

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

JUNE 7, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held June 7, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Thomas Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Neeley, Mrs. Joyce Kaiser, Mr. Clint Heinold,
Mr. John Applen, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Tim Taylor

Members absent: Mr. Noah Menold

The Board and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Dennis Johnson and Chris Carter were recently named Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year respectively by the Illinois Principal's Association, Central Illinois Valley Region.

Mr. Neeley reported that Mrs. Marlynn Gunn is this year's Master Potter recipient. The award was presented to her on the last teacher day at an assembly with all teachers and administrators in attendance.

Dr. Kilpatrick recognized Carol Jankowski for being this year's Rotary Distinguished Service Award winner.

Dr. Kilpatrick recognized Dan Rohman for his two years of service as Administrative Assistant at the high school in Student Services. Mr. Rohman will be moving out of the area.

Dr. Kilpatrick and the Board members recognized Lorna Sherwood for her 36 years in education with the last 16 years as Jefferson School principal. She was thanked for her dedication and service to the district and our students. A reception was held at this time in her honor.

Reports –

Administrative –

School Highlights –

Dr. Kilpatrick noted the principals' school highlights for the month of May. There were many activities reported including MAP testing and high school graduation.

Drug Testing Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported on the random drug testing that took place this past year at the high school. He reported that 271 students were tested with 4 students testing positive for prescription medication and 6 positive for marijuana. All positive results are reported to parents and referred to Mr. Walt Nunnally of Illini Family Counseling. Dr. Kilpatrick concluded that the program is effective and is working.

External Counseling Programs Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that Walt Nunnally is at the high school two days per week during the school year to meet with students and parents for family counseling. Mr. Nunnally is a resource for families when students are identified through the drug testing. He had 794 total student contacts this past year and presented in 10 health classes throughout the year. The high school will continue his services for the 2011-2012 school year.

Curriculum Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that he will be speaking with Jess Smithers concerning relaxation of some of the requirements for student participation in FAA. He will be meeting with him to try to find a creative solution for our students' desire to take part in FAA.

Legislative Update –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the reduction in the General State Aid will not impact us greatly as we receive a flat amount per student. Recent legislation passed has funding for transportation back up to 40% and Special Education at 100%. The biggest challenge will be getting caught up on monies owed us by the state for this past year.

Mr. Neeley commented that the state constitution calls for 50% state support for education. Over the years our funding has been around 20%. The taxpayers do not understand that their monies paid to the state are not being returned to their schools.

MYBA -

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the MYBA and the Park District are working together to construct a baseball field on Veterans Road. All of the high school baseball games would be moved to the new facilities. A letter of commitment has been sent from the School District to the Park District to provide services up to \$200,000, such as lighting, bleachers or any job that can be bid out. Our commitment is subject to the MYBA raising the needed funds and the Morton Park District expanding facilities and parking to meet the greater needs. Mr. Neeley noted this arrangement will free up space at the high school.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

President’s Report –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the transportation committee had met recently and a report is provided in board member folders. He noted that student ridership was up this year and one route was eliminated. By working with the Village of Morton, the district was able to save on fuel costs and have consistent fuel prices. Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the administration will be looking at future field trips to see if any could be eliminated. Mr. Applen noted that Mrs. Weigle does a great job as transportation director.

Mr. Neeley complimented the high school staff for an impressive graduation ceremony. He thanked all those staff members that were involved in its success.

Discussion Items –

Board Policy Compliance – Community Relations –

Mr. Neeley reported that as part of the policy compliance monitoring practice, a review of the Community Relations 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.

School Improvement Plans –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that each of the building principals have met with their school improvement teams as well as their designated Board member to review and develop their School Improvement Plans for the next two years. Each principal gave a summary in regards to their initiatives for the next year. The elementary principals noted that each of their buildings has similar district goals including increasing the effective use of MAP test data; continuing the curriculum mapping process; continuing the implementation of RtI; expanding the development of differentiating instruction for Tier I; and improving cross-curricular aspects and building culture.

Jr. High goals include increased use of student-centered technology in the classroom; Teams focusing on higher level thinking skills through curricular incorporation of fine and language arts; and developing an advisory program focused on bullying and social awareness.

High School goals include improving student learning and performance in the core areas of reading, writing , mathematics, science and social studies; improving curriculum and instruction to promote student learning; and improving the RtI process to help identify the individual needs of students and help them to be successful.

Approve Asbestos Abatement Bids –

Dr. Kilpatrick reported that on May 23, the District opened bids for the removal of the asbestos containing materials in approximately 9,000 sq. ft. of classrooms at Morton High School as well as the stage ceiling and floors as part of an approved life safety amendment. In addition an alternate to the base bid requested removal of asbestos tile in classrooms in the Junior High there are issues with loose tile that covers approximately 4,000 sq. ft. We received 5 bids: Kinsale Contracting, DEM Services, Luse Companies, Schemel-Tarrillion, and M&O Environmental. The total bids for the base bid and the alternate ranged from a high of \$107,000 to a low of \$69,100 from Luse Companies. In addition to the removal costs we will also incur environmental engineering, supervision, and air sampling and testing costs of \$30,000 to \$40,000. The administration is recommending that the Base bid and the alternate for abatement of asbestos at Morton High School and Morton Jr. High School be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Luse Companies, Aurora, at an award amount totaling \$69,100.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the award of the base bid and alternate of the asbestos abatement at Morton High School and Morton Jr. High School to Luse Companies in the amount of \$69,100.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

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

- Approve Liability Insurance Renewal
- Approve Life Safety Extension of Time
- Authorize Submission of General State Aid and Transportation Claims
- Approve Treasurers for 2011-12 School Year and Adopt Treasurer Resolution
- Approve Resolution Designating Depositories and Signatories
- Approve Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loans and Transfers
- Approve Complaint Manager
- Approve Resolution to Set Fees for Freedom of Information Act
- Approve Hazardous Bus Routes
- Approve Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Gift Acceptance Report
- Review Closed Session Minutes
- Approve April Treasurer's Report
- Approve Building Rental Rates
- Approve BFPAC Rental Rates
- Approving and Signing Minutes of the May 17, 2011, Regular Meeting.

Motion carried.

Approve Suspension Reports –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education approve the Suspension Reports filed by Morton Jr. High School and Morton High School.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Closed Session Minutes –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes from the May 17, 2011, regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Re-Enter Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:50 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mrs. Bernier, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:02 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

June 7, 2011

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Respectfully submitted,

Clint Heinold, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President