

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 23, 2024

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

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

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

Audience Presentations:

Ms. Heather McMeekan addressed the Board of Education on agenda related items. She spoke for five minutes.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- MHS hosted a great building meeting. Seeing the construction process was a highlight.
- The SkillsUSA Illinois Competition takes place in Peoria this weekend. Many MHS students are participating. The scope of the areas of competition is wide. He noted it is something to see. Several Board members and Administration were interested in attending.
- Mrs. Kate Wyman (Jefferson) and Mrs. Karen Gardner (MHS Co-op) collaborated on the Future Focus Fair 2024. MHS Students who work in the community as part of their schooling shared their experiences and answered questions for the sixth graders at Jefferson. It was a fantastic hour of sharing.
- Our Math Team placed 2nd at State. They Board will meet them soon.
- The Board is interested in the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education Award (NAMM) details.

President's Report - Mr. Braker

- Mr. Braker thanked MHS teachers for giving their time to be at the meeting. It was great to see the construction coming along.
- He congratulated SkillsUSA Advisors, Ms. Tiffany Beard and Mr. Chad McFarland, on the special recognition they received as
- The Board will elect officers in May.

Agenda Building -

- The Board would like more information on the significant increase in Multi-Language Learners (MLL). Is it trending in other schools locally and in other places?
- The Board greatly appreciates all of the presentations, surveys, assessments, and information presented to the Board at meetings. It is very helpful when making decisions. The Board appreciates the presentations that continue to show the district seeks and values parental input. Schools, family, and community working together for positive outcomes for students is important.
- Hiring a new principal for MHS is a high priority. The Board will be included in the process.

- The Board noted it is time for the annual Superintendent Evaluation. They thanked Dr. Smock for his leadership, work, and efforts to communicate with the community.

Discussion Item –

First Reading and Discussion of New and Revised Policies

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the New/Updated/ Revised Policies as recommended by the IASB PRESS Policy Service. Dr. Smock reminded the Board and audience that PRESS provides us with a team of attorneys to review policy to help school boards make the best decisions and revisions. Mr. Neeley added that the IASB has additional attorneys who consult with the IASB for additional input. The service is excellent.

Electricity Reversed Auction Discussion

Dr. Smock shared with the Board that we are coming to the end of our electricity plan chosen through the Electricity Reverse Auction process. The Board needs feedback from Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, or Mr. Adam Jacob, Director of Business Services to review how it worked out. The Board would like to hear from Ms. Becky Thompson at Nania Energy Advisors again for her forecast on energy costs before deciding.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Administration Re-employment and Salary Increases Dr. Cross motioned for the Re-employment of Administration with salary increases to be determined. Mr. Neeley supported the motion

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

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Peoria County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (FY25)
- Approve MHS Student Council Convention Overnight Trip (May 2024) – Springfield, IL per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight/ Out-of-State MHS Cheer Camp (June 2024) – Lake Geneva, WI per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve MHS Boys Basketball Overnight Trip (June 2024) per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Final 2023-24 Amended School Calendar
- Approve Treasurer Report – March 2024
- Approve Minutes of the April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting; the April 9, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- Approve Bills

	Bills 4-12-24	Bills 4-19-24 4-22-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$17,689.48	\$641,391.82
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$952.79	\$461,955.97
Trans. Fund (40)	\$359.86	\$22,502.98
IMRF (50)		
TORT (80)		\$4,193.00

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

Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Presentations:

Dr. Ashley Fischer and Mr. Brian Groth requested time to address the Board of Education on Non-Agenda related items. Both spoke for five minutes.

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

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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:49 p.m.

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

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

The Board re-entered open session at 8:28 p.m.

Adjournment –

Mr. Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

David Cross, Vice-President

Tim Braker, President