

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 29, 2024

Minutes of the FY25 Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on October 29, 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, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Rudd, Dr. Smock, Dr. Sander, and Mrs. Valerie Smith. Absent: Dr. Diane Krall,

Roll Call:            Yea 6    Nay 0    Absent 1 (Krall)

**Recognition of Excellence** – MJHS Boys Cross Country Team was recognized for finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the I.E.S.A. State Finals. Mr. Scott Hammond, A.D./Assistant Principal and Coach Kristen D’Alfonzo presented the team to the Board with season reflections and highlights.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Superintendent’s Report— Dr. Craig Smock**

- Dr. Smock noted that the Marching Band won its 19<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Championship for class 2A at their State Competition at ISU. They received Overall Grand Champion for the third year in a row. It is truly extraordinary.
- Dr. Smock offered an update on the MHS renovations. The sequential order of the work caused a small delay, but cement is coming soon. We are hoping to get the varsity lockers and training areas back soon.
- The Training Facility project team is meeting to talk through what it might look like. The Board has plans available to review in the Board Folder. Some plans would add cost to the project.
- Facilities Update: One of the plans under review would expand the project and increase eating space for students. It is a beautiful design at a cost of about 1.5 million dollars.
- The Board noted the importance of designing new spaces with safety in mind.
- Dr. Troy Teater presented the School Climate Report and Bullying Reduction plan. An in-depth presentation showed how the District has been addressing School Climate and Bullying over the past two years. Dr Teater was clear that if “one child is bullied, that is too many.” The District has invested time and resources to bring expert, Dr. Krista Leh, to teach and train staff. She is excellent and well received. She is returning to the District on Wednesday for continuing professional development. Dr. Teater’s presentation shared what the district is doing to combat bullying and to enhance the school climate. The 5 Essentials Survey was very positive, showing a high level of trust between students and teachers. A bullying hotline is in place, with access numbers on the back of student ID card. Teachers and parents work hard to teach good behavior. Reporting is essential. What is undisclosed cannot be addressed.

#### **President’s Report – Dr. David Cross**

- Dr. Cross offered congratulations to the MJHS Cross-Country Team and Marching Band for their success.
- The Board Retreat was an excellent reminder of the Board having the “balcony view” over the District with the role of monitoring and measuring.

### **Agenda Building–**

- The Board mentioned that the IASB has “talking points” for people running for school board. Once we know who the candidates are, we can make them aware of resources.
- Dr. Smock noted that the School Report Card Data will help guide SMART Goals for the District. Dr. Troy Teater will present the School Report Card at the November 19, 2024, meeting.
- The Board talked about SuperEval as a tool for evaluation of superintendents. It is a good tool with 24 competencies on the evaluation.
- Administration updated the Board on unfilled administrative positions.

### **Discussion Items–**

#### **Revised Tentative 2024 Levy –**

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, presented the Revised Tentative 2024 Levy to the Board of Education. She updated the Tentative 2024 Levy with new information from the County Clerk’s office. She made adjustments based on the new numbers. She shared a little of her processes to ensure the District does not miss tax dollars. She noted that she completed the “Truth in Taxation” hearing notice. The hearing notice is posted on the District website. The hearing notice will be post in the newspaper on December 2, 2024. The Board thanked her for her work.

### **Board Self-Evaluation**

The Illinois Association of School Board Self-Evaluation team, Lori Grant and Katie Bulava, met with the Board for self-evaluation on October 15, 2024. Board Protocol and Policy Review were part of the discussion. The Board will review suggestions from the IASB with the previous Board Protocol for process improvement. The Board looked at suggested Board Policy review calendars. The Board will move forward with using the IASB 2-Year Policy Review calendar as presented by Dr. Sander beginning in July 2025.

### **Action Item–**

The Board appointed Mr. Andrew Roth as Delegate to the Assembly at the Joint Annual Conference on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Mr. Jerry Rudd is the Alternate. Mr. Braker moved to appoint Mr. Roth as the Assembly Delegate and Mr. Rudd as the Alternate. Mr. Neeley supported the motion.

Roll Call:     Yea 6    Nay 0    Absent 1

Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Treasurer’s Report - July 2024
- Approve Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Baseball Trip – March 2025
- Approve Minutes of the October 1, 2024, Regular Meeting; the October 1, 2024, Closed Session Minutes; Minutes of the October 15, 2024, Regular Committee of the Whole; Closed Session Committee of the Whole Minutes, October 15, 2024
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-4-24 10-7-24	Bills 10-18-24 10-21-24	Bills 10-22-24	Payroll 10-11-24	Payroll 10-25-24
Ed. Fund (10)	\$283,116.81	\$350,104.91	\$302,158.24	1,079,796.13	1,055,307.37
Bldg. Fund (20)	104,947.75	201,622.22		56,218.65	54,350.90
Trans. Fund (40)	17,416.82	32,061.53		35,743.51	36,324.35
IMRF (50)				59,283.44	56,750.96
Capital Projects (60)	982,255.69				
TORT (80)		2,330.00			

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay Absent 1

Motion carried.

**Closed Session-**

President Cross called for the Board to enter Closed Session for the purpose of **Personnel, Negotiations, and Purchase/Sale of Property** as stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18). Mr. Rudd moved for the Board to enter into Closed Session. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1

Motion carried. The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:22 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1

Motion carried.

The Board re-entered open session at 8:26 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rudd voiced support of the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0 Absent 1 (Krall)

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

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David Cross, President