

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

August 20, 2024

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on August 20, 2024, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. **The meeting included the District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

Call to Order and Roll Call – Vice-President Rudd called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

Recognition of Excellence

Ms. Jamie Adolphson, MHS Assistant Principal, thanked our Morton community and Board for their support of the SkillsUSA program. She introduced SkillsUSA advisors, Ms. Tiffany Beard and Mr. Chad McFarland. They shared that we are a Model of Excellence school and in the top eight schools in the nation for technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA gives students incredible opportunities while in high school. Ms. Beard described the unique culture that brings students together with goals and a purpose. High achieving college bound students and students learning the skilled trades come together in SkillsUSA for unique and powerful learning experiences.

Our MHS students excelled on their first trip to Nationals in June. One team, Miss Emma Belsly and Mr. Ethan Cross, earned the Bronze Medal in the Additive Manufacturing competition. Miss Belsly and Mr. Cross answered questions from the Board about the experience. The Board congratulated the students on their achievement. Another MHS student and SkillsUSA member, Lia Guth, entered her design in an Illinois contest to create a pin for Caterpillar. Her design won for Illinois, and Caterpillar produced her design.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Smock

- Dr. Smock updated the Board on the swatting incident that happened before school started. He thanked the Morton Police Department and Tazewell County responders for their excellent response and their work to keep our buildings safe.
- Dr. Smock updated the Board on the first few weeks. He gave the highlights and the lowlights of the first weeks of school. He commended the staff on managing the challenges of a few building issues. Rodney Schuck, Scott Schoon, and Allen Fort at Lettie Brown put in many hours to remedy a mold problem at Lettie Brown. Building staff continues to weather the inconveniences of construction and necessary building work with incredible patience. Jefferson successfully managed a few bats.
- Dr. Teater gave a detailed presentation on student test scores from 2023-24. The State is slow to release its report. Dr. Teater mined the data to deliver feedback to leadership teams and teachers at the start of the school year. The Board followed up with questions. Morton 709 is doing very well. He noted the excellence and the areas that need growth. The State is switching to the ACT test this year instead of the SAT. Same grade levels, different test. Dr. Teater and Dr. Smock met with building principals individually to share the results for their buildings. Dr. Teater answered the Board's questions. The Board thanked Dr. Teater for his work compiling the data to evaluate strengths and identify areas of concern. Instructional coaches help support academic improvement.
- Today is the 6th day of Enrollment. Dr. Sander will share the enrollment report at the next meeting.
- Dr. Smock shared a Construction Project timeline. Phase One at MHS should be done by Christmas.

Vice-President's Report – Mr. Rudd

- Mr. Rudd welcomed back students and the staff. He expressed Board appreciation for Dr. Smock's excellent communication efforts
- Mr. Rudd thanked the Police Department for their response and work to keep everyone safe with the swatting incident.
- He recognized buildings and operations crews for their work at Lettie Brown.
- The Board is still discussing the Board Meeting schedule and options for building connections with building teachers that are low-stress and valuable for all. The Board wants to listen and learn from building teachers and leadership. The board values their input. The Board is open to suggestions. The MEA will offer some thoughts.
- The Board will do a self-evaluation on October 15, 2024, with the IASB.

Discussion Item –

Final FY24 Budget & FY25 Budget–

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented the final FY24 Budget and the final proposed FY25 Budget. The Board asked questions. The budget keeps the required 180 days in reserve. Ms. Kowalski answered. There will be a budget has been made available to the public. The Final Budget Hearing for FY25 will be on September 17, 2024. The Board will approved the budget during the Regular Meeting.

Action Item(s) –

Approve Policy Updates from PRESS Issue #114–

Mrs. Leman moved to approve the Policy Updates for PRESS Issue #114. Dr. Krall supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

The motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS BOA Regionals – October 2024
- Approve Revised Overnight/Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Marching Band – November 2024 – Disney Trip
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Wrestling - Mascoutah Invitational – December 2024
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Wrestling – University of Wisconsin Whitewater – December 2024
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Wrestling – Geneseo Invitational – January 2025
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS SkillsUSA – September 2024 – State Leadership
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS SkillsUSA – September

2024 – National Leadership

- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Girls Tennis – August 2024
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Girls Tennis – September 2024
- Approve Minutes of the August 6, 2024, Regular Meeting; the August 6, 2024, Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Bills

	Bills 8-9-24 8-12-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$220,429.44
Bldg. Fund (20)	315,088.37
Trans. Fund (40)	14,331.03
Capital Projects (60)	924,071.21
TORT (80)	124.34

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

Motion carried.

Closed Session-

Vice-President Rudd called for the Board entered into Closed Session for the purpose of Personnel and Student Discipline as stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18). Dr. Krall moved for the Board to enter into Closed Session. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

Motion carried. The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:08 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 8:04 p.m.

Adjournment –

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1 (Dr. Cross)

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The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

Jerry Rudd, Vice-President