

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**September 2, 2025**

Minutes of the FY26 Budget Hearing, FY26-FY28 E-Learning Hearing, and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 2, 2025, at the Morton Education and Administration Center. The meeting included the District's goals in **Achievement, Communication, Climate, Facilities, and Finance.**

**Call to Order and Roll Call for FY26 Budget Hearing**

President David Cross called the Budget Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**FY26 BUDGET HEARING**

The Board of Education of Morton CUSD District 709 held a budget hearing on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Notice was published in the Peoria Journal Star on August 1, 2025, and the tentative budget was available for public inspection at 1050 S. Fourth Ave., Morton, IL, beginning July 1, 2025.

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, CFO, reviewed a few minor changes from the first presentation reflecting updated numbers newly available.

Public comments received: None

Dr. Cross declared the Budge Hearing closed at 5:38 p.m.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

President David Cross called for the roll call to open the E-Learning Plan Hearing to order at 5:38 p.m.

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

**E-Learning Plan Hearing for FY26-FY28**

The Board of Education of Morton CUSD District 709 held an E-Learning plan hearing on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Notice was published in the Peoria Journal Star on August 15, 2025, and the E-Learning plan was posted on the district website on August 1, 2025. The proposed E-Learning Plan for FY26-FY28 has been available for review.

Public comments received: None

Dr. Cross declared the E-Learning Plan Hearing closed at 5:40 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

President David Cross called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. with a Roll Call.

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

### **Recognition of Excellence**

MJHS Principal Chris Carter introduced Art Teacher Brittany Du Pont, who reported that student Maize Ellis was named a State Selected Artist. Only forty-five student works are chosen statewide each year, and Ms. Ellis's artwork was among those selected.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Superintendent's Report – Dr. Joseph Sander -**

- **Six-Day Enrollment Report:** Mrs. Kate Wyman, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Safety, gave the 6-Day Enrollment Report. Overall enrollment is down, but not significantly. Other area schools are seeing the same trend.
- **District Goals Presentation:** Dr. Sander shared the three pillars the district is focusing on to benefit students and staff. He shared the infinity loop that will be used for growth and continuous improvement: Plan→Implement→Access→Reflect→ Plan
- **ISBE Gold Circle Quality Rating for our Pre-School for All:** It is a significant recognition for this new Pre-K program. Dr. Sander thanked Ms. Lindsay Franklin, Mrs. Bethany Scroggs, Mrs. Katie Bolkema, and Mrs. Julie Tharp for their work.
- **Board Visit Schedule** Dr. Sander updated the Board on the scheduled school site visits, noting that no Board business will be conducted; disclosure statements will inform the public of this. He thanked Mr. Rudd for his participation on the committee.
- **Regional Office of Education Compliance Audit:** We will be attending a meeting in October. This happens every four years.
- **Monthly Board Policy Review:** Dr. Sander noted the board policies under review for September.

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

##### **Board Committee Updates:**

- Dr. Cross shared the Superintendent's Committee updates. The Finance Committee has not met since the budget meeting. Dr. Sander updated the Board on the Facilities Committee's work. The Policy Committee met and brought policies to the Board for discussion and decisions. The Board discussed its work on SMART Goals for the Board of Education.

##### **Board Agenda Building:**

- The Board expressed a desire to hear more about the 5Essentials Survey, along with some community members, for more information.
- The Board would like to hear more on the MHS parking challenges.

**Discussion Item(s)****Board Policy- PRESS Issue 119 Recommended Updates**

The Superintendent's Policy Committee recommended Policy 4:50 (Payment Procedures and Policy) and Policy 7:40 (Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students) for Board review. The Board, in consultation with Dr. Sander, examined the proposed changes. The Policy Committee and Administration agreed on the updates. Both policies are scheduled for consideration and a vote at the next meeting of the Board of Education.

**Action Items****Action on E-Learning Plan**

Mrs. Leman moved that the Board approve the FY26-FY28 E-Learning Plan. Mr. Rudd seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on 2025-26 Budget (FY26)**

Mr. Rudd moved that the Board approve the 2025-26 Budget (FY26). Mr. Roth seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on Memorandum of Understanding for Health Savings Account**

Dr. Krall moved that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Health Savings Account. Mr. Ohnesorge seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on MHS Phase 2 Construction Bids**

Mrs. Leman moved that the Board approve the MHS Phase 2 Construction Bids. Mr. Rudd seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Action on Non-Resident Tuition Student**

Mr. Roth moved that the Board approve the Non-Resident Tuition Student. Mr. Rudd seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 6                      Nay 1

The motion passed 6-1 with one dissenting vote.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve PRESS Issue 119 Policy Updates
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip Board Policy 6:240 - MHS Marching Band, Regionals- St. Louis-October 18-19, 2025
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip Board Policy 6:240 - MHS Marching Band, Grand Nationals Indianapolis-2025
- Approve Overnight/Out-of-State Trip Board Policy 6:240 - SkillsUSA Conference, Lisle, IL, October 2025
- Approve Revised Board Calendar

- Approve Minutes August 5, 2025, Regular Meeting; Minutes August 5, 2025, Regular Meeting Closed Session
- Approve Joint Stipulation for Clarification
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	<b>Bills 8-8-25 8-11-25</b>	<b>Bills 8-20-25 8-25-25</b>	<b>Bills 8-28-25 8-29-25 9-2-25</b>	<b>Payroll 8-15-25</b>
<b>Ed. Fund (10)</b>	\$386,837.74	\$187,483.19	\$208,489.17	766,394.33
<b>Bldg. Fund (20)</b>	\$340,137.20	\$583,824.63	\$111,836.42	70,074.92
<b>Trans. Fund (40)</b>	\$30,733.52	\$11,604.49	\$30,986.68	10,808.98
<b>IMRF (50)</b>				24,440.59
<b>TORT (80)</b>	\$1,892.00		\$23.73	

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

Mrs. Leman moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Krall seconded.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Non-Agenda Related Audience Presentations**

Kevin Miller addressed the Board regarding the Tri-County Tennis Tournament follow-up and the MHS tennis facility, Ms. Mary Thacker regarding guns, and Ali Onken regarding threats and bullying at Jefferson School.

**Closed Session as stated in the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2)**

Dr. Cross called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of **Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9))**, **Personnel Performance (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))**, and **Purchase or Lease of Land 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5)** as stated in the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Rudd made a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of Student Discipline, Personnel, and the Purchase or Lease of Land. Mrs. Purdy supported the motion.

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 7:06 p.m.

**Open Session**

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

Roll Call:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:07 p.m.

**Adjournment –**

Mr. Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote:            Yea 7

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 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