

# MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

**May 7, 2024**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on May 7, 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 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call:            Yea 7     Nay 0

**Recognition of Excellence:** The Board of Education recognized the following teams for placing in the top teams at IESA, ICTM, and SkillsUSA finals. MJHS Boys Bowling finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. MHS Math Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2A ICTM State Math Contest, and SkillsUSA top student finishers, and leadership recognition for Mrs. Tiffany Beard as the Illinois SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year. SkillsUSA teams and individuals who finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place will be going to the National Competition. The recognition was for excellence in academics, athletics, and in the trades.

## **Re-Organization of the Board:**

**Elect President Pro-Tem** – President Braker called for a nomination to make Dr. Smock President Pro-Tem until a new President is elected. Mr. Neeley nominated Dr. Smock to be President Pro-Tem until the new President is elected and seated. Dr. Cross seconded the nomination.

Roll Call:            Yea 7     Nay 0

Motion carried. Dr. Craig Smock served as President Pro-Tem.

## **Elect President -**

Dr. Smock, President Pro Tem, asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Braker nominated Dr. Cross to serve as President. There being no other nominations, Dr. Cross was declared President by acclamation and he assumed his seat as President.

## **Elect Vice President -**

President Cross asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Neeley nominated Mr. Jerry Rudd to serve as Vice President. There being no other nominations, Mr. Rudd was declared Vice President by acclamation.

## **Elect Secretary -**

President Cross asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Roth nominated Mrs. Leman to serve as Secretary. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Leman was declared Secretary by acclamation.

**Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings** – Dr. Cross and the Board of Education agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2024-25 school year on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The first meeting of the month is at 5:30 p.m. and the second meeting of the month is at 7:00 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center unless otherwise noted.

**Audience Presentations:** There were no agenda related audience presentations. Three cards were completed for Non-Agenda related presentations during Audience Presentations for Non-Agenda Related items.

## **Administrative Reports**

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

- Dr. Smock shared the faculty involvement in a professional development activity with Dr. Krista Leh. District faculty and staff received training in recognizing both bullying and mistreatment. Her program included prevention, recognition, strategies including developing connectedness that promotes kindness. “Interrupting Bullying Behaviors and Creating a Culture of Connection” was the name of the workshop. Dr. Smock has presentation slides to share with the Board of Education.
- Dr. Smock will present to the Morton Rotary on Thursday on the MHS renovations.
- Dr. Smock, Dr. Sander, and Dr. Teater visited the MHS Co-op to interview students. They were amazing. Some already have certifications, some will change their path, some have discovered their passion. The students did a fantastic job. Dr. Sander interviewed several teaching assistants working in our grade schools. Administration thanked the Board for helping support the Co-op program and Karen Gardner who facilitates the program, working with the students and community partners.
- It is Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week. Dr. Smock noted how much the administration appreciates the work they do every day and enjoy the opportunity celebrate them. Monical's Pizza, salad and Carius Creamery deliveries are scheduled for each building and team.
- Dr. Smock thanked Mr. Braker for his leadership and service in the role of Board President. He is an outstanding leader and a great sounding board in his role.
- Dr. Smock recognized Ms. Deidre Ripka for her 19 years of service at MHS. She leaving for a promotion in another district. Ms. Ripka thanked the Board for hiring her in 2009 her and trusting her to lead as principal in 2019. Dr. Smock noted he has not known MHS without her. She thanked her Morton High School team and her family for their support.
- Dr. Smock made a public statement to correct false accusations and comments that have presented to the Board during audience presentations. He warned of the seriousness of making false accusations.

### **President's Report – Dr. Cross**

- Dr. Cross noted the pleasure is seeing students coming before the Board excelling in many different areas of learning, working, and leading.
- He reminded the Board to let Mrs. Smith know their plans for the IASB Conference in November.

### **Agenda Building -**

- Dr. Cross asked about maximizing the Co-op experience for more students to be involved. Dr. Smock is already tracking it. There is a screening process and other actives might interfere with students being able to participate. Administration is committed to maximizing opportunities through Co-op to the benefit of students and employers.

### **Action Item(s) –**

#### **Approve Policy Revisions and Updates -**

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the Policy Revisions/Updates as recommended by the IASB PRESS Policy Service at the previous meeting. Mr. Rudd motioned for the Re-employment of Administration with salary increases to be determined. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Mrs. Leman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Rudd supported the motion.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Building Rental Rates for FY25
- Approve Minutes of the April 23, 2024, Regular Meeting; the April 23, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills</b>	<b>Payroll 3-9-24 (Corrected)</b>	<b>Payroll 4-12-24</b>	<b>Payroll 4-26-24</b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$242,247.44	1,023,855.51	850,136.82	907,392.21
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$113,203.24	51,843.84	46,436.55	49,620.55
Trans. Fund (40)	\$7,919.04	33,684.65	15,377.92	34,586.44
IMRF (50)		51,949.49	33,552.76	51,520.92

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Non-Agenda Presentations:**

Ms. Kathy McNeil, Ms. Heather McMeekan, and Mr. Brian Groth requested time to address the Board of Education on Non-Agenda related items. Each one spoke for five minutes.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Neeley to re-enter open session. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 7:41 p.m.

**Action Item(s) –**

**Approve Board Ruling on Complaint Appeal (1 Ruling)**

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to affirm the decision of the Superintendent in the complaint filed by Bryan Groth on February 20, 2024, and formally appealed to the Board of Education on April 18, 2024, for reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision. The Board directed the Board President to provide written notice to the complainant of the Board’s decision within five school business days. Mrs. Leman supported.

Roll Call:    Yea 7    Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Adjournment –**

Dr. Krall made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote:    Yea 7    Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

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David Cross, President