

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

OCTOBER 19, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 19, 2010, at Lincoln Elementary School.

REGULAR MEETING -

Call to Order and Roll Call -

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 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 –

Mapping Assessment Report –

Dr. Teater updated the Board of Education on MAP testing. He reported that MAP scores are an excellent tool to identify students that are struggling in certain areas of the curriculum. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that using MAP results, principals are able to work with their staff to make adjustments for individual students earlier in the school year.

Summer School – Elementary –

Dr. Teater compared summer school students' fall MAP scores to their spring Map scores and then with their peers' spring and fall scores that did not take summer school. The comparisons help provide direction in the areas of focus for the students. There are indications that those that had summer school had less regression over the summer than those not attending summer school.

Drug Testing Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that random drug testing is underway again this school year and that there have been no changes in administering the program. There have been 60 students tested to date with zero positives.

Counseling Update –

Mrs. Rademaker and Mrs. Barra were introduced to give the annual report from the Morton High School Counseling department. Mrs. Rademaker recognized Don Cordell who was also in attendance. He is a retired MHS counselor who is currently filling in for Mrs. Ripka who is on maternity leave. Mrs. Rademaker pointed out the three areas the counselors focus on – academic; career-vocational post secondary; social emotional. The

counselors are involved in high school and district committees, they assisted with the high school summer school program and are the Senior class sponsors. She noted that the counselors are working with the jr. high staff to help with 8th grade transition and are working with 8th grade teachers in placement of students. They meet individually with each Freshman student to assist in making their four-year plan. Mrs. Rademaker also reported that the first year for on-line registration went well. Mrs. Barra reported that the counselors held class meetings with each class that were video taped and available on-line. The counselors meet individually with seniors at the beginning of the school year to make sure they are on target for graduation. Financial aid meetings are held each year to make sure parents and students understand the process for college admissions. She noted that over 20 local scholarships are available to only Morton students. Mrs. Barra noted that the counseling department also works closely with the Special Education population. Mr. Neeley thanked the counselors for their excellent presentation. Mr. Cordell expressed his admiration for the competent, caring counseling staff at Morton High School. He appreciates the opportunity to work with them.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that notice has been published for Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for construction managers. He noted that a decision has not been made as to whether to use a construction manager or a general contractor, but the information gathered will aid in making the decision. The RFQ's are due on Monday, October 25. The same selection process will be used as with the architect selection.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he has responded to the Freedom of Information request that was sent to all school districts and Regional Offices in the state of Illinois.

President's Report -

Mr. Neeley reported he, Dr. Kilpatrick and John Appen attended the Central Illinois Valley Division meeting on October 7 hosted by East Peoria High School. There were state legislators in attendance with discussion centering around the Freedom of Information Act, the state's financial situation and unfunded mandates. Mr. Appen reported that one solution being considered by some legislators is county-wide school districts. Mr. Neeley noted the importance of staying in touch with our legislators.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mrs. Taylor for hosting the meeting earlier in the evening for the Board members and the Lincoln staff. The Board appreciates the time the staff gave them sharing the good things happening at Lincoln School along with some challenges they are facing.

Discussion Items –

Board Compliance – Operational Policies –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Operational Policies have been reviewed by him and Dr. Kilpatrick and have determined that the district is in compliance. He will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-8-10	Payroll 10-15-10
Ed. Fund	\$75,884.78	\$410,167.76
Bldg. Fund	43,476.15	31,099.48
Trans.Fund	27,305.84	13,159.23
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	366,463.74
Fire & Safety	5,903.75	--

Approving and Signing Minutes of the August 3, 2010 Regular Meeting, August 17, 2010 Regular Meeting; September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting; and September 21, 2010 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, 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/sale of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

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Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President