

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2006**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 7, 2006 in the District Office.

### **REGULAR MEETING -**

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

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Cindy Zimmerman, Mr. Ron Hale, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. Gary Rassi

#### **Action Items –**

##### **Closed Session -**

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mr. Rassi, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of Employees, student discipline, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Hale, 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 7:04 p.m.

#### **Adjournment –**

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

### **REGULAR MEETING -**

**Call to Order and Roll Call -**

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Cindy Zimmerman, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Ron Hale, Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. Gary Rassi

**Pledge of Allegiance –**

The Board of Education recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Audience Presentations – none**

**Reports –**

**Administrative –**

**709 Recognition –**

Dr. Russell reported that during the month of February the district would be recognizing the instructional aides and occupational therapists. He thanked Mrs. Sherwood for her outstanding work on the 709 Recognition Program, and announced that Dr. Kilpatrick and he would be presenting the Master Potter Award at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Techno Expo at 8:45 a.m.

**CIV-IASB Dinner Meeting –**

Dr. Russell reported that the March 1<sup>st</sup> Central Illinois Valley Conference and Dinner Meeting would be held at Illinois Valley Central, and that reservations should be given to Vickie Foster.

**Illinois Youth Survey –**

Dr. Russell stated that the administrative recommendation would be to conduct the Illinois Youth Survey at the high school level as discussed previously, but not at the junior high level due to concerns that the questionnaire might be too mature for junior high students. There was Board and administrative agreement for the need to continue to promote proactive options regarding drug and alcohol use for the junior high and elementary school students.

**School Highlights –**

**High School - The Network Update –**

Dr. Teater distributed an update of The Network activities to the Board of Education for their review. Topics included in the update were:

- Second Chance Program – approximately 10 students involved with very positive comments from parents
- Closed Campus – high school administration is working on a schedule format to allow closed campus, and also help with the increase in graduation requirements. The administration met with representatives of the M.E.A., and is addressing issues related to the possible new schedule.
- Drug Prevention and Awareness – Morton Police Department is distributing drug and alcohol test kits that parents purchase from the high school resource officer. The administration is recommending increasing the use of Walt Nunnally for counseling of students, to two days per week. The high school coaches expressed their desire to utilize Mr. Nunnally, but to also administer a comprehensive drug test. The high school will administer the Illinois Youth Survey to better understand the issues to address. There is administrative concern as to the role of the school, educators versus policing of drug and alcohol use.
- Community Spirit and School Pride – more promotion from teachers is gaining more student involvement at athletic games. Elementary and junior high student participation has been great. High school students are working on MHS history, past and present, and a senior class display in the cafeteria hallway. Mrs. Overcash stated that she had noticed more student involvement at games by increased attendance, students wearing more red and singing the school song, along with more teachers present at games.

**High School – PLTW Update –**

Mr. Johnson reported that the high school, in cooperation with Keith Sommer's office and the Morton Chamber of Commerce, had applied for a two-year grant for a biotech science class that could be implemented in 2007-08. Dr. Russell reported that there would be preliminary discussion at the next CAC, and that the proper steps would be followed and taken to the Board of Education before accepting the grant and moving forward. The Board of Education directed the administration to write a letter of thank you to Mike Badgerow and Keith Sommer for their help in the process.

Mr. Johnson also informed the Board of Education that Bradley University's Manufacturing/Engineering/Technology Department would provide three hours of college credit to Bradley University for each of the PLTW courses,

up to a total of twelve hours credit, as long as students meet the credit requirements for a college level class and graduate from a PLTW certified school.

**Board Committee –**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting –**

There was Board of Education discussion at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting regarding public relations and how to better communicate to the public. Mrs. Menold asked Board members to let her know if they were interested in working with the District Webmaster to update the Board website.

**Discussion Items –**

**2006-07 School Calendar –**

Dr. Russell stated that the Administrative Council and Calendar Committee had met and were offering two options for the 2006-07 school year calendar for Board review and discussion. The difference between the two was that Option B has a day of no attendance on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Therefore, with Option B, the students have one day of attendance after Memorial Day, with finals the following two days. Dr. Russell stated that there would be further discussion at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, and final approval on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Items –**

**Reappoint Building Administrators –**

Dr. Russell acknowledged the great job that the building administrators had been doing this school year, and recommended that they be approved for reappointment for the 2006-07 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education reappoint Lorna Sherwood, Jefferson School Principal; Robert Bardwell, Brown School Principal; Michael Saunders, Grundy School Principal; Sheila Taylor, Lincoln School Principal; Charles Nagel, Principal at Morton Junior High School; Eveline Durham, Asst. Principal at Morton Junior High; Dennis Johnson, Principal at Morton High School; Troy Teater, Administrative Assistant at Morton High School; Brian Gordon, Administrative Assistant at Morton High School; Greg Prichard, Administrative Assistant/Athletic Director at Morton High School for the 2006-07 school year.

Dr. Russell explained that recommendations for salaries for the 2006-07 school year would be held until contract negotiations with the Morton Education Association are completed this spring.

Mrs. Menold, on behalf of the Board of Education, expressed appreciation to all the administrators for their dedication and hard work in their relationships with their staff, students and parents.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda –**

Mrs. Menold asked to pull the minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> meetings in order to clarify and revise certain sections in the minutes.

Motion by Mr. Rassi, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

Approving and Signing Minutes of the November 1, 2005 Regular Meeting Closed Session; November 15, 2005 Regular Meeting Closed Session; November 29, 2005 Special Meeting Closed Session; December 6, 2005 Regular Meeting Closed Session; January 3, 2006 Special Meeting.

Personnel Report, February 7, 2006

Approval of Treasurer's Report, December 31, 2005

Approval of Bills and Payrolls

	<b>Bills 1-27-06</b>	<b>Payroll 1-20-06</b>	<b>Payroll 2-3-06</b>
Ed.Fund	\$41,306.56	\$362,346.82	\$357,196.96
Bldg.Fund	86,567.17	26,048.05	26,201.87
Trans.Fund	4,778.81	11,133.07	9,805.83
Payroll Accts Pay	--	315,513.93	312,392.43
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Approve Suspension Reports

Approve Budget Calendar

Accept Bids for Transportation Vehicles

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Hale, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of Employees, student discipline, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:12 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, 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 9:45 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mr. Rassi, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cindy Zimmerman, Secretary

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Linda M. Menold, President