

## **MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**JANUARY 10, 2012**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 10, 2012, 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: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mrs. Michelle Kaeb, Mr. Tim Taylor

### **Audience Presentations –**

Mr. Bob Bright, 137 W. Chicago St., Morton, described issues he has with the Pumpkin Festival taking place in school property.

### **Reports –**

#### **Administrative –**

##### **School Highlights –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted the number of events in December sponsored by staff and students for non-profit organizations and area families in need. Mr. Neeley added his appreciation to students for their realm of giving during the Christmas season.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Morton High School has been asked to participate in the PISA 2012 pilot assessment. PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) is an international study which began in the year 2000. It aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15 year old students in participating countries/economies. Since the year 2000, over 70 countries and economies have participated in PISA. MHS was selected as one of 100 schools in the United States to participate. The test is given to 15 year old students. They will either randomly select a certain number of the students to take the exam or randomly select a certain number after the students have participated. It has not yet been decided. The District has completed the application process and will know later if we are actually in the testing pool.

Mr. Johnson reported that MHS is partnering with the Tazewell County Health Dept. – Teen Initiative by holding a symposium on synthetic drugs at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center on Thursday, January 19. Speakers will present on the dangers and consequences of synthetic drug use (K2, Spice, Bath Salts, etc.).

**Common Core State Standards Comparison –**

Mrs. Mary Mills, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Lincoln School and Mrs. Laura Stuber, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Brown School, presented to the Board on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) math curriculum they have been piloting in their classrooms this school year. They explained the differences between the current math curriculum and the CCSS curriculum. Their classrooms focus more on the meaning of concepts and they emphasize and encourage multiple ways to solve problems. Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Stuber stressed that training will be needed for both teachers and parents on the new concept.

**Facilities Update-**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the new building additions documents will be ready to go out for bids by February 10. The bids will come to the Board for approval in March. He noted that site work should begin in April. All is on schedule at this time.

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

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

**President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick presented certificates of recognition today to Heather Hochstettler at Jefferson School, Kevin Hodel, Jake Tierney and Brittany McNulty at the high school. Each of the teachers applied for and received grants from PNC Bank. The grant money will be used by Mrs. Hochstettler to purchase a curriculum to improve math and reading skills. The high school science teachers will purchase probes to collect data in real time and download to a computer to analyze results.

**Discussion Items –**

**Board Instruction Policies Compliance Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that as part of the policy compliance monitoring practice, a review of the Instruction policies was conducted. After review, it is the Superintendent's opinion that these policies are being followed and that the District is in compliance with those policies. Mr. Neeley will sign the policy compliance form and place it in the master compliance file in the district office.

**First Reading and Discussion of Various Policies from Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that a revision of various board policies from sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from the ISBE Policy Service and legal counsel. Mr. Neeley noted that further review will take place for policy 3:60 as there is disparity in the wording. A second reading of the policies will come before the board for approval at a future meeting.

**Strategic Plan/Community Engagement Process –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the proposed charge for the community engagement process. The Board of Education recognizes that the mission of the school district requires a long range plan for continuous improvement of the District. The Board believes that the successful development and implementation of a long range plan requires community input, involvement and participation. The general charge of this facilitating committee is to gather data and input from the community at large and advise the Board and superintendent in the formulation of the plan for the direction of the District for the next 5-15 years.

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the charge for the committee needs to be approved by the Board at a meeting in February. At the meeting, he would recommend that Unicom Arc facilitate the meetings to carry out the charge by the Board.

**Action Items –****Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Working Cash Bonds –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that working cash bonds in the amount of \$1,105,000 to be used to improve the facilities of the District will be issued February 2, 2012, if approved by the Board of Education. The bonds will bear interest payable on June 1 and December 1 of each year with the principal payment due on December 1, 2013 and December 1, 2014. The bonds will be privately purchased by Morton Community Bank and the net interest cost will be 2.25%.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the the Resolution for the issuance of \$1,105,000 of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds Series 2012.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 6                      Nay 0                      Abstain 1

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

Accept 2011 Audit Report  
 Approve Suspension Reports for Filing  
 Appointment of Joint Committee Members  
 Review of Closed Session Minutes  
 Approving and Signing Minutes of the November 1, 2011, Regular Meeting; November 5, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting; November 8, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting; November 15, 2011, Regular Meeting; November 29, 2011, Special Meeting; November 30, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting; and the December 6, 2011, Regular Meeting.  
 Approve November, 2011 Treasurer's Report  
 Approve Novels II – Independent Study

Approve Appraisal Cost Reimbursement  
 Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 12-16-11</b>	<b>Payroll 12-9-11</b>	<b>Payroll 12-23-11</b>	<b>Payroll 01-06-12</b>
Ed. Fund	\$97,937.57	\$415,990.16	\$393,563.85	\$342,774.56
Bldg. Fund	40,574.80	34,500.00	30,533.42	29,715.04
Trans.Fund	19,843.74	11,809.16	13,096.27	5,832.41
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	399,331.94	385,042.98	355,958.05
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that the Novels II – Independent Study is an extension of the Novels I class.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Kaeb, 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 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

