

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

OCTOBER 6, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 6, 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 6:33 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 –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the principals' school highlights were included in their packets.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there were no Freedom of Information requests to report.

Gifted Program Update –

Jami Kaisershot, Challenge teacher, updated the Board of Education on the district gifted program. She commended the Board of Education and the school district for supporting the program. Mrs. Kaisershot explained that Challenge is a 4 – 6 grade pullout program, and that the 3rd graders also receive enrichment lessons on a rotating basis. She reviewed the topics of study, the identification process, assessment of the challenge students, her weekly schedule at all elementary buildings and important upcoming dates.

Dress Code Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has received a list of dress code violations from the Jr. High and High School for the current school year. He noted that each student was only referred once, and that the students understand the rules. The administrators appreciate having the guidelines.

Crisis Management Plan Review –

Dr. Teater reported that a meeting was held in April with the Crisis Management Plan

Committee. The minutes of the meeting were submitted to the ROE June 1, along with a list of planned drills by each school building. Updates and corrections to the plan were sent to committee members September 2. Each building received the Crisis Plan along with a copy of CDC flu guidelines. He noted that crisis kits are available in each building.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the principals recently attended a meeting at the Tazewell County Health Department for flu guidelines. The health department will be holding clinics for school students to receive H1N1 vaccines with parental permission.

PSAE/ACT Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the purpose of the PSAE test given along with the ACT test to Juniors. The PSAE is a test that measures progress of meeting the Illinois Learning Standards and recognizes individual student achievement. He reviewed scores from the tests taken last spring and reported excellent results. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that if the threshold set by the No Child Left Behind Act is not adjusted, in a few years it will no longer be possible for Morton Schools to meet AYP.

Public Act 96-043 and 96-0266 –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the school district will comply with two new state laws. Public Act 96-043 requires that the school district report all administrative salaries and benefits to the Regional Office of Education and also post them on the district website. Public Act 96-0266 requires the school district to report all teacher salaries and benefits by January 1, 2010. The state board of education will provide the format for reporting.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Core Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, October 8. He shared the draft agenda that included covering the purpose of the study, committee structure, timeframe, facility analysis and brainstorming options. The second meeting will be held on October 15. The sub committees will then meet with the Core Committee reconvening at the end of November. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that he has met with the sub committee chairs.

General State Aid Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick explained the General State Aid formula and noted that Morton School District qualifies under the alternate formula. He explained the impact of the loss of hold harmless monies beginning with the 2010-2011 school year and that General State Aid will decrease at that time also. Dr. Kilpatrick along with the other administrators will use the next few months to find ways to save to adjust to the loss of funds.

Bright A+ Award –

Dr. Kilpatrick announced that Morton School District has again been awarded the Bright A+ Award. Fifty-eight (58) Illinois School Districts (out of 868) are honored with the *SchoolSearch 2009 Bright A+ Award* for academic excellence. The award is based on school districts with the highest academic performance in the state of Illinois. These school districts are among the top 5% of all Illinois school districts. Dr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Neeley commended the staff for their efforts in teaching the students of Morton School District.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley noted that the IASB Conference preview was provided in the packets. He asked Board members to study the workshop offerings for review by the Board at a future meeting prior to the conference.

Mr. Neeley announced that the Morton Joint Board meeting is scheduled for October 27 at the Morton Public Library. He also noted that the Central IL Valley Division meeting will take place Wednesday, October 7, at Dunlap High School. He and Dr. Kilpatrick will be attending along with Mr. Heinold.

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick spoke at the Village of Morton board meeting the previous evening concerning potential loss of parking spaces on Jackson St. for a bi-directional turn lane. The item was pulled from the agenda in order to give Village trustees more time to review the issues involved. Mr. Neeley expressed his desire that a compromise can be worked out in order to keep the parking spaces.

Mr. Neeley reported that earlier in the day, he and Dr. Kilpatrick recognized three staff members. Those recognized were Rodney Schuck, Steve Young and John Brown for their involvement in all of the summer building projects. They and their staff were commended for their hard work over the summer in order to have the buildings ready for the teachers and students upon their return in August. Each received a certificate of recognition.

Discussion Items –**APEX Credit Recovery –**

Dennis Johnson and Dana Ashby demonstrated an online program currently being reviewed by high school teachers that could be used for credit recovery for struggling students. They are reviewing the program to compare it to our standards and goals. The purpose of the credit recovery program is for students that are in danger of not graduating due to the inability to makeup credit or receive enough assistance in order to help them. One of the programs being actively considered is APEX. After the teacher review, the next step would be to review the program with CAC and bring back to the Board for

approval. Dr. Kilpatrick added that we have to make sure the program has the rigor of our regular courses. If approved, the program would begin second semester of this school year.

Tazewell Mason County Special Education Cooperative – Special Education Procedures -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Tazewell Mason County Special Education Association (TMCSEA) is asking that member school districts place a discussion and approval of the revised special education procedures on our agenda for adoption. He noted the significant changes. Approval will be requested at a future meeting.

Action Items

Approve IASB Delegate and Alternate –

Mr. Neeley explained the resolutions process for the upcoming IASB Conference in November. Each year the Board of Education approves the delegate and alternate for the conference.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education appoint Tom Neeley as Delegate and Nancy Overcash as Alternate for the IASB Annual Conference for 2009.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Economic Development Proposal –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there is no agreement yet concerning tax abatement with the Morton Economic Development Council (EDC). He met recently with the EDC and is reviewing options with them. He noted that he is pro-development, but would like to structure packages individually. He asked to table any action on this proposal for further study. There was consensus from the Board for Dr. Kilpatrick to continue to pursue an agreement with the EDC.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve August Treasurer's Report

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-2-09	Payroll 9-25-09
Ed. Fund	\$167,782.05	\$428,176.66
Bldg. Fund	54,982.76	34,006.78
Trans.Fund	22,997.59	15,588.00
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	346,858.89
Fire & Safety	--	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

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

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Heinold that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:25 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Menold that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

The closed session minutes from August 4, 2009, August 18, 2009, and September 1, 2009, were pulled from the agenda for further revision.

Reports -

Administrative Reports –

Dr. Kilpatrick distributed a report from Marcia Mays on the Young Adult Program at Morton High School. He also reported that he and Ms. Ashby met with Ron Hale of TCRC for discussion of ways TCRC and the Young Adult Program can work together. Dr. Kilpatrick will report further in November.

Board President Report –

Mr. Neeley asked to move the Superintendent chat with the Board from November to January. All agreed.

Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Overcash, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President