

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 1, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 1, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

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

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

Members absent: Mr. Tim Taylor

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted there were many activities that took place in all of the schools during the month of October. Mr. Neeley thanked the principals for their informative reports.

Student Reporting/ISAT/Report Card –

Dr. Teater demonstrated the Illinois Interactive Report Card available online at <http://iirc.niu.edu>. available on the site is the district profile, performance, trends, district environment, comparison of districts and a look at individual schools in our district.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Teater for his report.

Common Core Standards –

Dr. Kilpatrick introduced Tazewell County Regional Superintendent, Gail Owen. Mrs. Owen explained the new Common Core Standards that were adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education. The new academic standards for K-12 education will better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workplace in a competitive global economy. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aim to provide clear, consistent academic benchmarks with “fewer, clearer and higher” academic standards. Illinois developed these standards in cooperation with 47 other states.

The CCSS were developed through a process led by U.S. states to craft academic standards that establish clear and consistent benchmarks for essential learning and skills. They are the best and highest of state standards. Since 2009, administrators, teachers and education experts have provided important feedback towards the development of the

Standards. The first CCSS are developed for the K-12 areas of mathematics and English-language arts. Math and English standards were developed first because they teach skills upon which students build skill sets in other areas of learning. Subsequent standards will be adopted for Science.

Clear standards will help students and parents plainly understand the skills and knowledge students are expected to attain in each year of academic study. Important to note is that the CCSS do not dictate how a teacher should teach to meet the goals. Local teachers and administrators will continue to develop education plans to help their local students achieve those goals. With these clear academic benchmarks, higher education programs and professional development opportunities can better prepare teachers in how to best achieve success for their students. Achievement of these standards will prepare students to succeed in college, job training programs and careers.

Common assessments between the cooperating states will be developed for use for the 2014 – 2015 school year. In the meantime, much professional development will take place for teachers.

National Healthcare Reform –

Dr. Kilpatrick introduced the district's client consultant, Ms. Sarah Bigger, of HCH Administration, Inc. HCH is the district's third party health benefit administrator. She explained the changes that took place with the district's health benefit plan on March 1, 2011, due to Federal Health Care Reform. She explained grandfather status, essential health benefits, status of plan maximums, and coverage of dependents to age 26. She noted there will be additional changes coming in the years from 2012 – 2020.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick presented a Certificate of Recognition today to Mrs. Teri Horner for her work with and dedication to the Reading Recovery program for Morton students. He also noted the children's book she had published earlier this year for use by other Reading Recovery programs across the country.

Discussion Items –

IASB Conference Selections –

Mr. Neeley noted that the new education legislation requires training for board members. The upcoming IASB School Board Conference is an excellent opportunity for them to obtain training. The conference includes workshops, general sessions and an exhibit hall. The board members discussed individual workshops they are interested in attending, in order to

coordinate attendance to maximize exposure to the information available at the conference.

Action Items -

Approve 2012-2013 Tentative Budget and 2011 Tentative Levy -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration has completed the initial tentative budget for the 2012-13 school year. He reported the county clerk has informed him that all of the old property will be taxed at a maximum extension increase of the CPI rate of 1.5%. He has received a preliminary indication from the county assessor's office that the change in the assessed value for the District as a result of new construction for the year will be approximately \$5.6 million or approximately 1.1%. This amount does not reflect decisions on tax objections or additional property added since the date of the estimate. In order to protect the District without this data, levy calculations are made on the high side to allow the District to access all potential new construction. The law requires that if the proposed levy represents a 5% or more increase over the prior year's extended taxes, the District must publish notice and establish a hearing. This year the proposed levy is under that threshold and the notice and hearing are not required.

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the Education Fund expenses for this levy were calculated based on projected salaries and benefits. Purchase services, supply budgets, equipment and tuition expenses were increased by a projected percentage. The details of the documents have been reviewed with the Finance Committee. The proposed levy will be brought back to the Board of Education again on December 6 for final approval.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the 2012-2013 proposed budget and 2011 tentative levy.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Suspension Reports

Approve September Treasurer's Report

Approving and Signing Minutes of the October 4, 2011, Regular Meeting, the October 18, 2011, Regular Meeting and the October 25, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting

November 1, 2011

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Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the October 18, 2011, Regular Meeting and the October 25, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Heinold, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President