

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 24, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held December 13, 2022, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting focus included **District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Tim Braker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Andrew Roth, and Mr. Jerry Rudd

Administrative Reports--

Superintendent’s Report– Dr. Craig Smock— Dr. Smock opened with some district highlights including the MHS Dance team qualifying for State in their first year of competition. Bowling is growing with Boys and Girls teams doing well. MJHS has competitive and intramural. Red Wings will join bowling in the spring, too. Gameball Run is February 9th and the game is on the February 10th. The Committee does an amazing job behind the scenes. Morton 709 is excited to support the great cause of the Children’s Hospital of IL.

Professional Development Report – Dr. Teater presented the breadth and the depth of Professional Development opportunities for teachers. There are 23 basic mandated trainings all staff complete, plus additional trainings that are more job specific. Paraprofessionals are receiving voluntary (paid) trainings on half days, to advance their learning and skills with the students they serve. New teachers have a full schedule of training/mentoring/professional development and wellness check-ins. Staff Academy Days offer a wide variety of cooperative and collaborative learning across the district. Approximately 2034 hours of Professional Development hours are earned without leaving the Morton 709 campus. Morton 709 coaches provide teacher support, fresh eyes on challenges and inspiration for reducing or eliminating barriers to learning. The “Through the Educational Looking Glass” is the educational Podcast our coaches provide. Morton 709 PD addresses the district goals for achievement, dialogue regarding key educational issues, fostering an excellent learning environment, and is a good use of Morton 709 resources. The Board asked questions. Dr. Teater and the coaches responded.

Parent Resources Report – Dr. Smock shared the District goal of offering more support for parents. He noted Stephanie Brown (Wellness Coordinator) and Don Sturm (Instructional Coach/Technology) are both previous Master Potter award winners. They are working together to build resources and support for parents and other caregivers. They shared their work, vision and growing presence as a place to support parents/caregivers as they navigate the most rewarding, exhausting, joy-filled, and hard work of raising and caring for children. They offer a toolbox of resources and conversations in a non-shaming and non-blaming way. The Care ♥ U Podcast is one of the tools they are using. They have a Book Club coming with 32 participants signed up for Brene Brown’s Book, “The Gifts of Imperfection.” Andrew McPeak, who spoke at MJHS last year is returning February 13th to answer caregiver submitted questions.

Faculty and Staff Feedback Report– Ms. Brown presented to the Board her work in gathering information from staff across the district. She invited staff to meet with her to share thoughts, concerns, joys and more. 72 staff responded and met with her. She collected their thoughts and let that be her starting point. She used the terms Start, Stop and Continue to frame the feedback from staff. She was able to process the information, sort and choose beginning points from what staff shared. Listening is key in climate and culture. She feels honored to do the work. Her data collected themes, individual building information, and potential needs.

Student Support Services – Ms. Lindsay Franklin, Director of Special Education, presented a “State of the Union” type of address for Student Support Services. She updated student and staff numbers in our Special Education programs. She gave a clear snapshot of our current and growing programs. We serve nine Guardian Angel Home students and nine Morton students at Morton Academy. She shared numbers and costs related to serving students with special needs, including our multilingual students and students with physical and emotional disabilities. The nursing services have expanded to meet student needs, having over 37,000 nursing visits last year. Several tuition students are being served by Morton 709. She showed that serving students in-district is not only a cost savings, but the students receive quality Morton 709 educational services. The Board asked clarification questions. Ms. Franklin answered. She articulated space needs and the need for at least one more social worker and interventionist.

President’s Report – Mr. Tim Braker President Braker thanked Dr. Teater, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Brown and Mr. Sturm for their presentations. He thanked Ms. Franklin and Morton Academy for the excellent building meeting and meal before the board meeting. He noted the resignation of Football Coach, Tim Brilley, who has done a great job building a program and bringing pride to Morton Football. He left the program better than he found it. He expressed the need for a Policy Committee meeting, a Facilities Committee meeting and a Committee Meeting of the Whole soon. He thanked Ms. Amanda Rickenberg and Ms. Franklin for the great meal and presentation at Morton Academy before the Board Meeting. The Board was invited to send any agenda building items to him or Dr. Smock to be added to the agenda.

Discussion Items –

Teacher Evaluation Plan – Dr. Smock explained the process includes Closed Session discussions before the final plan is presented. Dr. Joe Sander presented the Teacher Evaluation Plan for Board Approval. The Evaluation Committee include 5 MEA, 5 Administrators, Dr. Smock and Dr. Sander. The Board gave input and asked questions. The Committee responded. The “All In” plan was restated. The plan was a collaborative effort and agreed upon. Mr. Rudd asked for some clarification. The Board supported the informal observations in non-summative years. All certified staff are included. Dr. Sander responded to questions from the Board and gave credit to the Evaluation Committee and the Board. The Board asked about ways to gather data to identify areas of need, concern or growth. Dr. Sander articulated there are some ways to mine data for evaluation purposes.

First Reading and Discussion of New and Revised Policies – The Policy Committee brought the first reading of the Policy Updates to the Board for review. Most were language, updated legal references, cross reference updates and legal updates. They will vote on the revisions at the next Board of Education meeting. Mr. Roth and Dr. Krall shared that most were easy updates. They reflected on keeping policy more broad. Dr. Krall noted the value in good administrators. Mr. Neeley added that Administrative Procedures are just as important. Dress code is a work in progress. It is a part of the Student Handbook and the Handbook Committee is working on it.

Action Items -

Approve Teacher Evaluation Plan –

A motion was made by Mr. Rudd, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education approve the Teacher Evaluation Plan as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

A President Braker asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Neeley, second by Dr. Cross, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting and the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 12-13,12-16 & 12-19-22	Bills 12-21-22	Bills 1-13-23 1-17-23	Bills 1-20-23	Payroll 12-9-22	Payroll 12-23-22	Payroll 1-6-22
Ed. Fund	285,708.51	247,079.66	\$262,468.66	\$246,526.09	\$857,332.88	\$939,555.53	\$794,027.32
Bldg. Fund	174,203.48	--	49,815.32	346,227.89	48,944.84	51,515.03	47,422.34
Trans. Fund	16,253.33	--	102,305.71		21,250.79	44,626.02	15,076.49)
IMRF Fund	--	--	--		41,147.16	50,970.12	29,456.31)
Torte	368.00	--	404.00				

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Neeley, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of **Personnel and Purchase/Sale of Property. (5ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:02 p.m.

A motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Rudd, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:57 p.m.

Open Session –

President Braker noted that we will continue working at the revised plan for graduation to get dates and times set due to a conflict with the state track meet.

Adjournment –

A motion by Mr. Rudd, second by Mrs. Leman, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Secretary

Tim Braker, President