

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

APRIL 26, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 26, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

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

The Board and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Presentations –

Mr. David King, 1984 E. Jefferson St., Morton, IL asked the Board of Education to hire a certified Agriculture teacher. He also asked that when the Board of Education and Administration respond to his public comments, that they do so publicly.

Mr. Chris Farris, 309 N. Illinois Ave., Morton, IL addressed the Board of Education concerning the failed referendum. He asked that future referendum committees include representation from all of the elementary buildings.

Reports –

Administrative –

Crisis Management Committee Update –

Dr. Teater reported that a meeting is scheduled for May 2 for the Crisis Management committee. He will update the Board of Education at a future meeting.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that it is the priority of the Administration to get students out of the hallways at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln Schools for pull-out instruction. He distributed information he has gathered on portable classrooms. Each unit contains two classrooms. Preliminary costs range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per unit over 3 years which includes unit rental, site work, set up and removal costs. He would like the classrooms to be ready to use for next school year. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that there were no Freedom of Information requests.

President’s Report –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board had an excellent meeting with the Special Education staff prior to tonight’s meeting. He thanked Mrs. Ashby and her staff for attending the meeting.

Mr. Neeley shared his thoughts on the failed referendum. He noted that there was a good turn out and the voters spoke. He understands those that do not want to pay more taxes, but shared that the State Constitution states we are to receive 50% of our funding from the state, and currently our school district receives only 8%. He is proud of the accomplishments of our students and the great job the staff does day in and day out. Other board members noted that the district has a balanced budget and that needs to be communicated to the community.

Discussion Items –

Elementary Math Textbook –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the elementary math committee has reviewed four textbooks by two different publishers for an adoption for grades K-6. After narrowing the selections down to two, through analysis of the curriculum and state standards and utilizing a rubric assessment, the teachers tried them out in the classroom. An overwhelming majority of teachers favored one of the textbooks – *Math Connects* – Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. They are recommending purchasing the book for grades K-2 for this coming year. Grades 3-6 would be purchased next year after the state adoption of the Core Curriculum. This would allow more time for the committee to become familiar with the series, the common core and a chance to make recommendations for updates to our curriculum to meet the needs of our students.

A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and was approved. Board members agreed to put the books on public display for 30 days and to consider the adoption of the recommended textbook at a Board of Education meeting in June.

Action Items -

Approve Challenge Summer Program -

Dr. Kilpatrick reminded the Board of Mr. Saunders presentation at the April 5 meeting concerning a summer Challenge program. This will be an opportunity for 5th grade students to participate in a tuition based science program focusing on chemistry. He noted that the program will be self supporting.

Motion by Mr. Menold, second by Mr. Riddle, that the Board of Education approve the offering of a summer Challenge program for 5th grade students who will be entering 6th grade at a cost of \$100 per session selected.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Discipline Handbook Changes –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the Discipline Committee has met and is in agreement with the administrative recommended changes in the discipline handbooks. The changes have also been discussed with the Administrative Council and forwarded to legal counsel. The recommended changes have previously been presented for discussion at the April 5 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the discipline handbook changes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of White Transportation Buses –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the use of 11 – 15 passenger vans to transport students is no longer allowed by the State of Illinois and therefore the district needs to replace a 1997 15-passenger van and a 1998 15-passenger van that are used for student transportation. Also, a 1995 8-passenger van that is used to transport Special Education students between buildings needs to be replaced. Dr. Kilpatrick is recommending the purchase of 3 used 14-passenger activity buses for a total price of \$112,500. He noted that the ARRA grant will cover approximately \$31,500 of the cost.

Mr. Applen expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Weigle for locating the used buses. The district will be saved a substantial amount of money by purchasing these buses.

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Mrs. Wuthrich, that the Board of Education accept the bid of Midwest Bus Sales for three white activity buses totaling \$112,500.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Resolution for Re-Employment of Professional Staff –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Wuthrich, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for re-employment of Professional Staff.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President