

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 6, 2007, at the District Office.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Linda Menold, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. John Appen, Mr. Gary Rassi, Mr. Doug Riddle

Members absent: Mr. Thomas Neeley

Pledge of Allegiance –

The Board of Education recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Presentations –

There were no audience presentations.

Reports –

Administrative –

709 Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that Technology, Maintenance, Custodial, Security, and Crossing Guards were recognized in September and October. Notices were on the MCB Board, school marquees, and Channel 20.

School Highlights -

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the principals' highlights were included in the Board packets. Mrs. Menold thanked the principals for updating the board each month.

National Merit Commended Students –

Mr. Johnson shared an announcement he made earlier in the day to the students and staff at the high school. Morton High School PSAT scores were the best in the tri-county area and, MHS as a high school has been ranked by the Chicago Sun Times at #22 of the top 50 high schools in Illinois for this year. Mr. Johnson also noted that of the 1.4 million students taking the PSAT test last spring, four of our students scored in the top 3%. Three MHS students are National Merit commended students and one student is a National Merit semi-

finalist. Two of the commended students were present at the meeting. Mr. Johnson introduced Brian Weick and Katie Austin. Mrs. Menold congratulated them and noted that their accomplishments speak well for all of our students, our teachers and parents.

Infection Control –

Mr. Smock distributed a letter that is on the district website and will be sent home with students concerning the district's reaction to the recent threat of staph infection. He noted that the custodial staff took advantage of the student's absence during parent/teacher conferences, and disinfected all areas that can be touched. Disinfecting wipes will be provided in all classrooms.

Community Survey –

Dr. Teater reported the mass mailing of the community survey will take place soon. An electronic version is already on the district website. There will be a two week window for returning the survey after the mailing.

Board Committees –

Transportation Committee – Mr. Appen reported that the Transportation Committee has met and their report is included in the folders tonight.

Finance Committee – Mr. Rassi reported that he met recently with Mrs. Getz and Dr. Kilpatrick to discuss the levy. Dr. Kilpatrick will report later in the meeting.

Public Relations Committee – Mrs. Kaiser noted that the PR committee has met and their report was included in the board packet.

Delegate Assembly – Mrs. Menold reported that our district is supporting all of the State Board's recommendations for resolutions. She will vote in support at the upcoming State Board of Education Conference.

Discussion Items –

School Board Conference -

Dr. Kilpatrick noted he has reviewed the sessions planned for the upcoming State Board of Education Conference. He stressed that although there is no effort to stifle any attendee from going to the session of their choice, there is an effort to provide some suggestions and coordination of our attendance. He pointed out that he has highlighted suggested sessions in the conference preview provided in the packets.

Auditor's Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick introduced Mr. Ron Hilton of Clifton Gunderson, the firm that audited the

school district's records for 2006-2007. Mr. Hilton reviewed the different funds and summarized that the district is in very sound financial condition. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that he will recommend approving the report at the next Board meeting.

First Reading of Board Policies – Section 4

Mrs. Menold noted that a revision of various board policies from Section 4 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from legal counsel. The policies will be brought back to the Board at the December meeting for a second reading and approval.

Action Items –

Approve 2007-2008 Board of Education Task Board –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that a proposed Board of Education Task Board has been developed and discussed. It identifies major Board and District actions or tasks and places them on a schedule for the 2007-2008 school year. He noted that although there should be some ability to adjust the calendar as needed, the Task Board should be closely followed.

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Kaiser that the Board of Education approve the Board of Education Task Board for the year 2007-2008.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Mrs. Kaiser noted her appreciation for the work that has taken place on the Task Board.

Approve 2008-2009 Tentative Budget and 2007 Tentative Levy –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration has completed the initial Tentative budget for the 2008-09 year. He reviewed the details with the Board and noted that levy calculations are made on the high side to allow the district to access all potential new construction. Mr. Rassi commended Dr. Kilpatrick and Mrs. Getz on all of their work on the budget and levy.

Motion by Mr. Rassi, second by Mr. Riddle that the Board of Education approve the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget and 2007 Tentative Levy, publish the Truth in Taxation Notice on November 8, 2007, and hold the Truth in Taxation hearing on December 4, 2007.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:11 p.m.

Approve Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Rassi, second by Mr. Riddle that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-19-07	Payroll 10-26-07
Ed. Fund	\$59,660.09	\$378,942.76
Bldg.Fund	71,376.90	28,679.57
Trans.Fund	16,272.82	11,194.93
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	342,224.89
Fire & Safety	--	--

Approve Carpet Bids
Approve Suspension Reports

Motion carried.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the best proposal for the carpet bid came from Tazewell Floor Covering of Morton.

Reports -

Mr. Smock noted that signage is being considered for the new facility. The board and administrators will have to review the policy addressing the naming of a new facility.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the board will be updated on the MAP Assessment at the January 22, 2008, meeting.

Mrs. Menold noted that the Board of Education brochure needs to be updated. Dr. Kilpatrick will work with district office staff on updating the brochure.

Mrs. Overcash asked that a Personnel Committee meeting be scheduled for Monday, November 12, at 11:00 a.m. at the district office.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Linda Menold, President