

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JANUARY 18, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 18, 2011, at Morton High School.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold,
Mr. John Applen, Mr. Noah Menold, Mr. Doug Riddle

Audience Presentations –

Mr. Ken Park of 117 S. Ohio St., Morton, IL, addressed the Board concerning questions he has on the architects' plans for Lincoln School.

Reports –

Administrative –

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the architects have been working with the elementary building principals to determine the needs of the schools.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley asked Dr. Kilpatrick to update the Board on the community committee being formed in support of the referendum. Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Mrs. JoAnn Kraft, a former school board member, and Mrs. Stacy Litersky, a member of the Village Comprehensive Study/Education Committee, will co-chair the community committee. They hope to have well over 100 people involved.

Mr. Neeley reported that the board vacancy will be filled at the February 1 meeting.

Mr. Neeley thanked the high school staff members present at the building meeting earlier in the evening. He noted that their desire for constant improvement and collaboration with others throughout the district is impressive and appreciated.

Mr. Neeley noted the Project Lead the Way Open House that was held earlier in the

evening. He thanked the students and staff for their successes with the program.

Mr. Neeley reported that he and Dr. Kilpatrick recognized four high school staff members today for their efforts in the High School's receiving the Red Quill Award. Those honored were Don Sturm, Marjorie Johnson, Deidre Ripka and Rosie Durand.

Discussion Items –

Annual Review of Board Goals–

Mr. Neeley asked board members to review the Board of Education goals currently in place. He asked them to modify or reaffirm the goals prior to beginning the planning process for 2011-2012. All board members agreed the goals are applicable as written.

Update from Architects on Building Designs -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the administration and architects for the Phase I facilities improvement project have been involved in continuing to review concepts and designs to bring a better scope to the overall project. The architects provided the final schematic design following input from the reviews. According to the plans, each building would have three classroom additions, a gymnasium and renovation of some existing areas. Dr. Kilpatrick added that additional storage is included in the designs.

Action Items –

Adopt Resolution for Proposition to Issue School Bonds -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that since the Board of Education has given consensus for the pursuit of Phase I of the long-term facilities improvement process, it is necessary that the Board submit the proposition of issuing School Building Bonds to the voters of the District. The resolution provides for the submission to the voters such a proposition for the issuance of \$12,500,000 of building bonds for the renovations and improvements to Grundy Elementary, Lettie Brown Elementary and Lincoln Elementary.

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the bond issue does not have an impact on Jefferson Elementary School. Jefferson School would be impacted if a new Jr. High or High School is built six or seven years from now. This referendum is for the improvement of Grundy, Brown and Lincoln Schools and addresses the immediate lack of space for student instruction and physical activity. This referendum will not close Jefferson School.

Mr. Neeley noted his appreciation for the community committee that worked on the facilities study last year. There was common agreement of having a broad vision and all agreed that the current proposal provides for space for student instruction and physical activity.

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing School Building Bonds to the voters.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve 2011-2012 School Year Calendar –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that after receiving input from the Administrative Council, the Board of Education and the District Calendar Committee, the recommended school year calendar for 2011-2012 is ready for approval. He noted that the calendar committee reconvened after Christmas break to review and discuss the impact of ending the first semester before Christmas. All agreed to go with the same schedule for a second year.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education approve the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year as recommended.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Architect’s Contract –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the district and Keach Architectural Services have been working to structure an agreement with terms that are acceptable to both parties. He noted that the attorneys for the district have prepared an agreement that contains the requirements for the work to be completed. He noted that the agreement centers around the timing of the referendum. The architects cannot guarantee completion by August of 2012, but we have their assurances that they will work as quickly as possible to reach that goal.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the agreement with Keach Architectural Services.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

