

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 1, 2024

Minutes of the FY25 Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on October 1, 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 – President Cross called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay Absent 2 (Leman & Roth)

Recognition of Excellence – MJHS Golf participated in the IESA State Golf Finals. 8th Grade student, Lee Bolliger, medaled placing 4th in the State. He placed at state two years in a row. Mr. Scott Hammond, MJHS Assistant Principal/A.D. introduced Coach Josh Ames. Coach Ames shared it was his second year in a row of medaling. Coach Ames shared about the integrity, work ethic, humility, and leadership the student athlete brought to the game, the season, the finals, and to his teammates. The Board and Administration congratulated Lee.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report— Dr. Craig Smock

- Dr. Smock reflected on another great Homecoming Week for MHS and the community. Students and faculty poured time and energy into the week. Fireworks were a part of the celebration.
- Dr. Smock expressed thankfulness for the many churches in our community that step in to provide resources and assistance for students in need with their generous donations. They provide food, school supplies, household, and hygiene supplies. Some prepare snack packs for students who may need extra over weekends. Other have helped cover outstanding lunch charges. The District is thankful for the many churches who help provide what students need.
- Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, introduced Brian Mateas, Director, CLA, who gave a summation of the FY24 Final Audit. Ms. Kowalski and Mr. Mateas were available to answer questions. The presentation explained the audit, requirements, and the determinations. Another clean, unmodified audit for the District. Mr. Mateas expressed appreciation for the outstanding preparation by the Business Office prior to the audit. Dr. Smock thanked Ms. Kowalski, Mr. Adam Jacob, and the Business Department for all they did to prepare for the audit.

President's Report – Dr. David Cross

- Dr. Cross noted the next meeting is for Board Self-Evaluation. It is a closed session. Members can prepare with the prepared folder of information.
- Members attending the School Board Conference in November will make their choices and share at a future board meeting.
- The Board offered feedback on the morning before school meetings with teachers and staff. Some of the members noted it is difficult to attend due to their work schedules. The Board enjoyed the building tours, especially seeing the work in progress at MHS.

Discussion Items–

Review FY26 Budget & Tentative 2024 Levy –

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented the FY26 Budget and Tentative 2024 Levy to the Board of Education. She met with the Superintendent’s Finance Committee prior to the meeting. She gave the highlights of the 2024 Levy and the ways she is preparing for the FY26 budget. There are always adjustments made when final, currently unknown numbers come into the business office. She discussed how she determined different allocations to prepare for upcoming expenditures. Current capital projects are still in progress.

The Board noted that the current future projections would bring the Education Fund under 166 days in reserve if actual revenue and expenditures in coming years are as projected in her forecast. That is less than the required 180 days. Dr. Smock thanked Ms. Kowalski for the fantastic job she does for the District with the difficult job of school finances. The Board offered admiration and appreciation for her hard work and the business office team reflected again in this year’s audit.

IASB Conference Resolutions Discussion –

The Illinois Association of School Boards Conference recently released the 2024 Resolutions. The Board discussed them briefly. They are available for further review in the Board Folder. The Board will select a delegate and alternate prior to the convention.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Choir Trip – February 2025
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Wrestling – December 2024
- Approve Minutes of the September 17, 2024, Regular Meeting; the September 17, 2024, Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills	Payroll	Payroll
	9-20-24 9-23-24	9-13-24	9-27-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$624,573.67	\$1,034,982.76	\$1,055,342.59
Bldg. Fund (20)	145,300.12	58,710.17	57,768.23
Trans. Fund (40)	22,798.62	32,656.64	35,900.92
IMRF (50)		54,664.29	57,029.07
TORT (80)	175.42		

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay Absent 2

Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Related Audience Presentations –

Dr. Ashley Fisher presented to the Board of Education. Community members receive five minutes to share her thoughts on non-agenda related items.

Dr. Krall asked that we provide our audience participation speaker with the information about the District’s bullying policy and information about the professional speaker we brought to the District to address the topic of bullying.

Closed Session-

President Cross called for the Board to enter Closed Session for the purpose of Negotiations, and Confidential Student Concerns 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. Rudd supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay Absent 2

Motion carried. The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:54 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay Absent 2

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 8:12 p.m.

Adjournment –

Mr. Rudd made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Yea 5 Nay Absent 2

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Recorded by,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Rudd, Vice-President

David Cross, President