

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

APRIL 13, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 13, 2010, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

National Merit Scholarship Program Presentation –

Mr. Johnson introduced Prasanth Singanallur, a National Merit Commended student. Of the 1.5 million students taking the PSAT/NMSQT (Pre-SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) nationwide, he is ranked among the top 3% in the country.

Mr. Johnson introduced Mara Katz, a National Merit Finalist. She ranks in the top 1% of those tested nationally. She now has the opportunity to compete for National Scholarship monies. Miss Katz plans to continue her education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Neeley commended the students for being great examples and representatives of Morton High School. He also thanked their parents and staff who have contributed to the students' education and lives.

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked the principals for their monthly highlights. He noted the many activities taking place this spring.

709 Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Parents and Volunteers are being recognized during the month of April. Volunteers are a vital part of the everyday workings of each school. The school district could not function as effectively without them.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported the District has received and responded to one Freedom of Information request from an on-line data service.

District Dashboard –

Dr. Teater previewed a draft dashboard that could be placed on the District website. The Board would need to decide the design and information to include on the dashboard. Dr. Teater has confirmed with Cybernautic, the company that designed the District website, that a dashboard can be placed on our website.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the dashboard would include MAP, ISAT and PSAE test score data. Other information would be tied to the Board goals. Mr. Neeley added that the dashboard would be a reflection of what is important to the Board and administration.

PE Teacher/Basketball Coach Introduction –

Dr. Kilpatrick introduced Jarrett Brown to the Board of Education. He reported that he will be approved later in the meeting as a high school Physical Education teacher and the high school varsity basketball coach.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the Board will need to schedule time to discuss the various options for the facilities plan. He will update the facilities timetable for discussion purposes.

Closed Campus Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick commended the staff and administrators at the high school for their part in the smooth transition to the partial closed campus and 4-period lunch schedule. He noted that teachers are doing an excellent job of tracking the students' "ins and outs." There are still some improvements to be made concerning lunch line issues and crowding when the weather is not good. If the campus is closed for Juniors next year, that will add approximately 85 more students to the cafeteria. A second courtyard will be added this summer. Dr. Kilpatrick will be meeting with Sodexo prior to making his recommendation for next year.

Mr. Johnson added that he has received positive feedback from staff and students concerning the changes.

President's Report -

Mr. Neeley reported that earlier in the day he and Dr. Kilpatrick had presented certificates of recognition to Mrs. Mary Blaudow and Miss Shay Nelson of Jefferson School. Both of their classes participated in the Rube Goldberg competition. Mrs. Blaudow's class won that competition and advanced to the state competition at the University of Illinois. Mr. Neeley and Dr. Kilpatrick were treated to a demonstration of the projects by the students. Mr. Neeley and Mrs. Overcash reported on their attendance at the National School Board Conference held recently in Chicago.

Discussion Items –**Board Policy Compliance – Community Relations –**

It was decided to move this item to the June meeting. Since some requirements in the policies do not occur until May, it was agreed that the policies will be reviewed for compliance at the June meeting.

APEX Recovery Program Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that at the October 6, 2009, meeting of the Board of Education, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Ashby presented a summary of the steps and review that had taken place in regards to a credit recovery program for those students in danger of not graduating due to the inability to make up credit or receive enough assistance to help them. At the request of the Board of Education, Ms. Ashby reviewed the APEX Recovery Program that was approved by the Board of Education on December 1, 2009, and was implemented this past January. Ten students are currently participating in six different courses. She reported on the type of assignments on APEX, the APEX grade book, sample discussion questions, student view of assignments and grades, student review of the teacher, and teachers' comments. Mr. Johnson added that APEX works well with the ARC program. The high school has asked that the APEX Summer School program be approved at the next Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Ashby also reported that since RtI was implemented at the high school this year, there were nine referrals during the first semester. Interventions include ARC, APEX, Read 180 and MASSA (after school tutoring program). She recognized Mr. Roberts, Ms. Lucas and Mrs. Eisenmann who have volunteered their time two days per week for the after school tutoring program.

Ms. Ashby reported that Mr. Roberts continue to use the "Why Try?" program in ARC. He has made 260 parent contents through the middle of March. Mr. Roberts is also addressing transition and goals for post-secondary education and employment.

2010-2011 Budget Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the reductions planned for the 2010-2011 school year. The goal was to make reductions but protect classroom services. Supplies and materials can be reduced over the next two years, but at some point those items will need to be purchased. He is continuing to monitor the state budget situation, but still has no clear answers as whether they will approve a 6 or 12 month budget.

Action Items –

Approve Discipline Handbook –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Discipline Committee has met and is in agreement with the administrative recommended changes in the discipline handbooks. These changes have been discussed with the Administrative Council and forwarded to legal counsel. The recommended changes were previously presented for discussion at the March 16, 2010, Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education approve the discipline handbook changes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
- Authorize Renewal of IHSA Membership
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the March 16, 2010, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Food Service Contract Extension

personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstain 1

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff –

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for re-employment of professional staff.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Education Support Personnel –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for non-re-employment of education support personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the Closed Session minutes from the March 16, 2010 regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Administrative Reports –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he is still gathering information on the high school gym floor.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Morton School District has received the highest financial rating from the State Board of Education.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that he has met with the Morton Park District concerning a new ball diamond at Lion’s Field. The next step will be for both the park district and the school district to meet with the MYBA to work out details for funding.

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Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Heinold, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President