

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 21, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on May 21, 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

Agenda-Related Audience Presentations:

Ms. April Privett, Mrs. Elaine Hopkins, Dr. Ashley Fischer, and Mr. Daniel Fischer requested time to address the Board of Education on Agenda-Related items. Each one spoke for five or three minutes if they were addressing the Board a second time during Non-Agenda Audience Presentations.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock introduced Morton Jr. High Principal, Chris Carter, to share about intentional focus on transitions from 6th grade to 7th grade. The sixth grade elementary teachers and seventh grade teachers are collaborating on ways they can prepare the students for the step up to MJHS. The goal is to maximize student success and minimize student distress in the transition. Mr. Carter described junior high as a 28-month whirlwind. He shared details with the Board. The second step will be to build a similar plan for the transition from MJHS to MHS.
- The MHS GPA discussions continue on the administrative level. The current system has remained for decades. It is complicated. Changing it is complicated, too. Administration has looked at several possibilities with the goal of no negative impact on students should a new GPA calculation system be adopted. Another challenge has been the ability of the student-data management system (PowerSchool) to manage the old and the new calculations.
- Graduation was wonderful. The common theme was that the MHS Class of 2024 was a class act.
- The Potter Awards are on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. It is always special recognizing staff for years of service and the special award for outstanding employees nominated by their peers. Dr. Cross will be part of the welcome.

President's Report – Dr. Cross

- Dr. Cross noted that it is time to review the Superintendent's Committees. President Cross directed the Board to let him know if they want to change committees or if there is a need for any new committees.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Interfund Transfer of Interest Income –

Morton Community Unit School District No. 709 (the “District”) accrued interest of \$35,662.03 resulting from the issuance of the General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2016 (the “Bonds”). Administration made a recommendation to transfer the full cash balance of the Bond and Interest Fund as of 5/21/24 to the Operation and Maintenance Fund, as well as, any residual interest accrued prior to the execution of the transfer.

Mr. Rudd motioned for the transfer of the full cash balance of the Bond and Interest Fund as May 21, 2024, to the Operation and Maintenance fund, as well as any residual interest. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Food Service Breakfast at Jefferson and Set Pricing-

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the implementation of a Morton CUSD 709 breakfast program pilot at Jefferson Elementary with the recommended set price at \$1.60 per meal. Mr. Rudd motioned for the Board of Education to approve the breakfast pilot program at Jefferson School at the price of \$1.60 per meal. Mr. Braker 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 Minutes of the May 7, 2024, Regular Meeting; the May 7, 2024, Closed Session Meeting
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5/17 & 5/20
Ed. Fund (10)	\$221,699.93
Bldg. Fund (20)	141,507.35
Trans. Fund (40)	6,570.75

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Presentations:

Mr. George Hopkins, Ms. Heather McMeekan, Dr. Ashley Fischer, and Mr. Daniel Fischer requested time to address the Board of Education on Non-Agenda related items. Each one spoke for five minutes or 3 minutes if they spoke earlier in the meeting.

Closed Session – President Cross 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. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:09 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 9:16 p.m.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Hiring of Morton High School Principal

Mr. Neeley made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the hiring of Mr. Kirk Edwards to the position of principal at Morton High School for the 2024-25 School Year. Mr. Braker supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment –

Mr. Rudd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Braker supported

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

David Cross, President