

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

September 4, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 4, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Member arriving late: Mrs. Michelle Kaeb – 8:52 p.m.

Member absent: Mr. John Applen

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

School Highlights –

Mr. Neeley thanked the principals for their August highlights. He noted the great start to the new school year and thanked administrators and staff for their efforts.

Annual Curriculum Targets –

Mr. Smock reviewed the curriculum targets for the 2012-2013 school year which include:

- Curriculum Mapping – K-8 - math master maps; 7-12 – keeping maps current and starting/continuing small group discussions.
- Textbook studies – foreign language, high school geometry (waiting on Common Core assessment information), and 3-6 grade math (ensuring Common Core standards are contained).
- The curriculum renewal process is being reviewed based on Common Core and curriculum mapping.
- Time line for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Communication to parents is very important. Use of PTO's, newsletters and school websites will be used.

Mr. Neeley expressed his appreciation for the report. He lauded the administrative staff for taking the lead in professional development and implementation of the CCSS. He agreed that parent communication is vital and asked for a report on the communication plan when it is in place.

Communicable Disease Plan –

Mr. Smock provided copies of policies that address communicable disease within the district. He stressed that when unusual situations arise, an extra effort is made to ensure the buildings are as clean and healthy as possible. He praised the custodial staff's efforts to keep the buildings clean on a daily basis.

Summer School Update –

Marjorie Johnson reported on the APEX summer school held at the high school. She noted that 22 students were enrolled in 32 courses, of which 29 of the courses were passed. The 91% passing rate is the highest for summer school since it started in 2010. Courses included language arts, math history, biology, civics and art. Two of the students were able to graduate after successfully completing their courses. Six of the students have IEP's and one had a 504 plan. As a special education teacher, Mr. Roberts is able to accommodate those with IEP's.

Mr. Hoffman reported on the regular education summer school held at Jefferson School. It is for K-3 and the focus is on remediation. There were 49 students with 4 teachers and 3 aides. Regression results will not be available until after map testing is completed this fall.

Technology Update –

Dr. Teater noted his appreciation for the work completed this summer led by Bill Schock, Rodney Schuck, Scott Schoon and summer hires to get buildings wired for computer access in the new classrooms and new phones in all of the buildings. It was a daunting task, but on the first day of school every room had computer access and most of the phones were installed and working. He also thanked Tony Crum and summer hires for installing all of the new phones in every classroom.

Dr. Teater reviewed updates or new additions that took place this past year including:

- Email addresses for 7-12 students
- Voice Over IP Phones – voice mail goes to mailbox
- Drop Box
- PowerSchool – continues to be an incredible source for teachers, parents, students
- Meal Magic - student lunch tracking system
- Tech Help/Maintenance Request
- Mobile devices – Kunos

- Alio/Alio Intelligence – new financial and human resource system
- Curriculum Loft – not yet implemented; recently approved by Board

He noted the challenge for technology is providing access to as many people as possible and equitable distribution between buildings. This happens when Kindles, iPads, etc. are purchased by PTO's. He assesses building inventories each year to see where there may be gaps.

Dr. Teater also noted a search feature will be added to the Board policy page on the district website.

Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Teater and his team for all of their efforts.

Extra Curricular Offerings – Title IX Compliance –

Dr. Hall reported that Greg Prichard submitted the Title IX compliance report and that the district is in compliance. The board also was made aware of the student survey that is conducted every year to determine where students' interests lie concerning extra curricular offerings. It was noted this is a standard survey also used by other school districts. The survey gives students the opportunity to suggest clubs or activities that are not currently available. Dr. Hall noted that clubs are not subject to the equity issue covered by Title IX, as they are open to both males and females.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –

Dr. Hall reported that the lists of the textbooks and instructional materials used throughout the district were included in the Board materials. This list is supplied annually per Board policy.

709Connect Update –

Dr. Hall reported that the second community meeting was very well attended and very good feedback was received. The feedback is posted on the District website. A planning meeting will be held next week for the third community meeting. Carol Jankowski thanked the coordinating group for their efforts to continue to press forward in this endeavor.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Hall recognized John Brown, Bill Schock, Rodney Schuck and Steve Young earlier today for their leadership and extra efforts to make sure all of the buildings were ready for the first day of school.

Mr. Neeley reported that he, Dr. Hall, Mr. Applen, and Mrs. Bernier met with Representative Keith Sommer. They discussed issues impacting the school district and unfunded mandates

including daily P.E. Representative Sommer encouraged those involved in education to get involved at the state level and to be a strong voice.

Mr. Neeley reminded board members that Senator Bill Brady will meet with them on September 5.

Mr. Neeley polled board members on their interest in continuing to explore the pros and cons of modifying the MEAC auditorium to be able conduct P.E. classes. Board members agreed to continue to gather information.

Mr. Neeley referred to correspondence board members received concerning continuation of the Ag. program at the high school including FFA. He noted that the high school will not be able to offer FFA after this year's senior class graduates. There needs to be student interest, which there has not been in recent years. Dr. Hall noted she and some other high school administrators may be attending the National Ag. Conference in Indianapolis. There is no cost for them to attend for one day. She also will be visiting the FFA meeting scheduled for Thursday of this week.

Mr. Neeley reminded board members of the self evaluation meeting scheduled for September 27 with the administrators. A representative from IASB will be the facilitator.

Board members discussed where to hold the second board meeting of each month. It was decided to have the meetings at the MEAC after meeting with teachers at their building in order to record for podcasting.

Discussion Items –

Recognition of Academic Achievement – Class of 2013 –

Ms. Johnson reviewed the history of class rankings and explained how top students will be recognized beginning with the Class of 2013. She explained that with the elimination of class rank adopted by the Board of Education in 2010, concerns were expressed regarding the Top 10 and local recognition at graduation. The Honors and Curriculum Committee and Morton High School Administration is recommending that any student with a cumulative GPA of 38.000 (high honor roll) and above be given a medallion and be recognized at graduation. The number of students that would have been recognized under the proposed system for the past 8 graduating classes would be:

- 2005 – 12
- 2006 – 10
- 2007 – 13
- 2008 – 19
- 2009 – 8
- 2010 – 5
- 2011 – 20

- 2012 – 11

The committee is recommending no changes in current practice for recognizing gold cord recipients which is awarded to those earning a GPA of 31.0000 or above.

Enrollments and Trends –

Dr. Hall reviewed enrollment information based on the 6th day enrollment. District wide the enrollment is 2853 with the most growth in EC – 6th grade. This year’s kindergarten class is the largest since 1990. There is a consistent increase in 7th and 9th grades, likely due to private school enrollments. The lower grades continue to grow, but it is difficult to identify any one reason why.

Evaluation Process for Certified Staff –

Dr. Hall explained the new process for certified staff evaluations based on the state mandates found in the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA). The Administration and MEA representatives met throughout the summer in order to meet the September 1 deadline to have guidelines in place. The rating scale that must be utilized is “Excellent/Proficient/Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory.” The “needs improvement” rating results in a professional growth plan. In the event of an “Honorable Dismissal,” teachers will be dismissed by group (lowest rating 1st, excellent rating released last). Dr. Hall noted that the MEA has agreed to the guidelines and the evaluation instrument for this year

Dr. Hall noted that all of the administrators have completed extensive training this past summer to learn the new evaluation procedure.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Suspension Reports
Approve Application for Recognition of Schools
Approve July Treasurers Report
Approving and Signing Minutes of the August 21, 2012, Regular Meeting and August 27, 2012, Special Meeting.

Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 8-24-12	Bills 8-27-12	Payroll 8-31-12
Ed.Fund	\$108,180.62	\$943.99	\$418,761.01
Bldg.Fund	675,394.22	--	41,441.58
Trans.Fund	22,916.68	--	10,885.79
Payroll Accts Pay	--	--	218,087.45
Fire & Safety	--	--	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, 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 5 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, 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 9:30 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, 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 Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the August 21, 2012, regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education re-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 9:34 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Taylor, 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 9:51 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President