

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 4, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 4, 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 6:30 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

Jefferson School students from Mrs. Blaudow's 5th grade classroom were present to demonstrate their Rube Goldberg project. The project, sponsored by Caterpillar engineers, was to build a "better mousetrap." The students placed first in the local competition and then competed in Champaign in the regional competition.

Mr. Neeley thanked the students and Mrs. Blaudow for the demonstration and commended them for their efforts.

Organization of New Board –

Elect President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education for the next year. Mrs. Kaiser nominated Mr. Thomas Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Riddle.

Roll Call Vote:	Yea 6	Nay 0	Pass 1
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Mr. Neeley was declared President.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education for the next year. Mr. Applen nominated Mrs. Nancy Overcash to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Heinold.

Roll Call Vote:	Yea 6	Nay 0	Pass 1
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Mrs. Overcash was declared Vice President.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education for the

next year. Mr. Riddle nominated Mrs. Joyce Kaiser to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Overcash.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Pass 1

Mrs. Kaiser was declared Secretary.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Board members agreed to hold regular Board of Education meetings for the 2010-2011 year the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center. Building meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Audience Presentations -

Mrs. Deb Elliott, 1st grade teacher at Grundy School, spoke to the Board of Education concerning the future of Reading Recovery in the elementary schools. She noted the wide range of abilities students have in Kindergarten and first grade and the expertise the Reading Specialists use when working with students to bring them up to appropriate reading levels.

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted the April highlights as reported by the building principals along with the Special Education and Technology Directors. He commented on the wood carved bear now on display at Brown School and the many bike safety programs taking place this spring.

709 Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Administrators and Substitutes are being recognized in the month of May. He expressed his appreciation to both groups.

Freedom of Information Requests –

There are no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the purpose of giving his recommendation concerning the facilities plan is to generate Board discussion. As was generally agreed at the last meeting, the long-term facilities plan for the District would be divided into two phases. Phase I would include the renovation and updating of 3 of the elementary schools

(Grundy, Brown, Lincoln). Phase II would include the construction of a new junior high or high school and grade reconfiguration at the elementary and junior high levels.

Dr. Kilpatrick explained his recommendation for Phase I is to expand the 3 elementary schools at a level to accommodate their needs for renovation of existing systems, addition of gyms, expansion of the media centers, and addition of some classrooms and storage. He would maintain Jefferson School during Phase I with minimal investment during that time, but maintain a safe environment. He would recommend the bonds issued for Phase I, if approved by the voters, be scheduled to repay in approximately 6 years. During this 6 year period he would begin discussions and design on both the grade restructuring process as well as the community design of a new junior high or high school. While his recommendation would be to construct a new high school and remodel the current high school as a 5-8 middle school, he recognizes that the cost difference in those two alternatives would be an important community decision.

With the construction of the new school in Phase II, Jefferson School would be closed, the remaining 3 elementary schools would be converted to K-4 schools, and the reconstituted middle school would contain grades 5-8 with a 5-6 house and a 7-8 house.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Kilpatrick for his recommendation. The Board will take his thoughts into consideration as they discuss the facility plans at the May 18 meeting.

Arts in the Park –

Mr. Smock reported that he attended the Arts in the Park program in downtown Peoria earlier in the day. He commended the teachers and students for an excellent performance.

Spring Musical –

Mr. Johnson reported that approximately 1000 people attended the high school spring musical “South Pacific” that ran April 29, 30, May 1 and 2. He commended the staff and very talented students that took part in the play’s success.

President’s Report -

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick had presented Certificates of Recognition to the High School MASSA volunteers – Chris Roberts, Jayne Eisenmann and Kristin Lucas. MASSA is an after-school homework, tutoring program at the high school.

Mr. Neeley also noted that today is Crossing Guard appreciation day in Illinois. He recognized the role our crossing guards play in getting students to and from school safely.

Mr. Neeley reported that the Morton Community Foundation recently presented grants to the Jr. High for new wall mats in the gym, the high school band and to the high school for the purchase of kindles, a platform for electronic books.

Discussion Items –**High School Closed Campus –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reminded the Board that at this time last year the administration recommended the closing of the high school campus to freshman and sophomores for the 2009-2010 school year. Their plan was to phase in the closed campus to the upper grades after review of the 2009-2010 school year. The conclusion of the administration at this time is to close campus next year for grades 9, 10 and 11. While a great deal was learned this year, and the staff did an outstanding job of supervising and enforcing the program, adding two more grade levels to the closed campus at lunch time would create too much crowding this next year. The Board will take action on the recommendation at the May 18 meeting.

High School Class Rank –

Dr. Kilpatrick reminded the Board of Marjorie Johnson's report last year concerning her research into the value of a system of class rank. Mrs. Johnson gave an update to the Board at the March 16, 2010, meeting. Based on her research, the administration is recommending the elimination of the reporting of class rank on transcripts in the future. This change would begin with the class of 2013, which is this year's freshman class. The class rank would also be eliminated for the current 10th and 11th grade classes with the parents/students in those grades having the option of having it reported on the transcript. He noted that the school would still recognize the top 10 students at graduation, but in alphabetical order or some other plan that might be designed. The staff is working on a plan of communication for both students and parents. The Board will take action on the recommendation at the May 18 meeting.

Action Items –**Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center Rates –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the proposed rental rate increase for the Berth Frank Performing Arts Center. He explained that a recent review compared the operating costs based upon the number of hours that the facility is in use to the estimated costs of operation including staff time and depreciation of the facility.

The Board asked that a review be done next year to attempt to recover costs in Category V (commercial use).

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education approve the schedule of rental rates for the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2009-2010 School Fees –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported the administration's recommendation for a 10% increase for the elementary, jr. high and high school textbook rental and supplies and activities fees. In addition, the administration is recommending that High School parking passes be increased to \$30 per year from the current \$10. In the past, a \$20 fee has been charged for Driver's Education taken during the summer. The administration is recommending that all Driver's Education students, not just summer students, be charged a \$25 fee. Lunch prices are recommended to increase by approximately 5%.

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the recommended student fees for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
 Amend 2009-2010 School Calendar
 Approving and Signing Minutes of the April 13, 2010, Regular Meeting and April 20, 2010, Regular Meeting.
 Approve 2010-2011 School Board Meeting Calendar
 Approve March 2010 Treasurer's Report
 Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 4-30-10	Payroll 4-23-10
Ed. Fund	\$192,427.27	\$374,295.68
Bldg. Fund	92,506.17	27,461.97
Trans. Fund	7,440.54	6,947.57
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	326,085.84

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, 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 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Kaiser 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 10:10 p.m.

Action Items -

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Expulsion of Student 10-2 -

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the Board of Education approve the expulsion of Student 10-2 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Expulsion of Student 10-3 –

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the expulsion of Student 10-3 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the April 13, 2010, and April 20, 2010, Regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Administrative Reports –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has contracted with CORE Construction to be the construction manager for the replacement of the high school gym floor. He reported that a pre-bid conference was held today and there should be three or four qualified bidders.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President