

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held February 15, 2011, at Morton Jr. High School.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

Reports –

Administrative –

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he and some Board members had attended PTO meetings at Brown, Grundy, Jefferson, Lincoln and the Jr. High to offer information and answer questions on the upcoming referendum.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

Adult Life Skills Update –

Ms. Ashby updated the Board on the L.i.f.e. Skills Academy for the 18-22 year old population of the Special Education students. The purpose of the class is to impact the quality of their lives after leaving the program. She reported that funds received from the federal stimulus program were used to purchase a van and construct an apartment at the MEAC. The apartment follows ADA guidelines and is wheelchair accessible. The students will use the apartment to learn life skills not easily taught in a regular classroom. Many items from the apartment were donated by the community and many businesses in the community support the program by employing the students. An open house at the MEAC apartment will be held on Friday, February 18, from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Ms. Ashby thanked the Board of Education for their support of the life skills program. Mr. Neeley conveyed the Board's appreciation for her update and all of the staff's work and support for the students.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley noted the PTO meetings have been an excellent avenue to explain the facts of the upcoming referendum. He noted that the question of what happens if the referendum fails has been asked. He explained that the board has not addressed that question. They have been focusing on getting the facts out about the current situation to inform the voters.

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board had met earlier in the evening with the Jr. High teachers. He noted their enthusiasm for their students' success and the board's appreciation for the collaboration between the jr. high and high school departments. He noted their discussion concerning technology advancement and that the administration is taking the "conservatively progressive" approach.

Discussion Items –**Board Policy Compliance Process–Student Policies**

Mr. Neeley reported that as part of the policy compliance monitoring practice, a review of the Student policies was conducted. After review, it is his opinion that the policies are being followed and that the District is in compliance with those policies. The compliance form will be signed and placed in the master compliance manual.

Discussion of Architect Schematic Design -

Dr. Kilpatrick reviewed the architects' schematic design drawings for Brown, Grundy and Lincoln Schools. He noted that since the January 18th Board meeting, the architects were asked to draw a plan to review the concept of placing the Lincoln School gymnasium on the south end of the building. He pointed out that the bus drop off area would remain on the north side of the building along Jefferson Street. That would allow for a smaller parking lot near the gymnasium, thus using less space. There was discussion concerning the amount of playground space lost under this plan. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that some playground equipment would be located to another area of the school grounds. Mr. Neeley noted that the designs will be on the agenda for approval at the March 1 board meeting.

Discussion and Administrative Recommendation for Construction Manager –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that last November, five construction management firms were interviewed and the advantages of employing a construction manager were studied. The recommendation of the administration is to coordinate the services of the construction manager with the architectural services. The contract with the architects was drafted by legal counsel with that coordination in mind. He noted he has received positive comments from area school districts that have used construction managers in combination with architectural services. Comments included opportunities for multiple bids, flexible

scheduling and detailed oversight of construction.

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that upon completion of the interviews, the interview team members each ranked the firms and that CORE Construction was ranked highest by all. Dr. Kilpatrick reported that since board member Clint Heinold is an employee for CORE Construction, our legal counsel did a summary review of potential conflicts of interest. Based on advice from legal counsel, Mr. Heinold excused himself for this discussion.

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that he completed a cost analysis on the top two ranked firms to make sure similar criteria were being compared. Based upon the assumptions that are used, both firms were in the same range. Mr. Neeley thanked Dr. Kilpatrick for his excellent explanation of the process and noted that this would be brought to the Board for approval at the March 1 meeting.

Mr. Heinold rejoined the meeting.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve January Treasurer’s Report
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the January 11, 2011, Regular Meeting; January 18, 2011, Regular Meeting; February 1, 2011, Regular Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payroll:

	Bills 2-3-11	Bills 2-11-11	Payroll 2-4-11
Ed. Fund	\$32,655.26	\$61,827.45	\$385,262.90
Bldg. Fund	10,598.80	13,101.48	29,292.04
Trans. Fund	17,474.64	10,870.35	12,476.60
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	377,383.63
Fire & Safety	--	97.50	--

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President