

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 15, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 15, 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 David Cross called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Joseph Sander -

- **Gratitude** Dr. Sander expressed gratitude for mentors, strong leadership, the MCUSD 709 Board, and community support—highlighting Morton Community Foundation grants and matching donations from local employers like CAT.
- **Summer Construction/ Maintenance Updates** Dr. Sander provided updates on summer maintenance and construction progress.
- **MHS Phase 2: Performing Arts Center Expansion and Weight Training Facility Update** Progress continues on bid design, scope, and timelines; affordability and final scheduling are still being evaluated.
- **Preschool for All** Dr. Sander reported on grant funding for the Preschool for All program, thanking the Leadership Team and Mrs. Katie Bolkema for their work.
- **Morton Academy** The District continues communications with the Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS), seeking to improve the facility needs of Morton Academy.
- **MHS Hall of Fame** Details coming at a later date. The MHS Committee is working on its first induction this fall.
- **Monthly Board Policy Review** Dr. Sander reminded the Board of the July Policy Review. Mrs. Smith will update them as reviewed after the August 5, 2025, meeting.

President's Report – Dr. David Cross

- **Superintendent's Committees** President Cross gave updates on the Superintendent's Committees for the 2025-26 school year. Finance: Mr. Roth and Dr. Cross; Facilities: Mrs. Lemman and Mr. Rudd; Teaching and Learning: Mrs. Purdy and Dr. Krall; Policy: Mrs. Purdy and Dr. Krall; Extracurricular: Mrs. Lemman and Mr. Ohnesorge
- **Agenda Building**
 - The committee of the Board/Administration/MEA will meet soon. Mr. Rudd will represent the Board. The Board seeks relationship-building opportunities that do not add extra stress or work for teachers. The fourteen morning times were challenging for the Board due to workday schedules. The goal is to build

relationships through voluntary opportunities, not an obligation. The committee will meet soon.

- **SuperEval** Dr. Sander has been working with SuperEval on onboarding. At the September 2, 2025, meeting, Dr. Sander would like for the Board to complete the 20-minute onboarding in the Closed Session part of the meeting.

Discussion Item(s)

- **Board Policy-PRESS 118 Updates**
 - Most of the policies under review were in response to the new ESS Law.
 - New Policy 7:255 is new in response to a new law; additional training is required, and a Public Resource person is identified.
 - A.I.-related policy is already in the Student Handbook. Mrs. Wyman and Mr. Don Sturm will create an administrative procedure for staff. Administration will ensure that all staff are aware of the expectations. The Board commended the District staff for their work on A.I. MagicSchool is an excellent tool for teaching students to safely and responsibly use A.I.
 - The Board has a month to review policy revisions and the addition. The Superintendent's Policy Committee gave its recommendations.

Action Items

Action on Non-Resident MHS Student Tuition Request Mr. Roth made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the Non-District Student Tuition Request. Mrs. Leman supported the motion. Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Action on RRFB Improvement Projects for School Crossings at Grundy, Lettie Brown, and Lincoln

Mr. Ohnesorge made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the RRFB Improvement Projects for School Crossings at Grundy, Lettie Brown, and Lincoln schools. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Action on District Student Handbook - Directory Revision

Mr. Krall made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the District Student Handbook-Directory Revision. Mr. Rudd seconded the motion. The District's attorney recommended the revision.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

The donors on the Consent Agenda's Donation report were recognized. Caterpillar and Trinity/Troy & Katie Graves were thanked.

Consent Agenda –

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve PRESS 118 Policy Updates
- Approve Donation Report

- Approve Minutes: June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting; June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 6-27-25 6-30-25	Bills 6-30-25	Bills 7-1-25	Bills 7-10-25 7-14-25	Payroll 6-6-25	Payroll 6-20-25	Payroll 6-30-25	Payroll 7-3-25
Ed. Fund (10)	311,424.47	5,051.19	312,248.24	171,420.39	883,941.80	813,529.22	52,807.32	711,557.22
Bldg. Fund (20)	171,915.39			388,913.70	65,277.82	95,491.47	408	90,395.05
Debt Services (30)				30 128,125.00				
Trans. Fund (40)				\$24,294.33	24,412.97	12,697.16		13,504.89
IMRF (50)					31,337.25	25,171.34	12.92	22,815.89
TORT (80)	2,052.90			19.79				

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session as stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5)). Dr. Cross called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of a Board Ruling on a Ban Appeal.

Mr. Roth made a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of **Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18) Closed Session as Stated in the Open Meetings Act** and to determine a Board Ruling on Ban Appeal **(5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5))** Evidence or testimony presented to a school board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to Section 24-24 of the School Code. Mrs. Leman supported the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 6:19 p.m.

Open Session

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

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:32 p.m.

Action on Ruling on Ban Appeal

Mr. Rudd made a motion.

“I move that the Board of Education affirm the Board’s unanimous decision at its June 10, 2025, meeting to ban Tammy Woodmancy from school property and events through August 12, 2025, and direct the Board President to provide written notice of the Board’s decision within five school business days.” Dr. Krall seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Sander confirmed the dates of upcoming events for the Board, including the New Teacher Orientation (8/4), the New Teacher Dinner (8/5), and the back-to-school staff breakfast (8/11).

The Board would like to review Board Policy 7:40.

Adjournment –

Mr. Rudd made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: Yea 7

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Recorded by,

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Smith, Recording Secretary

Amanda Leman, Secretary

David Cross, President