

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**December 11, 2012**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 11, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser,  
Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold (Left @ 7:00 p.m./returned @ 7:30 p.m.),  
Mrs. Michelle Kaeb, Mr. Tim Taylor

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Team Recognition –**

Dr. Hall congratulated the State Champion 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball team. Mr. Carter noted that the team was undefeated; they practiced hard and played hard. Coach Don Swearingen introduced the team noting the girls were very determined and motivated. Mr. Neeley congratulated the team and thanked the parents for their support.

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

Dr. Hall reported there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

##### **ICC Visit –**

Dr. Hall reported that she and Ms. Johnson were invited to visit ICC by Dr. John Erwin. After touring the main campus they were treated to dessert and coffee by the culinary arts students at ICC North. She noted her appreciation for the invitation and the importance of keeping the lines of communication open between our district and ICC.

##### **709Connect Recommendations –**

Dr. Hall thanked Mary Jane Johnson and Kelly Scarfe for their participation as co-chairs of the 709Connect committee. She recognized Lynn Coverstone and Bill Schock for video recording every community meeting for viewing on the district website. Dr. Hall thanked Dan Burns and Rod Wright of Unicom Arc for their expertise and leadership during the process.

Mrs. Scarfe thanked the Board of Education for starting the process and inviting her and Mrs. Johnson here this evening. She shared the community participants'

recommendations in the areas of communications, state of the district, finance, facilities, and curriculum. She noted the recommendations are posted on the district website.

Mrs. Johnson noted that at the next board meeting Dr. Hall will report on proceeding ahead with the recommendations. She thanked the board for their “leap of faith” to hear from the community and that the key factor in the process was contracting with Unicom Arc. Mrs. Johnson reported that the committee always reached consensus and she is grateful to the participants that came to the meetings. She thanked the Board, administrators, Mrs. Jankowski and Mr. Burns and Mr. Wright of Unicom Arc.

Mr. Neeley expressed the appreciation of the board for Mrs. Scarfe and Mrs. Johnson and the entire community. He stressed that the Board is not complacent; it wants to make the school district even better. The information shared will help the board make plans for the future.

#### **Rising Star/MHS School Improvement –**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the Rising Star School Improvement Plan that is due to be filed in mid-December. The focus will be on 2 of the 108 indicators which include tracking and accountability in professional development and full implementation of student learning data. There is a need to address more than academic needs including social, emotional and physical needs. Ms. Johnson noted that the SIP team meets twice per month. Mr. Neeley thanked Ms. Johnson for her leadership in this process.

#### **IIRC/Test Scores –**

Dr. Teater demonstrated the Illinois Interactive Report Card (IIRC). He noted it is available on the district website under the “parents” tab and then “weblinks.” Dr. Teater reviewed the 2012 ISAT scores and trends over the last ten years. He noted that the state will be changing the cut scores for ISAT in 2014-2015. Scores will be re-released with the new standards and the district will then be able to see how our district compares to other districts.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Teater. He noted the focus need not all be on test scores. Dr. Hall agreed adding that she appreciates the teachers and all they do for our students.

#### **President’s Report –**

##### **Staff Recognition –**

Mr. Neeley reported that today, he and Dr. Hall recognized Dan Sutter, custodian at Jefferson School. After a change of plans on Veterans’ Day (Sunday, November 11) to move an outdoor ceremony indoors to the Jefferson School gymnasium, Mr. Sutter set up the gym on very short notice. Mr. Neeley noted his gratitude to him and Ms. Grzanich for their willingness to open the school for the event.

**School Board Conference Review –**

Board members and administrators that attended the recent school board conference reviewed and shared information from sessions they attended. Each expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

Mr. Neeley noted that he co-chaired the conference this year. Over 4,000 school board members from around the state had the opportunity to continue their education at the conference.

**Discussion Items –****Board Compliance – Personnel Policies –**

Mr. Neeley reported that he has reviewed the Personnel Policies and has determined that the district is in compliance. The wording for how principals' highlights are shared each month will be revised to current practice. Mr. Neeley will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

**2013-2014 School Calendar –**

Dr. Hall reported that a draft for the 2013-2014 school calendar is being presented to the board for review and discussion. It corresponds to the current calendar with a few exceptions. Spring break is scheduled for the week prior to Easter and a teacher institute day is scheduled for November 11. The calendar will be brought to the board for approval in January.

Mr. Neeley noted his gratitude to the staff and the MEA for their cooperation in this process.

**Facilities Discussion –**

Dr. Hall reported that she, Rodney Schuck, Craig Smock, Barb Getz, Jeff Keach (architect) and Jim Cathey (engineer) met recently to work on the 5-year life safety plan for the district. She reviewed the large projects for 2013 that have been identified in each building. She noted that monies in the life safety and tort fund can be used for safety and security items. Mr. Keach spoke of the heating system replacement at the high school scheduled for 2014. Mr. Cathey explained the process to replace the system and that a study will be formulated. The district has received a grant that will be used toward the replacement. Dr. Hall asked the board for consensus to proceed with the study for the heating system at the high school. All agreed.

**County Schools Facilities Sales Tax –**

Dr. Hall reviewed ideas for use of funds from the proposed county schools facilities sales tax. She explained that the burden of the tax does not fall onto property owners – there

are multiple participants with a sales tax. It is an alternative revenue stream that can be used for maintenance and capital projects, such as those shared in the 5-year life safety plan. Dr. Hall noted the total of the 5-year projects is \$14 million dollars. An infusion of \$1.5 million per year into the building fund would help fund those projects.

Dr. Hall asked that board members consider passage of a resolution to place the question on the April 9, 2013, ballot. All agreed to include an action item for the resolution on the January 15, 2013, agenda.

**Action Items –**

**Approve 2013-2014 Levy Resolution –**

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen that the Board of Education approve the 2012 Levy Resolution.

During discussion, Mr. Taylor expressed concern with levying to the maximum due to the current level of the district's reserves.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 1

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Applen, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the November 27, 2012, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes of the November 27, 2012, Regular Meeting.
- Accept 2012 Audit Report
- Approve TMCSEA Medicaid Billing Agreement
- Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between Morton Park District and Morton CUSD 709
- Approve Statistics Class at MHS
- Approve Language Arts 11 Class at MHS
- Approve 2012 Library Grant Application

Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 11-26-12</b>	<b>Bills 11-30-12</b>	<b>Bills 12-7-12</b>	<b>Payroll 12-7-12</b>
Ed. Fund	\$579.17	\$208,708.56	\$4,113.06	\$427,889.10
Bldg. Fund	--	26,505.52	--	37,040.26
Trans. Fund	--	21,673.50	--	12,071.30
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	419,125.54
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 11:20 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

Motion by Mrs. Kaeb, second by Mr. Applen, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

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Thomas Neeley, President