

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 18, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 18, 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

Reports –

Administrative –

Student Recognition –

Mr. Johnson introduced students and sponsors from three academic teams from Morton High School that excelled this school year. The Math team placed 3rd at the State tournament, the WYSE team placed 4th at the State tournament, and the Scholastic Bowl team was one of the Elite 8 at the State tournament.

Mr. Neeley thanked the students and sponsors for their participation and for their excellent representation of our school district.

Life Safety Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that annually the Regional Office inspects all of our buildings. In addition, the Regional Office conducted a 10-year resurvey of Lettie Brown School. All school buildings were found to be in compliance or making acceptable progress.

Food Service Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed a lunch survey recently given to the students at the high school. The survey found that most students like the 4-period lunch, but the survey indicated a concern by the students for crowding. The students enjoy the healthy selections offered, but would appreciate even more selections. The students noted an improvement in the proper quantity of food each day. Dr. Kilpatrick will share the findings with Sodexo.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that for the last three years, there has been a small surplus from food service. This allows the District to purchase new kitchen equipment when needed.

Building Rental Rates –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the current building rental rates and noted that the rates have not changed since 2001. He reviewed the suggested new rates that were updated to reflect inflation and market competition. The building rates will be reviewed on an annual basis at the same time the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center rates are reviewed. The new rates will be brought to the Board for approval at a later meeting.

Elementary Challenge Program –

Mr. Bardwell reviewed the Elementary Challenge Program proposal with the Board of Education. The After School Program will replace the current pull out program that employs a full time teacher. He explained that the purpose of the after school challenge program will be to enrich the academic opportunities of our gifted, talented and high achieving students. He stressed it is the intent of the district to provide a quality program. He shared the following highlights of the program:

- 12 week sessions each semester – the sessions will be broken up into 6 weeks of math and 6 weeks of reading in each semester.
- The sessions will be one hour per week.
- Each elementary building will host its own program.
- The program will target 3rd – 6th grade students. Students in grades 3 and 4 will be paired together and students in grades 5 and 6 will be paired together.
- Students will qualify for the program based upon their spring MAP scores. Additional students may qualify based upon their fall and winter MAP scores if space is available.
- There will be a maximum of 40 students per building.
- The top 20 students per section who score at or above the 90th percentile will be invited to participate through a district letter. Mr. Bardwell noted that this will increase the number of participating students from the current program. Students must qualify each year in reading and/or math.
- 2 staff members (one teaching math, one teaching reading) from each building will be in charge of each building's respective program.
- The district will provide training and professional development opportunities for the staff members involved.
- A stipend will be paid to each of the 8 staff members.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. Bardwell and added that the Challenge Program is alive and well. This approach will allow more students to participate and students will not be pulled out of their regular classroom.

Freedom of Information Requests –

There were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

President's Report -

Mr. Neeley reminded the Board members of the Retirement Reception taking place on Wednesday, May 19, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Education and Administration Center.

Discussion Items –

Long Term Facilities Plan –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed his recommendation made at the last meeting for the long term facilities plan. His recommendation is as follows:

Phase I of the plan 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. Jefferson School would be maintained during Phase I with minimal investment during that time, but maintain a safe environment. Bonds issued for Phase I, if approved by the voters, would be scheduled to repay in approximately 6 years. During this 6 year period discussions and design would begin 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, the cost difference in those two alternatives would be an important community decision to be voted upon later.

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.

The advantages of this recommendation are:

1. Minimal disruption of students at the present time
2. Minimum costs for renovation and expansion in Phase I, but with a design to allow additional expansion for classrooms in the future if necessary at the minimum cost
3. The opportunity to have the public vote on Phase II and implement as early in the future as possible
4. The ability to provide a 5-8 structure with the social, academic, and economic benefits in Phase II
5. Make maximum use of renovated or newly constructed space

Board members verbally supported the recommendation with concerns voiced for making sure there will be enough classrooms in the elementary buildings. Mr. Neeley stressed the need for a community committee to help spread the word of current space needs.

Proposed Algebra I Text –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the high school and junior high math departments have reviewed texts for the Algebra I Standard textbook adoption. In the review and selection, the committee also included representatives from Bethel Lutheran and Blessed Sacrament for coordination of the educational process. The high school and junior high representatives both chose the same top two selections from the four texts that were reviewed. After completion of the student trial portion of the review, the entire committee ranked the same book as number one. A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. The Board requested that the book be put on public display for 30 days for consideration of adoption at the meeting in June.

Action Items –**Approve High School Closed Campus –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that at this time last year, the administration recommended the closing of the high school campus to freshman and sophomores for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Administration would review what was learned both positive and negative during the year. The plan was to phase-in the closed campus to the upper grades after that review. Their conclusion is to close the campus next year for grades 9, 10, and 11. While it would be Dr. Kilpatrick's recommendation to close the campus for all grades at some future point, he does not believe that it is in the best interest of everyone involved at this point to do that. 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 and confusion for this next year. As has been discussed, seating will be expanded to accommodate the additional juniors for this year.

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closing of campus at Morton High School for the 2010-2011 school year for freshman, sophomores and juniors.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 5

Nay 2

Motion carried.

Approve High School Class Rank –

Dr. Kilpatrick clarified the Administration's recommendation to eliminate the reporting of class rank. The High School would eliminate the reporting of class rank on transcripts beginning with the current 9th grade class that will graduate in 2013. Class rank will also be eliminated for the current 10th and 11th grade classes that will graduate in 2011 and 2012 with the parents/students in those grades having the option of having it reported on the transcript.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the high school staff is working on a plan of communication for both students and parents. A video presentation will be aired on Channel 20 as well as the district website. In addition, information will be sent through the parent newsletter and the District *Communicator*.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the Board of Education approve the elimination of the reporting of class rank on transcripts for the current 9th grade class for the 2010-2011 school year. Additionally, current 10th and 11th grade students/parents will have the option of having class rank reported on their transcripts.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 1

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approving and Signing Minutes of the May 4, 2010, Regular Meeting.
Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 05-14-10	Payroll 5-7-10
Ed. Fund	\$54,695.79	\$460,230.56
Bldg. Fund	10,796.86	28,211.14
Trans.Fund	13,291.36	12,902.53
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	369,245.77
Fire and Safety	13,608.00	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Heinold 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 9:30 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 6 Nay 0 Abstain 1

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the May 4, 2010 Regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President