

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 7, 2010, 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 Applen, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Noah Menold, Mr. Doug Riddle

**Reports –**

**Administrative –**

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

**Technology Update –**

Dr. Teater reported that over the summer the technology staff virtualized the elementary computer labs. He noted that Windows 7 and virtualization are not yet compatible, but it is easy to switch to Windows XP until the upcoming release by Microsoft.

**Extra Curricular Offerings – Title IX Compliance –**

Dr. Kilpatrick compared extra curricular offerings and participation over the last 10 years. There has been a 30-50% increase in participation in that time. It is a positive trend and he gave credit to the coaches.

**Communicable Disease Plan –**

Mr. Smock reviewed the policy and procedure in place for dealing with communicable diseases. He reported that preventative measures are taken and that the administration and staff have been pro-active in keeping the buildings clean and safe.

**Summer School Update –**

Chris Roberts, ARC teacher at the high school and summer school coordinator for the APEX program, reported that 17 students participated in high school summer school. Of that number, three were from out of district. Mr. Roberts noted that 23 of 26 classes taken were passed by the 17 students. The program was very successful. Mr. Neeley

expressed his appreciation to Mr. Roberts and the students for their efforts. Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the program operated at a break even level.

### **Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the list of all textbooks and materials being used at each level in the district. He noted the age of some of the books as going back to the early 1990's. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the use of electronic books will become more and more prevalent in the near future. Kindles are being used at the elementary and high school levels this year.

### **Enrollment Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> day enrollment for this school year. He noted that the district has hired classroom aides in larger classrooms. The Jr. High and High School numbers have stayed the same with the growth being in the lower grades. This is a trend the administration will be keeping track of.

### **Building Assessment – Classroom Availability and Space –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there will be space issues in two years. The elementary buildings are very crowded right now with storage space also being an issue. RtI requirements are dictating that space be made for RtI in areas other than hallways.

### **President's Report -**

Mr. Neeley:

- thanked the administrators for their August reports. He congratulated the high school staff and students on the successful ACT scores.
- reported that the next Central Illinois Valley Division meeting is on October 7 at East Peoria High School. He noted that legislators will be in attendance at the meeting.
- noted that he will continue to be the representative from our Board to serve on the Central Illinois Valley Division.
- reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick recognized Greg Prichard earlier in the day for his work above and beyond on the new high school gym floor. He noted that they also visited the new TV studio, courtyards and student services hallway (new floor) while at the high school.

### **Discussion Items –**

#### **Board and Administration Referendum Responsibilities –**

Morton School's attorney, Dennis Triggs, was present to advise the administration and Board on their roles in a referendum. He stressed their need to distinguish between providing information and promoting a particular result. Tax payer money cannot be

used to get any result. Employees should not sell the referendum during the school day. He did say that outside of the school day, employees are free to speak their mind. Using any equipment and consumables belonging to the school district to pass a referendum is not allowed.

An effort to provide information that points out the buildings' needs is important; the Board has an obligation to provide this information. The citizens committee that will be formed to help pass the referendum should not meet at the school district nor place signs on district property. Mr. Triggs advised being pro-active to avoid criticism.

### **Architect Evaluation Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on the interview process to select an architectural firm for Phase I of the long range facilities plan. On August 13, the District published public notice for submission of Request for Qualifications from architectural firms that might be interested in being selected for design of the renovation and expansion work at the three elementary schools under Phase I of the long-range facilities plan. In addition notices were sent to those firms that had contacted us earlier. Based on that publication, 19 submissions of materials were received. The materials were reviewed and the firms narrowed to six for face-to-face interviews. On August 31 the committee (Dr. Kilpatrick, Mr. Smock, Doug Riddle, Clint Heinold and Barb Getz) interviewed the firms. The firms were evaluated and ranked based upon the data submitted and the presentations. Based upon the evaluation, the six firms were ranked as follows:

1. Keach & Associates/PSA Dewberry
2. BLDD Architects
3. Farnsworth Group/Fanning Howey
4. Wold Architects & Engineering
5. Healy Bender & Associates
6. Kenyon & Associates

Based upon this ranking a written description of the proposed services to be used as a basis for negotiations will be prepared and negotiations will begin on a contract determined to be fair and reasonable taking into account the estimated value, scope, complexity and professional nature of the services to be rendered. If unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the first ranked firm, negotiations will be terminated with them and negotiations will begin with the second-ranked firm. The contract will be brought to the Board of Education for approval.

Representatives from the firms of Keach and Associates/PSA Dewberry gave a shortened version of their presentation to the Board of Education. Mr. Neeley thanked them for their excellent presentation. He also thanked those that served on the interview committee for their time and efforts.

**Action Items** –

**Approve Various Policies from Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8** –

A revision of board policies 2:200, 2:250, 2:250-E1, 2:250-E2, 4:30, 4:60, 4:90, 4:110, 4:160, 4:170, 5:10, 5:20, 6:60, 6:185, 6:280, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:180, 7:190, 7:240, 8:30, and 8:70 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration to the Board of Education for a second reading and adoption.

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education conduct a Second Reading of the selected Board Policies from sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and adopt those policies as presented and revised.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda** –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve Application for Recognition of Schools
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	<b>Bills 8-20-10</b>	<b>Bills 8-27-10</b>	<b>Payroll 9-3-10</b>
Ed. Fund	\$95,832.03	\$54,903.68	\$406,346.46
Bldg. Fund	68,625.78	24,019.68	56,166.93
Trans.Fund	9,300.94	438.09	12,718.41
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	375,960.21
Fire & Safety	1,498.00	812.50	

Roll Call Vote:                                      Yea 7                                      Nay 0

Motion carried.



