

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

MAY 8, 2012

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held May 3, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

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

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

Member absent: Mrs. Joyce Kaiser

Organization of New Board –

Elect President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Applen nominated Mr. Thomas Neeley to serve as President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Neeley was declared President by acclamation.

Elect Vice President –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Heinold nominated Mr. Applen to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mr. Applen was declared Vice President by acclamation by Mr. Neeley.

Elect Secretary –

Mr. Neeley asked for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mrs. Kaeb nominated Mrs. Kaiser to serve as Secretary of the Board of Education. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Kaiser was declared Secretary by acclamation by Mr. Neeley.

Set Time and Place of Regular Meetings –

Regular Board of Education meetings for the 2012-2013 year will be held the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

Reports –

Administrative –

High School Math Team –

Mr. Johnson introduced the Class 2A Illinois state champion Math Team and Lucas Allen, team sponsor. This was the first state championship for MHS in an academic team competition. For the first time, Morton brought home trophies in all 12 events, including 4 event state titles and a runner up finish. Morton students also accounted for 9 of the 40 individual medals awarded. Morton has been consistently building on success at the state finals since the 2006-07 school year with the following finishes: 18th in 2007, 7th in 2008, 3rd in 2009, 3rd in 2010, and 2nd in 2011 before the 1st place finish this year.

Dr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Neeley offered their congratulations to the team. The team represented Morton well and the board is grateful to the staff, parents, Mr. Allen, Mr. Zehr and the students.

High School Recognition –

Mr. Johnson reported that Morton High School has been recognized by “U.S. News and World Report” as one of the top schools in the nation. Morton High School earned a Bronze recognition. He noted this is a tribute to the students, staff and parents of the school district.

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that spring MAP testing is taking place. There were again many service activities that have taken place this spring.

Crisis Management Committee Update –

Dr. Teater reported that the Crisis Management Committee met on May 7 for its annual review of the crisis plan for the school district. The committee included a representative from the local fire department and the high school resource officer. Procedures were reviewed in the event of a crisis. Dr. Teater noted two revisions to the plan: 1)secondary evacuation locations and 2)an aerial photo of the neighborhood surrounding each building to be placed in the crisis manual. Emergency kits will be replenished with fresh batteries and other items with expiration dates.

Annual Life Safety Survey Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Regional Office has recently completed inspections at each building for the life safety survey. There were no major infractions and any remedies needed will be taken care of this summer. He was very pleased with the report.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the construction crews are ahead of schedule on the building additions. They are working hard and making good progress.

Legislative Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported he recently attended a meeting in Springfield on pending legislation concerning education. The two major issues are the pension legislation and transportation. There are no solid answers at this time, just many assumptions. Special Education transportation is still being funded, but regular and vocational transportation has been reduced by 85% in the last two years. Transportation will continue to be a target of the governor, but at this time there are several options being discussed at the state level.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there are no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Administrator Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked all of the administrators for another successful school year. The administrators are a key component in the success of the district. Mr. Neeley expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the board. A short reception was held in recognition of the administrators.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick recognized Lucas Allen and Joel Zehr earlier in the day for their leadership with the high school Math Team.

Mr. Neeley noted that he will be attending PTO meetings in May in order to give them updates and look for help with the community engagement process.

Mr. Neeley reported on his trip with the Morton Chamber of Commerce to meet with legislators in Springfield. He spoke to legislators on the pension issues facing the state of Illinois. He noted our district gets very little back from the state from individual income taxes paid and that too much burden is put on the local property owners.

Discussion Items –

2012-2013 Student Fees –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration is recommending no fee increases for the 2012-2013 school year except for student lunches. He noted that last year fees were increased approximately 8% for elementary, junior high school and high school textbook

rental and supplies and activity fees. In 2010/11 we increased these same fees by 10%. In addition, High School parking passes have increased from \$10 per year to \$45 per year over the past two years and Drivers Education fees during the school year increased from \$0 to \$75. Drivers Education fees for summer school have increased from \$25 to \$75 over the past two years. These previous year fee increases were implemented as a result of State of Illinois funding cuts in General State Aid. Given the level of fee increases over the past few years, the administration is recommending that all fees, with the exception of lunch prices, remain at the same level as 2011-12.

Lunch prices are recommended to increase by 5%. Lunch prices will continue to increase each year not only due to food costs, but also due to the federal requirement that we close the gap in the difference between our lunch prices and the federal reimbursement rate for free/reduced lunches.

Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center Fees –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration is recommending that the cost of operating Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center and the rental rates be held at current amounts. In past years rates have been increased in an effort to move the rental rates closer to the actual cost and our targeted rental recovery by category. Current estimates reflect that those adjustments now closely reflect our costs.

Video/Audio Recordings of Meetings –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that at the last meeting of the Board of Education the board discussed the possible use of an outside firm to videotape Board meetings. Due to the cost, the board discussed two lower cost options; one, use a fixed mounted camera that would integrate with our existing sound system, and two, use strictly an audio recording system that would connect to our current sound system. Based on some preliminary information, a digital audio recorder could be obtained that would work with our existing sound system for \$499.99. That recording would then be transferred to the District website. Either a Sony or Canon camcorder could be obtained that would integrate with our system. Each is currently available for \$1,999.00. Before investing in the camcorder we would attempt to locate one that could be tried for quality before purchasing. Board members are in favor of starting with an audio podcast and continuing to pursue the video option. All agreed that the quality of the broadcast is an important consideration.

Action Items –

Approve 2012-2015 MEA Contract –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Morton Education Association (MEA) and Morton CUSD 709 Board of Education recently negotiated and tentatively agreed upon a contract for the 2012-2013 through the 2014-2015 school years. The MEA membership has ratified the contract and the contract is now presented to the Board of Education for approval. He noted that the two sides again used Interest Based Bargaining in the process and it

worked well. He expressed his appreciation to the MEA team for their consideration for both their membership and the district. Board members expressed thanks to those that served on both teams.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 and the Morton Education Association for the years 2012-2013 through 2014-2015.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Suspension Reports for Filing
- Amend 2011-2012 School Calendar
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the April 24, 2012, Regular Meeting
- Approve 2012-2013 School Board Meeting Calendar
- Approve March Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 5-4-12	Payroll 4-27-12
Ed. Fund	\$186,585.82	\$346,924.06
Bldg. Fund	8,065.77	29,194.72
Trans.Fund	8,841.40	8,052.81
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	359,295.96
Fire and Safety	--	--

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, 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 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for re-employment of professional staff.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the April 24, 2012, meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Reports –

Mr. Neeley reported that he will check with the ISBE representative and Dr. Hall for a date in July to meet for self evaluation.

Mr. Neeley reported that Dr. Kilpatrick is currently working on the evaluation of the 2nd grade alternative program that took place this school year. The evaluation cannot be completed until MAP testing is complete.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President