

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JULY 14, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 14, 2009, at Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Nancy Overcash, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. John Applen, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Noah Menold Mr. Doug Riddle

Reports –

Administrative –

Administrative Procedure – 6:50 Wellness Committee -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that per Policy 6:50, a District Wide Wellness Committee was formed last year. Chaired by Dr. Teater, the committee will be brought back together this year to review the policy and evaluate compliance. The committee will report next spring. Mrs. Kaiser volunteered to serve on the committee as a Board representative.

Administrative Retreat Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on the Administrative Retreat held recently. Items covered included reviewing vision and beliefs statement, curriculum renewal schedule, closed campus implementation, SIP's, facilities committees, freshman transitioning and Administrative Procedures. He noted that Vickie Foster will help in the updating of the procedures.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has received some suggestions of individuals to serve on the different facilities planning committees. There is a need for more and he is looking at ways to make sure there is a good cross section of the community represented. The goal is to have the committees formed by the beginning of the school year.

Annual Goals Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted the goals focus will continue in the academic performance area by carrying out the district wide initiatives of MAP assessment, curriculum mapping and RtI. Additionally, this next year will focus on the facilities plan and planning ahead for potential financial issues due to changes in state funding.

RtI/Map Data Results –

Dr. Kilpatrick used a Power Point presentation to review data using results of the MAP assessment. He explained different ways teachers and administrators can use the data to improve instruction. Next steps in the ongoing process include identifying inconsistencies, building trend data, and exploring curriculum driven issues and instructional practice driven issues.

State Grants Funding –

Dr. Kilpatrick identified potential areas the state will not be funding this year. Depending on the state budget outcome, several grants may not be funded.

Science Curriculum Committee –

Mr. Smock reported that the Science Curriculum Committee met in June. The committee is looking at the curriculum based on the new textbook that was recently selected. He commended the committee for their dedication to the task and their hard work.

Mr. Smock also noted a handout included in Board member's packets pertaining to required Internet Safety law. This law will be considered when reviewing the district's Internet safety policy.

Board Committees –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board committee assignments for the next two years were included in Board member packets.

Discussion Items –

Discussion and First Reading of Various Polices from Sections 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that a revision of various board policies from Sections 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from legal counsel. It is recommended that the Board review the suggested changes, conduct the First Reading and approve and/or adopt the newly revised policies at a future meeting. After discussion, it was decided to further review Policy 5:110 to reconsider wording.

Drug Testing Survey –

The Board reviewed results of a survey of the students that participated in the random drug testing program and were selected to be tested. While the results of the survey indicate that the program was very widely appreciated and accepted, it also raises a number of questions for future improvements. The survey provided good feedback from the students' perspective.

High School Security Access System –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the intent of the proposed access control system at the high school. He noted the intent of the system is to keep unauthorized people out of the high school while still allowing students and staff into the building. The proposed system is not intended to be a student tracking system. The Board asked the administration to research the cost of a system that would also track students leaving the building.

Board of Education Dashboard –

Dr. Kilpatrick shared dashboards/score cards from other school districts as examples of different ways they are used. Some are used as performance indicators based on goals set. Mr. Neeley expressed his desire to work toward a goals-driven task board in the future. Dr. Kilpatrick will work with the Administrators to identify goals to include by the end of October.

School Improvement Plan Process –

The Board discussed ways to improve the School Improvement Plan process to make it more meaningful for Board members. Ideas shared included board members being involved during the school year by attending activities and PTO meetings a few times throughout the year.

Action Items –**Approve Contract with Illini Family Counseling –**

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that due to funding issues from the State of Illinois, Tazwood increased the proposed cost for counseling services at Morton High School. The counselor provided services on mental health and substance abuse issues relevant to students. As an alternative, a former counselor from Tazwood, Walt Nunnally, has proposed a contract to provide those services at a cost slightly lower than our cost this past year with Tazwood.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education approve the agreement for counseling services, pending legal counsel approval after their review, for the 2009-2010 year with Walt Nunnally/Illini Family Counseling at a cost of \$24,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Agreement with Pekin Grade School District 108 and Pekin High School District 303 –

Dr. Kilpatrick explained the agreement that has been reached with both Pekin School Districts concerning the boundary issue in Groveland. Under Illinois School Code, all parties must agree and sign that it is in the best interests of the children to allow them to attend school in Morton. The situation occurred due to a change in information provided

