

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 10, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 10, 2025, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

President David Cross called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Members present: Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, Mr. Andrew Roth, Mr. Wes Ohnesorge, and Mrs. Krystiana Purdy

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Excellence

The Board of Education recognized student excellence in sports and the arts.

- Mr. Scott Hammond, A.D., introduced MJHS IESA Track and Field medalists, including Emery Martin, IESA State Champion in High Jump.
- Coach Marshall Tucker highlighted MHS Boys Track and Field State Finishers.
- The Board recognized Katie Ellison for receiving a state art honor. MJHS Principal, Mr. Carter, introduced art teacher Mrs. Du Pont, who highlighted the significance of the selection and noted that Katie's artwork is currently on tour statewide and is displayed outside the Board Room.

Agenda Related Audience Presentations

- Mr. David Griffin, Ms. Kathy McNeil, Mr. Virg Cihia, Ms. Josie Kneller, Ms. Deanna Brown, Asher, Dr. Ashley Fischer, and Ms. Gretchen spoke on the Closed Session Hearing.
- Mr. David Olson spoke about Morton Academy.
- Mr. Mike Bushby spoke on the 5Essentials Survey

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report –

- **Physical Restraint Time Out (RTO)** Ms. Lindsay Franklin, Director of Student Support Services, presented the annual RTO report. She noted a reduction in RTO incidents, attributing it to a newly implemented method.
- **Consolidated District Plan for FY26** Ms. Franklin reviewed the FY26 Consolidated District Plan, outlining the use of Special Education funding. The plan was submitted for approval in the Consent Agenda.
- **Potter Hour and Schedule Changes**: Mr. Kirk Edwards, MJHS Principal, outlined proposed schedule changes that replace Potter Hour with Homeroom to recover class time and improve cafeteria flow. The board supported moving forward.

- **Board Facilities Naming Committee** Dr Joe Sander reported on the committee's initial meeting and progress on draft language related to a potential “Morton Hall of Fame.” Board members Leman and Rudd serve on the committee.
- **Construction and Summer Projects Update** Dr. Smock and Mr. Rodney Schuck reported that projects are on schedule for fall. Additional summer updates were provided.
- **5Essentials Data Preview5** Preliminary Dr. Smock previewed 2024–25 results, highlighting strong MHS scores in respect, trust, and culture.

President’s Report – Dr. David Cross

- President Cross updated the Board on Superintendent’s Committee openings.
- Dr. Sander updated the Board on the SuperEval evaluation tool for his evaluation
- Recognition of Dr. Craig Smock’s Retirement: The Board expressed its gratitude to Dr. Smock for his dedicated service, mentorship, and leadership, including his significant contributions to the leadership transition. Dr. Smock expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve Morton 709.
- Agenda Building: The Board discussed the State of Illinois lowering minimum proficiency levels on some of the tests used to determine student achievement.

Financial Review FY25 & FY26 – Ms. Lisa Kowalski

Ms. Kowalski presented an overview of the district's financial status as she prepares to close out FY25 and plan for FY26.

Revised Capital Project Plan (MHS Phase 2, Morton Academy, Pre-K, Grundy School)

Dr. Smock talked about pivots in the Capitol project plans for MHS Phase 2, Morton Academy, Pre-K, and Grundy School. He explained potential challenges, solutions and possibilities for improving and providing learning spaces for students with available resources.

Action Items

Action on Proposed Changes to the District Student Handbooks for FY26

Mrs. Leman made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the District Student Handbook for FY26. Dr. Krall moved to support the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0
Motion carried.

Action on School Resource Office (SRO) Agreement with Village of Morton

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the School Resource Office (SRO) Agreement with the Village of Morton. Mr. Roth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0
Motion carried.

Action on Assistant Wrestling Coach - Girls

Mr. Roth made a motion that the Board of Education approve adding one position, MHS Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach, under the recommended terms for the 2025-26 season. Mrs. Leman moved to support the motion. The Board is excited to see the program's growth.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0
Motion carried.

Action on the Transfer of Interest Income between Funds

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, shared which funds would receive this year's interest income. Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the District's transfer of \$150,000, along with any accrued interest, from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund. Mr. Ohnesorge seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Action on Purchase of Pre-K – 2nd Playground Equipment with Grant Funds

Mrs. Purdy made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the grant-funded purchase of playground equipment for Pre-K through second-grade students to be placed at Grundy School. Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Approve Treasurers for 2025-26 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
- Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
- Approve Complaint Managers
- Approve Amended Contract for Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Approve Substitute Positions Rate of Pay for 2025-26
- Approve Morton Fine Arts Association Agreement
- Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Madrigals Retreat – August 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS SkillsUSA Officers- June 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS SkillsUSA Officers- July 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight/Out of State Trip –MHS Girls Basketball-June 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve 2024-25 Physical Restraint Data Report and Reduction Plan
- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Donation Report
- Approve Consolidated District Plan for FY26
- Approve Minutes of the May 6, 2025, Regular Meeting; May 6, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Treasurers Report (Sept 2024 – April 2025)
- Approve Bills and Payroll
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Cross Country- July 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight/ Out of State Trip – MHS Boys Soccer- July 2025 per Board Policy 6:240
- Approve Overnight/ Out of State Trip – MHS Girls Soccer- July 2025 per Board Policy 6:240

	Bills 5-9-25	Bills 5-13, 5-16 & 5-19-25	Bills 5-23 5-30 & 6-2-25	Payroll 5-9-25	Payroll 5-23-25
Ed. Fund (10)	\$18,427.89	\$422,913.59	\$490,796.79	\$1,040,986.17	\$1,106,749.32
Bldg. Fund (20)	\$915.90	\$159,323.71	\$74,010.57	55,828.63	\$56,955.79
Trans. Fund (40)	\$374.95	\$16,468.21	\$11,436.26	\$33,282.35	\$40,506.96
IMRF (50)		\$4,600.00		\$54,049.62	\$58,893.44
Capital Projects(60)			\$62,567.74		
TORT (80)			\$1,357.00		

Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Lemman moved to support the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Related Audience Presentations--

- Mr. Tony Chasten gave personal examples of the District managing student struggles with excellence. He stated “Bullying begins at home.”
- Dr. Ashley Fisher addressed the Board, offering services and recognizing the efforts of educational staff.

Closed Session

Mr. Rudd made a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of **Personnel (Closed Session as Stated in the Open Meetings Act and Board Hearing to Prohibit Tammy Woodmancy from School Property and Events. (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5))** Mrs. Purdy supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:13 p.m.

Open Session

Mr. Ohnesorge motioned for the Board to return to Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Roth.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:40 p.m.

Action on Prohibiting Tammy Woodmancy from School Property and Events

Mr. Rudd made a motion. Seconded by Mr. Ohnesorge

I move that the Board of Education impose a ban of Tammy Woodmancy from school property and events (except for school, sponsored extra-curricular activities) through August 12, 2025 and direct the Superintendent to provide written notice to Ms. Woodmancy regarding this decision along with a statement from the Board indicating that any further unprofessional or disruptive behavior or conduct on school property or at school events will not be tolerated.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried

Closed Session –

Mrs. Purdy made a motion to return to Closed Session for the purpose of **Personnel (Closed Session as Stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5))** Mr. Roth supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board re-entered closed session at 10:50 p.m.

Open Session

A motion by Mr. Roth that the Board of Education return to Open Session. Mr. Rudd seconded.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to Open Session at 11:16 p.m.

Adjournment –

Mr. Rudd made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

David Cross, President