

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**OCTOBER 4, 2011**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 4, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

### **Audience Presentations –**

Mr. Ken Mallinson, 218 Wagler St., Morton, introduced himself as the President of the PTO at Jefferson School. He noted his pleasure with the plans the Board has made for maintaining Jefferson School. He thanked them for keeping the building a school, no matter the grade levels.

Mr. Chris Farris, 309 N. Illinois Ave., Morton, read from a prepared statement. He does not want to see Jefferson School closed and wants it to remain a neighborhood school for K-6, not K-4. Parents rely on the ability for students to be able to walk to school. He believes it is the Board's intent to have a middle school and eventually close Jefferson School. He asked the Board to make a public statement for a long-term commitment to keep Jefferson School open as an elementary school.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **School Highlights –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted there are many events taking place in all of the schools. The school year got off to a great start. Mr. Applen commented on the amount of training the staff undergoes, especially in the technology area.

##### **Communicable Disease Plan –**

Mr. Smock noted that the Communicable Disease Plan is reviewed periodically. A deep cleaning is done in the buildings if there is an outbreak, along with the excellent job the custodians already do. Hand sanitizers are available in all classrooms. Policies that address communicable diseases are available on the district website.

**Concussion Testing –**

Mr. Prichard reviewed testing that is done to detect concussions in athletes participating in football, soccer, basketball and wrestling. He reported that Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT) is being used for concussion management services at more than 1,000 high schools, colleges, sports medicine centers and professional teams throughout the world. It is implemented at MHS by giving athletes in contact/collision sports a baseline test every two years. If an athlete has been concussed, within 24-72 hours he/she is given a post-concussion ImPACT test. The post-concussion score is compared to baseline scores by Dr. Edward Pegg of Bloomington, IL. Mr. Prichard explained that this type of assessment can help to objectively evaluate the concussed athlete's post-injury condition and track recovery for safe return to play, thus preventing the cumulative effects of concussion.

**PSAE/ACT Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the results of the ACT testing for 2011. Comparing the past five years, he noted a distinct trend of improvement from 2007 – 2011. The scores are higher in every area including the composite score that rose from 23.0 in 2007 to 23.7 in 2011. He commended the entire staff for the outstanding job they are doing teaching our students.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the school district had recently been awarded the Bright A+ Award from School Search. The award is given to the top 5% schools in the state. Mr. Neeley commended the teachers and administrators for their continued excellence.

**Community Engagement Update –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he met recently with Mr. Wright for a workshop on the community engagement process. The board will set a date soon to participate in the same workshop. It is the intention of the Board to solicit and consider the input of the community before any long-term plan is formulated.

**Dress Code Update –**

Mr. Adam Eucker reported on the new dress code policy that was implemented this school year. The major changes are that all shirts are to have sleeves and the length of shorts or skirts allowed. He noted that there have been a few issues at the high school, but all were dealt with without incident. Overall, it has been a good transition and he credited the preventative approach the school district took to get the information to students and parents well in advance of the school year. Dr. Kilpatrick mentioned that the policy was implemented for K-12.

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

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

**President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that CAT will be hosting the fall meeting of the Central Illinois Valley Division of IASB on Wednesday, October 19, at the Edwards Demonstration and Learning Center.

The board discussed maintaining the equity of purchases made by the individual schools' PTO's. Dr. Kilpatrick explained that fundraisers are often used for initiatives that haven't been taken on by the district. Many current district-wide initiatives have come from initial purchases made by a single school; i.e. amplification systems started at one school and eventually became district wide. PTO's that cannot raise enough of their own funds can often times get federal grants; i.e. Kindles at Jefferson School. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that major purchases by PTO's are monitored at the District level. Mr. Neeley noted the board's gratitude for the work of the PTO's and Booster Organizations.

**Discussion Items –****5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Structure –**

Prior to Mr. Smock's presentation, Dr. Kilpatrick noted that no recommendation will be coming out of the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade structure discussion. This topic will be one of many in the community engagement process. This is information that will be used for future discussions.

Mr. Smock's presentation included the concept of having Jefferson School become a district-wide 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade intermediate school for all students. The other three buildings would become K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade schools. Current Jefferson area K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade students would attend one of the other three schools, according to location. He discussed the benefits and challenges of the educational impact, student impact, community impact, staff impact, facility impact, and financial impact. He included the benefits and challenges of using the Jefferson School building, transportation challenges, and redistricting considerations.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that this past summer, as a pilot, two window sections were repaired and a small portion of the west wall at Jefferson School were tuck pointed. The remainder of the west wall may be targeted for repair next summer.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. Smock for his thorough presentation and noted that this is a new idea for this new board and no decisions will be made at this time. All aspects of the community will be involved in future decisions.

**Policy 2:140 Review –**

Mr. Neeley reviewed policy 2:140 which addresses communication to and from the Board of Education. He noted this policy was adopted several years ago based upon the recommendation of the Illinois Association of School Boards policy services. Discussion included e-mail communications with the Board of Education and the proper way to





Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:40 p.m.

**Approve Personnel Report –**

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

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Expulsion of Student 12-1 –**

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the Expulsion of Student 12-1.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Expulsion of Student 12-2 –**

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the Expulsion of Student 12-2.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Approve Closed Session Minutes –**

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the September 20, 2011, regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Closed Session –**

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Taylor, 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.

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Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, 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 10:02 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

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

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Clint Heinold, Secretary

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Thomas Neeley, President