

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

APRIL 5, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 5, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Noah Menold,
Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mr. Doug Riddle, Mrs. Cheryl Wuthrich

Member arriving late: Mr. John Appen – 6:35 p.m.

The Board and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports –

Administrative –

Retiring Board Member Recognition –

The Board of Education recognized Mrs. Nancy Overcash for her years of service to the school district as a board member. She served from June, 1999, through December, 2010. All board members expressed their appreciation to her and a short reception was held in her honor.

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked the principals for their reports. He noted that ISAT tests were completed in March.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he had responded to one Freedom of Information request.

College and Career Readiness –

Mr. Dennis Johnson introduced three teachers from the high school – Mrs. Erin Kemp, Mrs. Kristina Peifer, and Mr. Kevin Hodel. They reported on research they have completed on preparing students for the PSAE/WorkKeys testing. The goals are to increase the number of students meeting/exceeding AYP targets for 2011 and beyond; to increase the number of students who demonstrate growth in ACT assessment performance from 8th grade to 11th by at least 2 points per year in EXPLORE, PLAN AND PSAE; and to improve student performance on 2nd day PSAE testing, especially WorkKeys assessments.

They presented their proposed strategies that included implementing a one-night review session in March for the class of 2012; purchase KeyTrain for future school years. KeyTrain is a computer based program specifically designed for the Work Keys program. Students will be made aware of the KeyTrain program during their class meeting their sophomore year. Additionally, teachers could incorporate it in their curriculum where appropriate.

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked them for their presentation and for accepting the challenge of finding ways to improve our students.

Closed Campus Update –

Mr. Dennis Johnson reviewed how having the high school campus closed to all but seniors this year has worked well. He noted the additional eating areas that were created in the Bertha Frank Performing Arts area and in outdoor courtyards and that lunch lines were reconfigured. Seniors are being scanned in and out of one door and he reported that discipline incidents at lunch time are down. A student survey completed this year indicated that students would prefer an open campus, but they do appreciate the extra study hall during the lunch hour that was created when lunch was expanded from 3 to 4 sections.

Dr. Kilpatrick stressed that the Board and Administration is concerned for the students safety first and foremost. The system is working well now and it is his recommendation to continue with the same plan for next school year. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Wellness Committee Report –

Dr. Teater reported that per policy, the Wellness Committee must meet once per year to review areas for improvement for student wellness and then report to the Board. Recommendations include increasing fruit and vegetable offerings and decreasing snack foods. Ongoing education of students and parents of healthy food choices are recommended through newsletters and school websites. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that he will be meeting soon with Sodexo to address these issues.

Challenge Summer Program –

Mr. Saunders reported that plans are underway to enhance the Challenge Program by offering a tuition based summer program. After surveying parents of students currently in the Challenge Program, it was determined that there is interest in offering a science program. Pending approval by the Board of Education, it is planned to have 2 one-week sessions in June with a Chemistry focus. The class would be held in a science lab at the high school. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the tuition will cover teacher salaries, supplies and scholarships. Mr. Neeley commented that despite the changes to the Challenge Program, it continues to get better.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley thanked board members for the work done during the past month to help get the facts out to the community concerning the referendum.

Mr. Neeley polled the board members as to the best date for the Board's annual planning

meeting. It was decided to have the meeting on Thursday, April 28, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the MEAC.

It was decided to change the next Board of Education meeting from Tuesday, April 12, to Tuesday, April 26.

Discussion Items –

Discipline Handbook Changes–

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the suggested revisions to the Discipline handbooks. He noted that the Discipline Committee met on March 14 to discuss the changes as part of the annual review. He noted revisions to the dress code and noted expectations of students to act and dress accordingly across the grade levels. Dr. Kilpatrick expressed his appreciation to the staff for addressing infractions in the past. It was noted that since all of the buildings are now air conditioned, students should be more comfortable in their classrooms. Mr. Neeley thanked the Discipline Committee.

Action Items -

Approve Bus Bid -

Mr. Applen reported that the district received two bids to purchase a new 84 passenger bus. The low bid was from Midwest Bus Sales. The new bus will be replacing an older bus. The district has been awaiting funding from the state that has now been received in order to purchase the bus.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education accept the bid of Midwest Bus Sales for one 84 passenger bus.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve High School Summer School APEX –

Mr. Johnson reviewed last year’s program for summer school using APEX. The program included a credit recovery component through APEX. Last year there were 20 students enrolled in the program taking 24 courses for credit. The high school is working to offer the program again this year on a fee basis that covers the operating costs. A recommended course fee of \$180/student will sustain the program on a self-sufficient basis.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the summer school program for Morton High School for the summer of 2011 at a course rate of \$180.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Menold, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
- Authorize Renewal of IHSA Membership
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the March 15, 2011, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Food Service Contract Extension
- Approve 2011-2012 Budget Calendar
- Approve February 2011 Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 03-25-11	Payroll 03-18-11	Payroll 4/01/11
Ed. Fund	\$155,209.68	\$392,101.59	\$383,142.89
Bldg. Fund	172,234.14	28,661.60	27,683.42
Trans.Fund	16,315.10	13,434.74	12,183.42
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	380,899.29	375,005.79
Fire and Safety	10,330.00	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Applen, 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 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Applen, 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 8:55 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mrs. Wuthrich, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution for Non-Re-Employment of Education Support Personnel –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for non-re-employment of Education Support Personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the March 15, 2011, Regular Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Expulsion of Student 11-3 –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Menold, that the Board of Education approve the Expulsion of Student 11-3.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

April 5, 2011

6

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President