

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**OCTOBER 20, 2009**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 20, 2009, at Jefferson School.

### **REGULAR MEETING -**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call -**

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser,  
Mr. John Appen, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Noah Menold, Mr. Doug Riddle

#### **Reports –**

##### **Administrative –**

###### **709 Recognition –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that during the month of October the Technology, Maintenance, Custodial and Security Departments are being recognized. Notes of appreciation will be sent to each employee and they will be recognized on the MCB community bulletin board.

###### **Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has responded to one Freedom of Information request.

###### **Mapping Assessment Report –**

Dr. Teater reported on the MAP Assessment following the fall testing window. He compared actual MAP/ISAT scores in math and reading for 2007 and 2008 and the predictions by MAP for this year's scores. Dr. Kilpatrick noted three key points – 1) the high predictability rate between MAP and ISAT and the ability to test early and target interventions for students; 2) interventions are having an impact and 3) look for areas to continue to improve to not only meet the targets but to exceed.

###### **Counseling/Social Worker Update –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that there will be a counseling update given to the Board annually. Mrs. Deidre Ripka, head counselor, introduced the other high school counselors, Mrs. Barra and Mrs. Rademaker, and recognized Mrs. Wilkerson, the high school counseling secretary and registrar. She also introduced Mr. Walt Nunnally, the drug and alcohol counselor contracted by the district. She pointed out the three areas the counseling department focuses on with the high school students – social/emotional, academic, and career/vocational. The three counselors are also the senior class sponsors coordinating

homecoming activities for the seniors, St. Jude Week and graduation. They serve on many committees including CAC, RtI, Honors and Curriculum, IRT and Tech Prep. They organize 16 local scholarships and coordinate Honors Night.

Mrs. Overcash and Mr. Applen commended the entire group for doing a great job in all of their capacities.

Mrs. Jill Thornton explained the duties of the district social workers. She shared the mission statement of the social workers – "...provide services to students who are experiencing social, emotional, or environmental difficulties that interfere with their school adjustment and achievement." She noted that services provided are adapted and evolve from year to year based on student and school need. Social Worker duties include – Special Education referrals, individual counseling, group counseling, crisis intervention, current issues (mental illness, drug and alcohol use, peer relationships, new student adjustment, responsibility and homework completion), resources (library, community resources availability, holiday adoption programs), Response to Intervention (RtI).

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked Mrs. Ripka and Mrs. Thornton for their excellent presentations and noted that Mr. Nunnally will present to the Board at the end of the school year.

Mr. Neeley commended the counselors for being a great team and for having met the goals set a few years ago.

#### **Facilities Update –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the CORE committee held their second meeting. He reviewed the timeline, noting that the sub-committees will be meeting between now and November 12 when the CORE committee meets again. All committee members are very enthusiastic about the endeavor.

#### **Drug Testing Update –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that we are using the same process as last year for drug testing at the high school. Students are accepting the process. He noted that there are still drug and alcohol issues, but drug testing can be used as a resource.

#### **President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley read a note from the Chamber of Commerce thanking the Board of Education for their part in volunteering at the recently held Pumpkin Festival.

Mr. Neeley reported that he had attended the October CAC meeting for Mrs. Overcash and gave a summary of the meeting. In the future the board CAC representatives will give a verbal report at the Board meeting with each Board member receiving a copy of

the official CAC minutes.

Mr. Riddle reported that he attended the Transition Dinner for parents of 18 to 22 year old special education students and commended Ms. Ashby and Mrs. Mays for an excellent meeting. The group hopes to meet monthly.

Mr. Neeley, Mr. Riddle and Mr. Heinold reported on the Central Illinois Division meeting held at Dunlap High School.

Mr. Neeley reported that the meeting with the Jefferson School teachers held earlier in the evening was excellent. The Board members enjoyed the “progressive dinner” style of the meeting getting to visit several classrooms and enjoy demonstrations.

### **Discussion Items –**

#### **Scoreboard Review –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that a Scorecard is different from a Dashboard. A Scorecard has student achievement areas and is used to track growth areas. He will have a format to build on at a future meeting.

Mr. Neeley asked Board members to share with Dr. Kilpatrick any other ideas they would like to see on the Scorecard.

#### **Board Compliance – Operational Policies -**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has reviewed the Operational Policies section of the Policy Manual and that the district is in compliance. He will sign the compliance form and place it in the Master manual in the District Office.

#### **Discussion and First Reading – Various Policies from Sections 2 and 5 –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that various board policies from Section 2 and 5 are being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from the Illinois Association of School Boards. He noted that a review report was included describing the reason for the revisions. These policies will be brought to the board for approval at a future meeting.

Dr. Kilpatrick pointed out that the Web Blog policy is still being re-worked due to discussion with the MEA. He will update the Board again before bringing the policy for final approval.



