

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

February 20, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on February 20 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 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Administrative Reports

Superintendent’s Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock shared some details of the building meeting with Lincoln. It was a great night of hearing about the ways students are engaging in many activities that are screenless and involve peer and community engagement. Again, they heard great reviews on the MHS students working as aides in classrooms through the Work CO-OP program. Everyone benefits and the student workers do a great job.
- Dr. Smock updated the Board on the beginning of renovations. Updates in infrastructure cost less when it is not an emergency. He noted that Mrs. Ripka and the team at MHS have been doing a fantastic job thinking through the logistics. They have been sending out clear and timely communications. More areas will be sealed off on March 4, 2024, as work begins. Safety is of the highest priority.

President’s Report - Mr. Cross, Vice-President

Dr. Cross thanked Lincoln staff for a great night. He enjoyed hearing what was happening in their building. Other Board members agreed that the building meetings are very helpful to the Board. They want to know about the climate and needs in each of the buildings.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Proposed High School AP Biology Textbook–

Dr. Teater reported to the Board that the new AP textbook committee was available for the public to review for 30 days with no public feedback or comment. The Board noted appreciation for the team that did the research into the new textbook. The selected Biology for the AP Course requires Board approval. Dr. Krall motioned for the new textbook to be approved. Mr. Rudd supported.

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

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Mr. Rudd motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Neeley supported the motion. Dr. Smock noted that the \$5000 anonymous donation to MJHS was for Volleyball Uniforms and the donation from Richard and Catherine Crane was for the MJHS Musical. The Board expressed thanks to the donors for their gifts.

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve Treasurer’s Report - December
- C. Approve Out-of-State/ Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Volleyball (July 2024)
- D. Approve MJHS Activities Donations – Anonymous Donation; Richard & Catherine Crane
- E. Approve Minutes of the February 6, 2024, Regular Meeting; the February 6, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- F. Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 2-9-24 2-12-24	Payroll 2-2-24	Payroll 2-16-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$435,829.18	924,167.03	993,330.88
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$22,996.45	52,927.57	51,189.90
Trans. Fund (40)	\$5,543.84	21,839.36	30,162.33
IMRF (50)		43,477.58	50,889.71
Torte (80)			

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

Motion carried.

Non-Audience Presentations:

Mr. Bryan Groth and Ms. Heather McMeekan requested time to address the Board regarding non-agenda items. Each spoke for five minutes to the Board of Education.

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

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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:26 p.m.

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

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

The Board re-entered open session at 8:54 p.m.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Board Rulings on Complaint Appeals (11 Rulings)

Complaint #8 (11-1-23) 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 Mrs. Leman.

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

Motion carried.

Complaint #12 (11-13-23) 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 Dr. Cross.

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

Motion carried.

Complaint #13 (11-13-23) 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 Mr. Roth.

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

Complaint #14 (11-13-23) 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 Mrs. Leman.

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

Complaint #15 (11-13-23) 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 Dr. Cross.

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

Complaint #16 (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. Rudd, seconded by Mr. Roth.

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

Complaint #20 (11-27-23) 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 Mrs. Leman.

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

Complaint #21 (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 Dr. Krall, seconded by Dr. Cross.

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

Complaint #22 (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 Mr. Rudd.

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

Complaint #23 (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 Mrs. Leman, seconded by Mr. Neeley.

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

Complaint #25 (12-5-23) 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 Dr. Cross.

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

Adjournment –

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

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

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

David Cross, Vice-President