Support Services offered all reflect the initiatives Dr. Smock set as goals when hired as Superintendent. The reports reflect removing barriers to learning, promoting educational opportunities, and learning inside and outside of the classroom.

### **Agenda Building -**

- The Board requested an update on the GPA discussion. Dr. Smock reported that there are very active discussions happening. Dr. Teater has created several spreadsheets. They are evaluating the student database to be sure it has the capabilities to do what we need to roll out. Administration has narrowed it down to a few options. Administration does not want current students negatively impacted by the change.
- The Board asked for an update about the need for more space. Class size is always a consideration. Pre-School, Morton Academy, and other programs need learning space. Dr. Smock acknowledged the space challenges. We are looking at some potential ways to create space in ways that are flexible.

### **Consent Agenda –**

Dr. Smock thanked the family of the late Scott Lyn, former MHS science teacher for the donation of his personal collection of fossils and other artifacts.

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

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve Scott Lynn Fossil and Artifacts Collection
- C. Approve MHS Overnight Trip - SkillsUSA Leadership Conference per Board Policy 6:240
- D. Approve Minutes of the January 23, 2024, Regular Meeting; the January 23, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- G. Approve Bills

	<b><u>Bills</u></b> <b>1-26-24</b> <b>1-29-24</b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$203,462.76
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$418,652.21
Trans. Fund (40)	\$16,700.04
IMRF (50)	
Torte (80)	\$6,673.00

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Audience Presentations:**

Heather McMeekan, Bryan Groth, and Kathy McNeil 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 **Negotiations and Personnel.**

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

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:01 p.m.

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

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

The Board re-entered open session at 9:14 p.m.

**Action Item(s) –**

**Approve Board Rulings on Complaint Appeals (4 Rulings)**

**Complaint #17 (11-14-23) 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. Neeley, seconded by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Complaint #18 (11-14-23) 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 Mrs. Leman, seconded by Mr. Braker.

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Complaint #19 (11-14-23) 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. Krall, seconded by Mr. Rudd.

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Complaint #24 (12-4-23) 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 Mr. Roth, seconded by Dr. Cross.

Roll Call:        Yea 7        Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Rudd motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote:        Yea 7        Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 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