# **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

# AUGUST 16, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 16, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

## **REGULAR MEETING -**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Tim Taylor

The Board and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Action Item –

Mr. Neeley administered the oath of office to Mrs. Michelle Kaeb. Mrs. Kaeb took her seat at the board table.

## **Reports** –

# <u>Administrative –</u>

# Facilities Update –

Representatives from Keach Architectural Design/PSA Dewberry and CORE Construction answered questions the board had given them previously. The purpose was to break out the costs of the original plan along with alternatives in pieces as a starting point for discussion of how to handle the overcrowded conditions at this time. Their report included:

- > Cost of original three school project as presented in the referendum
- > Cost of projects if done individually at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln
- Cost to add three large classrooms to one elementary building
- > Cost to add three standard classrooms to one elementary building
- Cost to add 6 classrooms to Lincoln-3 large; 3 standard (due to growing enrollment)
- Cost to add a gym to Grundy
- Cost of a new middle school (5-8)
- Cost to convert Jefferson to a 5-6 grade building and to add double size classroom/PE space to the other 3 elementary buildings and add 3 large classrooms to 2 elementary buildings
- Cost (individually) of site and parking work at Brown, Grundy, Lincoln
- Cost reduction to any project with a gym if an alternative construction type is used or if the original building design is revised
- Cost (individually) of interior renovations per original plan at Brown, Grundy, Lincoln

Board members thanked the presenters for this valuable information. The information will help in decisions for taking the next steps.

Board member also discussed a site visit to see a portable classroom.

## Pumpkin Festival Food Tent -

Board members were asked to volunteer for a shift in the food tent on Thursday, September 15, from 4:30 - 7:15 p.m.

## Freedom of Information Requests -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

## President's Report -

Mr. Neeley reminded board members of the self evaluation meeting scheduled on Saturday, August 20. A field representative from the Illinois School Board Association will facilitate the meeting.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the finance committee met recently to finalize the tentative budget.

### Action Items -

## Approve Tentative 2011-2012 Budget and Schedule Public Hearing -

Dr. Kilpatrick presented the proposed tentative budget for the 2011-2012 school year. As originally estimated last fall when the 2011 Tax Levy and budget reduction process was adopted, it was reported we should experience a balanced budget within all of the district's operating funds. The Education fund revenue is budgeted to be down approximately \$588,000 largely due to the elimination of the ARRA IDEA funds. The District received \$318,000 in both the 2009-10 and the 2010-11 years, but we did not employ personnel with that money. Equipment and supplies were purchased with these funds and we are showing corresponding decreases in these categories in this year's budget. This ARRA IDEA funding was established as a two year stimulus and will not be replaced by another source. Special education claims and regular transportation are also budgeted with reductions in 2011-12. Last year the special education claims were paid at varying levels from 86% for private facility to 98% for personnel and the regular transportation was paid at 57%. This year the Governor's recommended budget is further reducing special education and regular transportation.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted we are fortunate that a solid local tax base and conservative operations the last few years have helped to cushion this rapid reduction in state commitments. The reductions made over the past few years have helped to keep our expenditures down as state and federal revenues continue to decline and as the timing of state payments continue to lag. Total salaries for all funds are expected to increase by 2%

over actual costs for the prior year and 1.1% over last year's budget. Benefits from all funds are expected to increase by 9.8% primarily due to increases in medical insurance costs. Even with these increases and state funding reductions we are able to balance the budget through the local tax extension.

The administration recommends that the Board approve the Tentative Budget and set the Budget Hearing date for September 27, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the MEAC.

Mr. Neeley asked Dr. Kilpatrick to explore placing on the ballot the county tax for school districts. Dr. Kilpatrick agreed to and explained that a resolution has to be approved by other school districts in the county in order for it to be placed on the ballot in the spring of 2012. Proceeds from the county tax are only to be used for new construction and building renovation or to pay down bonds. At a future meeting of county superintendents, Dr. Kilpatrick would try and get a determination of the interest in pursuing this option.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the 2011-12 Tentative Budget, place it on display for thirty days, and schedule a budget hearing for September 27, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Roll Call Vote:Yea 7Nay 0

Motion carried.

### Consent Agenda -

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

Approve 10-Year Health/Life Safety Resurvey Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 8-10-11	Payroll 8-5-11
Ed. Fund	\$158,304.78	\$331,519.87
Bldg. Fund	104,589.07	48,548.63
Trans.Fund	5,562.35	3,735.55
Payroll Accts. Pay.		288,743.78
Fire & Safety	71,138.91	

Motion carried.

### Closed Session -

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, 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 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Bernier, 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 9:40 p.m.

#### <u>Approve Personnel Report –</u>

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Motion carried.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that with the new dress code in place, there have been very few issues to deal with on the first day of school.

#### Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote:Yea 7Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Heinold, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President