

## MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

March 4, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held on March 4, 2025, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting included the District Goals of Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.

### **REGULAR MEETING –**

**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, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mr. Rudd, Dr. Smock, Dr. Joseph Sander, and Mrs. Valerie Smith.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

**Agenda Related Audience Presentations –** Mr. Jeff Brooks, Mrs. Kara Brooks, and Miss Abby Brooks addressed the Board on an agenda-related item.

### **Administrative Reports—**

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

- Dr. Smock thanked the schools and community for another phenomenal year for the Gameball Run. This year’s total was over \$213,000. The accumulative total raised over the life of the Gameball Run is over \$1.6 million dollars for the Children’s Hospital of IL. It is a blessing to be in this generous community.
- We continue working with the Village of Morton on the Crosswalk projects to increase safety for students and the community 24/7. We are splitting the cost with the Village.
- Dr. Smock gave an update on renovations coming, in progress, and nearly completed.
- One of the agenda items is the approval of the bid for some asbestos abatement to help jumpstart the summer projects.
- Dr. Smock reported that most counties around us have a county-wide 1% sales tax that is earmarked for education. It helps raise funds without raising property taxes for homeowners. There will be a presentation to the Board to see if there is any interest in pursuing this avenue of funding.
- Dr. Smock heard feedback from the Board on Vision 2030.
- Next week is Aide Appreciation Week.
- Dr. Joe Sander introduced three team members moving into new administrative positions. Mrs. Kate Wyman is moving from her role as Jefferson Principal to the District Office as the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Safety. Ms. Wendy Vastine, Assistant Principal at Lincoln will be taking the principal position when Mrs. Julie Horchem retires at the end of the school year. Mr. Stuart Smith has taught in Morton for 16 years. He will be leaving his 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom to move into Ms. Vastine’s office as the new Assistant Principal. Dr. Smock noted that we are excited about these fantastic professionals moving into new roles.

#### **President’s Report and Agenda Building – Dr. David Cross**

- The Board would like to see the progress in the renovations. The Board would like to walk through the MHS renovations on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. It is the Tuesday before spring break.
- The Board talked about getting a start on the SuperEval program if we are going to use it. SuperEval was a session Dr. Diane Krall attended at the IASB conference. It very was helpful.

Dr. Sander recently communicated with SuperEval. He will gather more information and a proposal. Dr. Krall was suggested as the board member to take the lead on SuperEval. She accepted.

**Action Item(s)–**

**Action on Lease for Transportation Vehicles –**

Mrs. Amanda Leman made a motion for the Board to approve the 5-year Lease of three 2026 84-passenger Thomas buses, one 14-passenger Thomas bus, and one 29-passenger Thomas bus for an annual lease cost of \$132,872.33 a year. Mr. Jerry Rudd supported the motion.

It was noted storage needs helped to determine which buses were needed to move sports teams and musicians. Some sports and music need storage when they travel to games and events. The buses with storage are more costly.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on Revised MHS Grade Point Average and Grading Scale Guidelines –**

Mrs. Diane Krall made a motion for the Board to approve the Revised MHS Grade Point Average and Grading Scale as presented. Mr. Tim Braker supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Dr. Smock summarized the multi-faceted process. The Board discussed the request from the Brooks family to add percentage scores to student transcripts where possible. We know our current system is hurting some students. Others miss the class rank. Dr. Smock reminded the Board that universities look at test scores and a student's bigger picture. The Board expressed thanks to the Committee for its hard work and to the Brooks family for their input. The Board supported the addition of percentage scores to the transcript.

Motion carried.

**Action on Vision 2030 Resolution---**

Dr. Smock presented details on the Vision 2030 Resolution to the Board ant the February 4, 2025 meeting of the Board. Mr. Tom Neeley made a motion for the Board to approve to approve the Vision 2030 Resolution as presented. Mr. Jerry Rudd supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on MHS East Gym Asbestos Abatement – Summer 2025–**

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education accept the base bid from Spectrum Environmental in the amount of \$150,850 for the MHS East Gym Asbestos Abatement to be completed in summer 2025. Mr. Braker supported.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Illinois Learning Technology Purchase Program Cooperative
- Approve Yearbook Contract with Varsity Yearbook
- Approve Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – MHS Orchestra Trip - Milwaukee, WI- April 2025
- Approve Out-of-State Trip per Board Policy 6:240 – Lincoln 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip –St. Louis, MO- May 2025
- Approve Minutes of the February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting; February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 2-7-25 2-10-25</b>	<b>Bills 2-21-25 2-24-25</b>	<b>Bills 2-27-25</b>	<b>Payroll 2-14-25</b>	<b>Payroll 2-28-25</b>
<b>Ed. Fund (10)</b>	\$265,416.35	\$543,581.86	\$6,793.82	\$1,074,575.17	1,044,691.47
<b>Bldg. Fund (20)</b>	\$60,804.03	\$125,494.60		58,002.97	59,848.90
<b>Debt Services (30)</b>	\$300.00				
<b>Trans. Fund (40)</b>	\$31,528.31	\$22,341.52		35,001.67	31,938.48
<b>IMRF (50)</b>				57,899.37	55,447.99
<b>TORT (80)</b>		\$4,314.00			

Roll Call:            Yea 7    Nay 0    Absent 0

Motion carried.

**Non-Agenda Related Audience Presentations –**

Dr. Ashley Fischer spoke to the Board of Education on non-agenda related items.

**Closed Session-**

President Cross called for a Closed Session for the purpose of Personnel as stated in the Open Meetings Act (ILSC 120/2). Mr. Rudd motioned for the Board to enter into closed session. Mr. Braker supported the motion.

Roll Call:            Yea 7    Nay 0

The Board entered Closed Session at 6:27 p.m.

**Return to Open Session –**

Mr. Braker made a motion for the Board to return to Open Session. Mr. Rudd supported the motion.

Roll Call:            Yea 7    Nay 0

The Board re-entered Open Session at 7:40 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Neeley made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:        Yea 7    Nay 0

The motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

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Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

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Amanda Leman, Secretary

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David Cross, President