

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 6, 2024

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on August 6, 2024, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. **The meeting included the District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

### SPECIAL MEETING

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – Vice-President Rudd called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, Mr. Rudd, Dr. Smock, Dr. Sander, and Valerie Smith. Members Absent: Dr. David Cross and Mr. Tom Neeley

Roll Call:            Yea 5      Nay   Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

### Administrative Reports

#### **Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock**

- Dr. Smock noted that the New Teacher Dinner was a great night. Morton Food Services provided an excellent meal. Conversations at the tables and introductions of new teachers by building principals made for a great evening.
- Dr. Sander reflected on the three-day New Teacher Orientation. The new teachers frequently expressed the value of the content, the quality of the presenters, the food, the new connections, and of course, the Bus Tour with Julie Tharp and Susan Pyles is always a highlight. Experienced teachers and brand new educators noted their appreciation for the District's efforts to prepare new staff. Dr. Sander thanked the Board for supporting New Teacher Orientation.
- Dr. Smock thanked the summer custodial and maintenance crews for their hard work all summer to get the buildings ready for school.
- Dr. Smock gave a full list of work done in buildings across the District and an update on the MHS renovations. He noted appreciation for the MHS leadership and staff for being flexible when figuring things out and the excellent cooperation from other buildings, giving the example of MJHS housing some MHS Volleyball as needed.
- The Bertha Frank entrance will be the main entrance for student drop off during this phase of construction. It is possible MHS will reclaim some student parking very soon.
- New electronic crosswalks are expanding across the District, starting at Jefferson School. We will be adding them to all schools. He thanked Mr. Craig Loudermilk and the Village of Morton for supporting this project in cooperation with the District.
- Staff will be welcomed back on Monday, August 12, 2024, with breakfast followed by a kick-off at Bertha Frank. Dr. Smock invited the Board to attend. Morton Food Services will provide the breakfast.
- Jefferson School will be piloting a breakfast program. The District is excited to offer this to students, hoping to expand to other buildings. Interest and the ability to staff the service are key components.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) discussions continue with new MHS principal, Kirk Edwards. January 2025 is the decision date. The Board and Administration continue to focus on the goal of minimal negative impact to students if adopting a new GPA calculation.
- The District continues to look at ways to make space for Early Childhood and Morton Academy. Mr. Rudd and Mrs. Leman are on the Superintendent's Facilities Committee. They will be included when looking at preliminary possibilities and design options.
- The design for the MHS weight training room needs to be completed. Dr. Smock will update other construction timelines soon.

- Dr. Teater will present very detailed testing data at the August 20, 2024 meeting.

### **Vice-President's Report – Mr. Rudd**

- Mr. Rudd expressed a welcome to new teachers. He noted that the New Teacher Orientation, the New Teacher Dinner, and Morton Food Services on the meal were all excellent.
- He noted that Morton Food Services is doing a great job for the District.
- Mr. Rudd and the Board discussed revising the Board Calendar. They discussed ideas for connecting and building relationships with each school in the District. They want to continue building relationships with teachers and each building, but do not want to disrupt classes or cause teachers extra work or stress. Members discussed options and expressed several ideas. They discussed one meeting a month, but keeping a second date open for a special meeting when necessary. We can ask our principals what they feel would be good for their building staff. On August 20, 2024, they will reconvene on the topic. Dr. Smock and Dr. Sander will ask what teachers want from the Board as ways of connecting.
- The Board would like to do a Self-Evaluation with an IASB Facilitator.
- Superintendent Evaluation will be August 20, 2024.
- Mr. Rudd announced great news. The Board and Negotiations Team came to agreement on a contract. He thanked everyone involved for working hard.

### **Discussion Item –**

#### **First Reading of Policy Updates from PRESS Issue #114–**

The Superintendent's Policy Committee met earlier in July. Dr. Smock reported most are footnotes and cross-reference updates with nothing to vote on. Dr. Krall elaborated on how one language or reference change impacts another. Dr. Krall articulated well the domino effect in changes to language, legal references, and cross-references.

Dr. Krall noted that everywhere Title IX is mentioned there are needs for updates. Mr. Roth concurred with her summation, as did Dr. Smock. Dr. Smock reiterated that this set of policies does not have much room for policy adaption. Dr. Smock asked the Board to share any questions they might regarding any updates. The Board decides policy updates as a whole. The policies presented are legal updates, language updates, and cross-reference updates for Board review and input before approval. Dr. Smock will be attending Title IX specific training. Mr. Rudd thanked the committee members, Dr. Krall and Mr. Roth, for their work. Mr. Rudd clarified that PRESS stands for Policy Reference Education Subscription Service. The Board will vote on the presented policy updates at the next meeting.

### **Action Item(s) –**

#### **Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Morton Education Association**

Mr. Braker moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Morton Education Association. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 5     Nay    Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried.

**Approve FY25 Salary & Wage Increase for 12-month Employees, Support Personnel, and Administration - approve wage increase**

Mrs. Leman moved to approve the FY25 Salary & Wage increase for 12-month employees, Support Personnel, and Administration. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 5     Nay   Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried. Dr. Smock gave a brief explanation of the salary and wage increase.

**Approve Revised 2024-25 Student Fees**

Mrs. Leman moved to approve the Revised 2024-25 Student Fee sheet. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 5     Nay   Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried. Dr. Smock briefly explained the changes including the removal of ECE fees and adding breakfast fees.

**Approve Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property- Kroger**

Mr. Braker moved to approve the Resolution Allowing for Intervention Regarding Assessment of Property for Kroger. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 5     Nay   Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried. Kroger has appealed their taxes every year since 2018.

**Approve SkillsUSA Sate Officer Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – August 2024**

Vice-President Rudd stated that the Board was pulling the SkillsUSA trip from the Consent Agenda to vote on it as an Action Item due to the late submission in light of Board policy. SkillsUSA does not always get the information in the hands of sponsors in a timely manner. Every Board Member is supportive of SkillsUSA students and the leadership. The policy is in place to allow time for well-planned trips with students. Mr. Braker motioned to approve the SkillsUSA Sate Officer Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 that is already in progress. Mrs. Leman supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 4     Nay 1   Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

Mrs. Leman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve MHS Madrigal Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – September 2024
- Approve Treasurers Report – June 2024
- Approve the Recommendation to Keep Executive Session Minutes Closed for January 2024- June 2024
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – Volleyball Team
- Approve Minutes of the July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting; the July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 7-22-24</b>	<b>Bills 7-26-24 7-29-24</b>	<b>Payroll 7-7-24</b>	<b>Payroll 7-19-24</b>
Ed. Fund (10)	\$268,997.13	\$259,642.50	\$738,155.01	\$748,707.19
Bldg. Fund (20)		147,740.03	83,147.10	85,317.62
Trans. Fund (40)		15,724.95	18,458.81	14,930.15
IMRF (50)			30,565.58	29,316.67

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried.

**Non- Agenda Audience Presentations:** Mr. Kevin Miller and Dr. Ashley Fischer requested time to address the Board regarding non-agenda items. Both spoke for five minutes to the Board of Education.

**Closed Session-**

Vice-President Rudd called for the Board entered into Closed Session for the purpose of Personnel and Complaint Hearing as stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18). Mrs. Leman moved for the Board to enter into Closed Session. Mr. Braker supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried. The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:46 p.m.

Mr. Roth motioned to re-enter open session. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay 0 Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 9:47 p.m.

**Approve Board Ruling on Complaint Appeal #29 (4-26-24)**

For the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s Decision and the Complaint Manager Report, the Board denies the appeal and affirms the decision of the Superintendent. Mr. Braker moved for the approval of the motion as presented. Mrs. Leman supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 4 Nay 0 Abstain 1(Krall) Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Braker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call:        Yea 5    Nay 0    Absent 2 (Dr. Cross & Mr. Neeley)

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

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Jerry Rudd, Vice-President