

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

OCTOBER 5, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 5, 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 6:30 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 thanked the principals for their monthly highlights. Dr. Teater explained the purpose of *Rosetta Stone* software recently installed on the District server. He reported it is a language learning program currently being used by foreign speaking students at the elementary and junior high levels.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on a Freedom of Information request that was sent to all school districts and Regional Offices in the state of Illinois. He will update the Board on the results of the request.

PSAE/ACT Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick presented results of the PSAE test given last spring to all 11th grade students. He noted the district is consistently meeting or exceeding state standards in Math, Reading, Science, and Writing. One area we do need to focus on is the low income students; however, our scores in that area are still higher than compiled state scores.

SIP Progress for 10-11 School Year –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that School Improvement Plans are on target. He is encouraged that school improvement teams from each building are setting goals that are both realistic and challenging.

SRA Math Series –

Ms. Ashby and Mrs. Allison presented the new SRA Math Series being used this year in the Instructional Programs. This series was purchased with stimulus money and is designed for 2nd through 5th grade students who are a year or more behind in Math. Sample books were available for the Board to view.

IHSA Report –

Mr. Johnson informed the Board of Education of an upcoming IHSA town meeting being hosted by Morton High School in November. These meetings occur statewide annually. Recommendations for changes in by-laws or policies are presented and voted on. The results from votes at town meetings are then reviewed by the IHSA for a final decision.

President's Report -

Mr. Neeley reported that Board Members recently visited with Lettie Brown and Grundy PTO Meetings. Those in attendance expressed their desire to be involved District committees and appreciated the updates from the District and Board of Education and look forward to future visits.

Mr. Neeley also reported he and Mr. Applen met with Representative Keith Sommer. Issues discussed included the dismal state financial situation and funding for school districts. Overall, the meeting was positive, and the importance of continually staying in communication with our representatives was discussed. Dr. Kilpatrick reported that we will also be contacting and scheduling a meeting with other local representatives.

Discussion Items –

Crisis Management Plan Annual Review –

Dr. Teater reported that on May 3, 2010, the District Crisis Team met with local emergency response providers to review our Crisis Plan. Specifically discussed were the district's procedures for drills. Committee names and phone numbers were updated and crisis teams were reminded to check their emergency kits and replace items as necessary. There were no extensive changes made to the current plan.

Challenge Program Update –

Mr. Saunders reported on the District's redesigned Challenge Program. The full-time Challenge teaching position was eliminated beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. The new Challenge Program is an after-school program with six teachers; three for reading and three for math. Over the summer, the six teachers met and designed a Challenge Curriculum for math and reading. Students are considered for the program if

they have scored in the 90th percentile on the MAP test. Up to 20 students in a cluster (3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade) were invited to participate from each building for each subject. Administrative Council determined to use spring MAP scores to identify students for first semester and fall MAP scores to identify students for second semester. Currently, there are 150 students participating in the Challenge Program from grades 3 through 6.

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 Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Neeley as Delegate and Mrs. Overcash as Alternate for the IASB Annual Conference for 2010.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve Brown School 10 Year Health/Life Safety Resurvey Report
- Approve August Treasurer’s Report
- Approval of Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 9-24-10	Payroll 10-1-10
Ed.Fund	\$137,982.45	\$404,758.95
Bldg.Fund	89,065.27	31,184.96
Trans.Fund	2,084.54	12,721.95
Payroll Accts Pay	--	355,818.07
Fire & Safety	--	--

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Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Applen, that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President