

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JANUARY 20, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 20, 2009, at Lincoln Elementary School.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Linda Menold called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

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

Mrs. Overcash left at 10:00 p.m.

Reports –

Administrative –

Drug Testing Update -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the drug testing is ongoing. To date, there have been no findings and the administrators are pleased with that.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there has been no freedom of information requests.

Vocational Program Update –

Rick Everetts, business teacher at the high school, gave a report on his findings from his PDO last year. The purpose of the PDO was to address the challenge of declining enrollments in Vocational courses and electives. He conducted a student survey to gauge student interest in courses and factors influencing course choices. He reported that 420 students responded to the survey. The results found that students are finding it difficult to take vocational classes and electives with so many required classes. Considering the importance of CTE courses, Mr. Everetts feels the district should have a ½ CTE requirement for graduation in addition to the courses that meet the Technology Requirement.

Mr. Gordon, assistant principal at MHS, commended Mr. Everetts for the effort he put into his PDO. He commented that there are a wide variety of courses offered to students at MHS and that is part of the challenge. He noted that the guidance office conducts life track

surveys to MHS graduates 1-year and 5-years after graduation.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that this presentation ties in well with a presentation that Mr. Johnson will give concerning class rank and honors classes in the near future.

Long-Range Facilities Plan Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick shared the findings of the Brown School building from the facilities plan committee. The report ranked the building condition and listed cost estimates. The report tonight was to give the Board members a “flavor” of the type of information that will be presented in the full report at a meeting in the spring.

Board Committees –

Mrs. Menold reported that the meeting with the Lincoln Elementary teachers earlier in the evening went well and the Board received very valuable input. She noted the board’s appreciation of the opportunity to meet in this way with staff.

Mr. Neeley noted that several teachers expressed their appreciation for the SmartBoards in their classrooms. He suggested that our district could showcase our SmartBoard use at the state school board conference next fall.

Discussion Items –

Board of Education Conference Topics -

Mrs. Menold asked for discussion on some of the conference sessions attended by board members that they thought would be of particular interest to our district. Mr. Appen reviewed information from a session on Freshman Transitioning. Dr. Kilpatrick will work with the high school administrators to possibly implement some of the ideas.

Other topics included school improvement plans, new board member orientation, and wind turbines.

Action Items –

Approve Courses for Technology Requirement –

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the high school has a ½ credit requirement in Technology. Over the course of the 2007-08 school year, the high school principal, the Technology Department, the Curriculum and Honors committee and the HS Department Chairs have discussed and are recommending that Project Lead the Way courses be included as courses meeting the Technology requirement for graduation. The administration agrees and is making the same recommendation for approval.

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Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:45 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Linda M. Menold, President