

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 –

Administrative –

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%

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Respectfully submitted,

Clint Heinold, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President