

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 3, 2009, at the 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 Appen, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Noah Menold, Mr. Doug Riddle

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted the school highlights for the month of October. Mr. Neeley thanked the administrators for the excellent reports on the many activities taking place throughout the district.

709 Recognition –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that during the month of November the Transportation Department is being recognized. He pointed out that this is a good time of year to recognize our bus drivers prior to the winter driving season. Notes of appreciation will be sent to each employee and they will be recognized on the MCB community bulletin board.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that there are no Freedom of Information requests to report.

ISAT Results –

Dr. Kilpatrick gave a recap of the 2009 ISAT results for our district. The scores are consistent across the grades with improvement in reading and math. The scores are very close to 100% and the challenge will be to maintain those scores. The goal is to monitor each student and help them to reach their potential. The real target will be growth for each student's own capabilities. Dr. Kilpatrick thanked the staff and administrators for their efforts with our students every day.

Why Try Program –

Mr. Chris Roberts, high school teacher in the ARC program, explained the Alternative Resource Center (ARC) and the Why Try program. ARC is a resource study hall for students needing extra support with classroom work and for monitoring behavior. He explained the process of student's monitoring their progress and setting goals. Students can work their way out of the ARC program. The key is communication with the students, parents, teachers and counselors.

The Why Try program is used during the first fifteen minutes of class time in ARC. It is a strength-based approach to helping students overcome their challenges and improve outcomes in the areas of truancy, behavior and academics. This is accomplished using a series of ten pictures (visual analogies) that teach a discrete principle, such as resisting peer pressure, obeying laws and rules and that decisions have consequences. The major learning styles – visual, auditory and body-kinesthetic - are all addressed.

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked Mr. Roberts for an excellent report.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the sub-committees have been meeting. The next CORE meeting is scheduled for November 12 and there will be reports from the sub-committees at that meeting. All committees have very good participation.

Mr. Neeley reported that all involved are very enthusiastic. He commended Dr. Kilpatrick on his leadership through this process.

Summer School Results –

Dr. Teater explained the handouts showing the summer school testing results. The scores compared 2008 and 2009 fall test scores of those having taken summer school to those not having summer school.

State Superintendent Conference-

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he had recently attended the State Superintendent conference in Springfield. He attended sessions on funding issues with the lack of state funding being a major issue with all districts throughout Illinois. The state still has a strong commitment to state aide, but it will be at the expense of other programs. On the academic side, Dr. Koch admitted there is a disconnect between the PSAE and ISAT tests. The state is looking at options to correct the issue. Dr. Kilpatrick also attended sessions on RtI and Dashboards/Scorecards.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported he and Dr. Kilpatrick had presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mrs. Jill Jones today for writing and receiving a grant to be used to make enhancements in her instructional program classroom at the Jr. High.

Mr. Neeley reported that at the December Central Illinois Division meeting, members will be approving changes in the by-laws.

Mr. Neeley reported that the Joint Boards meeting was held recently and good information was shared by all entities. All expressed concerns for funding issues. Dr. Kilpatrick shared information on student performance and the facilities study at the joint meeting.

Discussion Items –

Extra Curricular Participation –

Dr. Kilpatrick shared information from the Jr. High and High School concerning extra curricular participation from 2006 through the current school year. Participation is steady or up in all areas. Drug testing at the high school has not affected participation.

2010-2011 School Calendar -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he is in the process of surveying the staff as to their thoughts on each of the two calendar proposals. The significant difference in the two calendars is that one of them permits high school finals to be conducted before the Christmas break. Parents and students will be surveyed also.

School Board Conference Workshops –

Board members shared workshops they are interested in attending at the upcoming Joint Annual Conference of the IASB, IASA and IASBO to be held in Chicago November 20-22.

K-6 Science Curriculum –

Mr. Smock explained the process used for K-6 Science Curriculum Renewal which began in the summer of 2008. The committee concluded at that time that it would be difficult to create a curriculum for science that would align with a textbook without first selecting a new science textbook to replace the current ones due to age. The Administrative Council, CAC and the Board of Education all approved this variance from our typical curriculum renewal process. During the summer of 2009, a new curriculum renewal committee met to develop the curriculum based on the newly selected textbook series. The developed curriculum was shared with faculty for editing purposes and was then approved by the Administrative Council and CAC. It will be on public display for 30 days, with approval at a future meeting.

Action Items –

Approve 2010-2011 Tentative Budget and 2009 Tentative Levy –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration has completed the initial Tentative Budget for the 2010-2011 school year. He reviewed the levy worksheet with the Board of Education. The actual increase is 1.8-1.9%. There is no need to hold a tax levy hearing since it is not being increased more than 5%. He noted that he will be working with the administrators to reduce the deficit to zero.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget and 2009 Tentative Levy and publish the Truth in Taxation Notice.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mrs. Overcash, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve Tazewell Mason County Special Education Association Updated Policies
- Approve September Treasurer’s Report
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-30-09	Payroll 10-23-09
Ed. Fund	\$230,421.36	\$412,653.76
Bldg. Fund	23,839.02	31,710.29
Trans.Fund	9,452.71	13,420.65
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	342,904.70
Fire & Safety	51,235.75	--

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

