

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**August 5, 2025**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held August 5, 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 5:34 p.m. Members present: Dr. David Cross, Dr. Diane Krall, Mrs. Amanda Leman, 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 -**

- **Tentative Budget Presentation** Lisa Kowalski, CFO, reviewed the FY25 budget and presented the tentative FY26 budget, outlining timelines and the 180-day reserve requirement. She announced the tentative budget display at the District Office, beginning August 1, 2025, and the Public Hearing on September 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Key points included: the impacts of capital projects, increased insurance costs (18%), and SRO service payments for FY25–FY26. The Education Fund is our most significant expenditure. The goal is to be resourceful and responsible with the funds we have. The Board asked questions and thanked Ms. Kowalski for her work. Dr. Sander thanked Ms. Kowalski and the business office team for their hard work during the annual audit. They have also added a new team member.
- **Gratitude** Dr. Sander thanked the team that worked on the 2025 New Staff orientation. Dr. Teater was in charge and gave feedback on the week. It is an incredible feat of teamwork between building administrators, DO staff, Susan Pyles, and Ashley Valerio from the Morton Public Library. From the training days to the dinner, it was excellent.
- **Facilities Update** Dr. Sander provided updates on maintenance, facilities, and construction progress.
  - MHS/Performing Arts Center (Phase 2) went out to bid to see what is affordable.
  - The MHS East Gym project is progressing, with the installation of the new gym floor underway.
  - Jefferson's gym is beautiful. Grundy has some new offices for related services and cafe tables.
  - Morton Academy gained some administrative and special services spaces. Expansion of the MA educational spaces is being designed.
  - Lincoln's RISE Classroom has a new bathroom.
  - All of the floors in the buildings look great, thanks to our custodial teams.
- **Other Items**
  - A team went to the Standard Reunification Method Training before school started.
  - New Administrator Orientation was new this year. There was great feedback.

- Crosswalks are in progress.
- Staff report on Monday, August 11, 2025, with a breakfast. The Board is invited. Students begin on August 12, 2025.
- **Monthly Board Policy Review**- Dr. Sander reminded the Board of the monthly board policies under review for August.

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

- Dr. Cross expressed appreciation for the New Teacher Dinner and the opportunity to meet new staff.
- **Board and MEA Meetings - Mr. Jerry Rudd**  
Mr. Rudd reported on the MEA engagement committee meeting, where members proposed creating MP-TV videos featuring each school and scheduling monthly school visits on third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Participation is an opportunity, not an obligation. The meeting delivered strong communication and brainstorming between teachers, administrators, and the Board.

### **Discussion Item(s)**

- **E-Learning Plan** Dr. Sander reported that the District's E-Learning Plan requires renewal, with no proposed changes, and is posted online for public review. In compliance with legal requirements, an E-Learning Public Hearing will be held on September 2, 2025. Notice of the hearing will be published in the newspaper, sent to parents via letter, and included in the Potter Post newsletter. The plan allows for five emergency days, five E-Learning days, and additional "Act of God" days as permitted by law. Upon renewal, the plan will be valid for three years (FY26–FY28). The Board expressed a preference to maintain the plan as a contingency but not implement it unless necessary.

### **Action Items**

**Action on New and Revised Board Policies** Mr. Rudd made a motion for the Board of Education to approve the new and revised Board Policies with District edits. Mrs. Leman supported the motion. Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda –**

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Semi-Annual Review and Determination of Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240- MHS Tennis-Edwardsville, IL-September 2025
- Approve Treasurers Reports September 2024-June 2025
- Approve Overnight Trip per Board Policy 6:240- MHS Volleyball-U of I, Champaign, IL-September 2025
- Approve Minutes July 15, 2025, Regular Meeting; Minutes July 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 7-25-25 7-28-25</b>	<b>Payroll 7-18-25</b>	<b>Payroll 8-1-25</b>
<b>Ed. Fund (10)</b>	\$250,235.98	711,557.22	704113.64
<b>Bldg. Fund (20)</b>	\$216,162.92	90395.05	89601.54
<b>Trans. Fund (40)</b>	\$18,688.58	13504.89	12350.34
<b>IMRF (50)</b>		22815.89	22470.72
<b>Capital Projects (60)</b>	\$358,585.82		
<b>TORT (80)</b>	\$2,104.00		

Mr. Roth made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Ohnesorge 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(c)(1) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) )**

Dr. Cross called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of **Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))** and **Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))** as stated in the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Rudd made a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of Personnel and Negotiations. Mrs. Purdy supported the motion.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7          Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 8:40 p.m.

**Open Session**

Mr. Rudd 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 9:39 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote:                      Yea 7

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 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