

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 21, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held March 18 2023, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting focus included **District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, and Mr. Jerry Rudd Absent Member- Mr. Tom Neeley

Administrative Reports--

Superintendent's Report– Dr. Craig Smock—

Dr. Smock thanked the paraprofessionals across the district. We have about 150 aides work in our buildings working in the offices, playgrounds, classrooms, lunch rooms, cafeterias, busses, and libraries. We could not do what we do without them. They were honored across the district.

Dr. Smock followed up on the request to look at our GPA calculations. The system and calculation has been in place for 30 years. It has good intentions. It allows higher “A’s” to count for more than lower “A’s”. Comparing student to students within district is very fair. Calculations are fair. The difficulty is when students transfer in with grades. Dr. Teater and Dr. Sander worked with Dr. Smock. We want to insure any changes made do not have a negative impact on our current students. More information is coming.

The architects have come back with five plans for equalizing our locker rooms and plans to improve some other spaces at MHS. The space was designed before the increase in girls’ sports. Historically, spaces were divided as needed. The Board will have five plans to review for input. The facilities committee met. Board members have looked at the spaces. The Board will have a Committee of the Whole meeting for facilities planning. Mr. Braker noted the importance in fixing some of the disparity between the girls and boys facilities and the value in an entrance that looks like and works like an entrance. The entrance should welcome students and visitors. Our schools should look like we value education.

President's Report – Mr. Tim Braker

President Braker thanked Mrs. Ripka and her team for the meal and for the things they shared from the teaching teams at MHS. The tours, conversation and food were great. Dr. Krall noted it was rewarding to see the joy in the Science Department with the improvements. The Board will continue to work toward much needed improvements.

Agenda Building---

President Braker stated he had shared some information from a Sarasota school district regarding their dress code he found interesting. The same district posted their curriculum online that appeared to be well done for curriculum transparency. He noted it has been something the Board has been wanting to see in place. Dr. Teater is working on it. One member noted that Sarasota had the Standard next to the item in the curriculum making it easier for parents to understand.

Action Items –**Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2021-24 Collective Bargaining Agreement – Continuation of Release Program**

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2021-24 Collective Bargaining Agreement – Continuation of Release Program.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Dr. Sander noted that this practice has been well received, well used, and beneficial to teachers. They have appreciated the additional flexibility to maximize their time in the classroom. It is the third year of practice through an MOU. It may become part of the contract.

Approve Law Enforcement Portal Agreement –

A motion was made by Dr. Cross, second by Mrs. Leman, that the Board of Education approve the Law Enforcement Portal Agreement as present.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried.

Dr. Sander prepared and processed the paperwork that allows us to send a “Clear and Present Danger” report if necessary. The District Office is managing the portal. A student identified as a serious threat to themselves or to others is reportable. Our attorney recommended Board approval of the additional reporting requirement. Mr. Rudd asked if “other persons” might be reported. It was clarified that Morton 709 would work with our SRO and the local police department. Local police are key partners. Mr. Braker reiterated it is a law.

Consent Agenda –

A President Braker asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Roth, second by Dr. Cross, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve IHSA Membership Renewal 2023-24
- Approve Minutes of the March 7, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the March 7, 2023, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes. .
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 3-10-23 3-13-23	Payroll 3-3-23	Payroll 3-17-23
Ed. Fund	\$123,008.80	\$899,448.91	\$925,510.53
Bldg. Fund	\$41,036.11	50,278.19	48,704.99
Trans. Fund	\$31,812.18	27,515.84	29,791.96
IMRF Fund		42,367.90	44,287.88
Torte	\$ 20.98		

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Dr. Cross second by Mr. Roth, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of **Personnel, Purchase/Sale of Property and Negotiations. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:30 p.m.

A motion by Dr. Cross, second by Dr. Krall, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:36 p.m.

President Braker noted that we will be scheduling a Committee of the Whole for facilities.

Adjournment –

A motion by Mr. Cross, and seconded by Mrs. Leman that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Neeley)

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President