

**MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held September 6, 2011, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

**REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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

**Closed Session –**

Motion by Mrs. Bernier, 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 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 6:05 p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:59 p.m.

**Adjournment -**

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

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING –**

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

The Board and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Audience Presentations –**

Mr. Todd Stych of Musco Lighting spoke to the Board concerning the bids for lighting at the new baseball field. He shared information about Musco Lighting and other complexes and arenas that have used their products and services.

**Reports –**

**Administrative –**

**Student Council Report –**

Miss Hannah Grow and Miss Amy Altenberger, student council representatives from the high school, updated the board on recent student council activities. Student council members took part in the St. Jude telethon this summer answering phones during teen challenge hour. They presented a check for \$7,000 from monies raised during St. Jude week last school year. Homecoming week is scheduled from September 26 through October 1. The theme this year is “Greetings from Around the World.” Morton High School hosted the Mid Illini student council representatives on Tuesday, September 6. Motivational speaker, Rodney Moyer, inspired the students to be great leaders.

Mr. Neeley thanked Miss Grow and Miss Altenberger for attending the meeting.

**School Highlights –**

Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the school year is off to a good start and many activities have already taken place in the first three weeks of school.

**Summer Challenge Program –**

Mary Holmgren and Laura Zehr gave a report on the Summer Challenge Program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students this past summer. There were two week long sessions with 10 students per session. This was an appropriate number of students, as the program took place in the high school chemistry lab. The students were very excited to be able to use the high school lab. Mrs. Holmgren and Mrs. Zehr appreciated the partnership between the

elementary and high schools. Their plan is to expand the program next year to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dr. Kilpatrick thanked them for their report and noted his appreciation for their part in the Challenge Program changes.

### **Summer School Update –**

Mr. Hoffman reported on the regular education summer school program that took place for K-3 students. The focus was on Reading and Math and a MAP test was given at the end of the session. Mr. Hoffman noted that the teachers work very hard to make the classes interesting for the students, as they know others are out of school for the summer.

Mr. Johnson reported on the high school summer school program. This is the second year that students were able to recover credits through the APEX computer program. There were 20 students participating and 5 were able to graduate in August after completing their needed course(s). In all, 30 different courses were taken by the students. Mr. Johnson noted that the program is successful and will continue to be reviewed by teachers and the administration.

### **Technology Update –**

Dr. Teater reported on the activities of the technology department throughout the summer. Every room in every building now has wireless access. 42 teachers at the high school opted to have laptops this year for use with the wireless access. The virtual server pool and PowerSchool both were updated. An upgrade of the financial system is now in process. Dr. Teater commended Ronda Stalter for her work at the elementary schools this summer. She prepared all of the elementary schools on her own, as another employee was unable to work at that time due to personal needs.

### **Extra Curricular Offerings – Title IX Compliance –**

Dr. Kilpatrick distributed the Title IX Compliance report from the high school. Title IX is the gender equity law passed in 1972. He noted that 65% of the student body participated in sports. Male coaches outnumber female coaches 34 to 11 with 8 males coaching female sports. It will be a goal of the administration to recruit more female coaches.

### **Textbook and Instructional Materials Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick distributed the listing of current textbooks and materials used throughout the district. As dictated by policy, this list is to be provided to the board annually.

**Enrollment Report –**

Dr. Kilpatrick compared enrollment numbers from 2004 – 2011. He noted a trend over the last three years of an increase in Kindergarten numbers. EC – 6<sup>th</sup> grade totals jumped from 1257 in 2004 to 1404 in 2011. Due to changes in the Core Standards, Dr. Kilpatrick noted that the elementary principals will be studying extended day kindergarten along with all day kindergarten as future options.

**Freedom of Information Requests –**

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

**President's Report –**

Mr. Neeley reported that the board is working with the IASB on the process for the superintendent search. The board set Tuesday, October 25, for a Committee of the Whole Personnel meeting.

**Discussion Items –****First Reading and Discussion of Various Policies from Sections 2, 5 and 8 –**

A revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 5, and 8 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review of recommendations from the state and advice from legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board of Education for discussion and a first reading. The policies will be presented for a second reading and approval at a future meeting.

**Board Retreat – Target Goals –**

Dr. Kilpatrick prioritized targets suggested by the board at their recent retreat. Administration's top priorities are changes to the teacher evaluations (required by law); continue to address financial concerns; negotiations; facility plan. The board members agreed, but added continuing progress on AP classes; reading comprehension; and continuing to move forward with technology.

**Facilities Discussion –**

Dr. Kilpatrick shared his recommendation for the immediate space needs at Brown, Grundy and Lincoln Schools:

- Add 3 classrooms (used for small group instruction, PE activities, classroom)
- Continue repair work at Jefferson School on the west wall
- Circle drive upgrades at Grundy and Lincoln Schools

The additional classrooms would provide relief in the short term, but they would also be a

part of the long term plan. There would then be time to hire a community engagement consultant and get the public input on a long term plan for the facilities. This plan would not waste money on portable classrooms and would relieve space issues at this time. Dr. Kilpatrick explained the project would be funded with capital improvement funds from this year and next year, funds from the sale of bonds last year and reserves on hand.

The board came to a consensus to bring the recommendation as an action item at the October 4 board meeting.

**Action Items -**

**Approval/Rejection of Bids -**

Dr. Kilpatrick asked that the approval/rejection of the bids for lights at the MYBA baseball field be tabled at this time.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education table the approval/rejection of bids.

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried.

**Intergovernmental Agreement - Westwood Park –**

Dr. Kilpatrick explained that legal counsel has advised that the school district form an intergovernmental agreement for future decisions with the MYBA and Morton Park District in relation to the new baseball field. He asked for the boards consensus giving him authority to negotiate an agreement. Consensus was given.

**Consent Agenda –**

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

- Approve Suspension Reports
- Approve Application for Recognition of Schools
- Approve July Treasurers Report



Motion carried.

**Adjournment -**

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

Roll Call Vote:                      Yea 7                      Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Clint Heinold, Secretary

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Thomas Neeley, President