

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 5, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on March 5, 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 5:31 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Administrative Reports

Superintendent’s Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock welcomed youth from Cub Scouts Pack 85 to the experience of a public meeting.
- MHS Renovation Presentation – Dr. Smock shared a detailed presentation on the MHS Renovation project to the Board. They offered valuable feedback. The Board was impressed with the financing work. Dr. Smock credited Lisa Kowalski, CFO, for her work. The Board reflected on the many improvements that will come with the completed project to benefit all students and our community. They mentioned improved traffic flow, security, Title IX improvements, new classrooms, and a clear entrance to MHS.
- Dr. Smock shared that the GPA discussion is not finished. They are evaluating the Student Data Management system abilities. A key factor in any decisions is insuring that current high school students are not harmed if changes are made.
- Dr. Sander updated the Board of Education regarding “I Love U Guys.” Several team members met to follow-up on our Standard Response Protocol. Dr. Sander attended a meeting with other area districts in the area to talk about a larger Response Protocol Plan. The Board asked questions and gave feedback.

President’s Report - Mr. Braker

Mr. Braker noted that every student and community member that enters the renovated high school benefits from the project. It is exciting.

Discussion Item(s) –

The Board of Education reviewed options for the 2024-25 Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule. The Board reviewed the calendar options. They will vote on the calendar at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda –

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

- A. Approve Personnel Report
- B. Approve Treasurer’s Report – January 2024
- C. Approve Pepsi Contract per Board Policy 4:60-#5
- D. Approve Lincoln 6th Grade Field Trip (St. Louis, MO) per Board Policy 6:240

- E. Approve IHSA Membership Renewal
- F. Approve Summer SOAR Program
- G. Approve MHS Summer School – APEX
- H. Approve Summer Challenge Program
- I. Approve Minutes of the February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting; the February 20, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- J. Approve Bills

	Bills 2-24-24 2-26-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$527,751.90
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$136,680.22
Trans. Fund (40)	\$16,771.46
IMRF (50)	
Torte (80)	\$1,403.95

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Non-Audience Presentations:

Ms. Heather McMeekan and Dr. Ashley Fischer requested time to address the Board regarding non-agenda items. Each was 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** and **Negotiations**. Dr. Cross motioned for the Board to enter into closed session. Dr. Krall seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:39 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

The Board re-entered open session at 7:51 p.m.

- The Board of Education requested some feedback from the schools on bullying/mistreatment reports. They noted that CARE-U did an excellent Podcast with a mental health professional that is educational and helpful.
- Dr. Smock shared that he is working on some communication to clarify the safety of the asbestos abatement plan. Mrs. Ripka and the Administrative team have done an excellent job of thinking through the challenges. An environmental engineer and the IDHP worked on the asbestos removal plan.

- They would like to see the MHS Renovation plans shared with MHS students.
- The election of the Board of Education officers usually takes place in May.

Adjournment –

Dr. Neeley 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 8:05 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President