

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held November 15, 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, Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mrs. Michelle Kaeb,
Mr. Tim Taylor

Reports –

Administrative –

Recognize National Merit Commended Students –

Morton High School Principal, Dennis Johnson introduced Benjamin Streeter, Sara Mitchell, Thomas Homa and Josh Graham, who are commended students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Johnson presented letters of commendation from the National Scholarship Corporation. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. These young people have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program.

Mr. Neeley congratulated the students and thanked their parents and teachers involved in the education of the students.

Senate Bill 7 –

Dr. Kilpatrick introduced Rob McCoy, an attorney from Miller, Hall and Triggs. Mr. McCoy gave an overview of Senate Bill 7, which is the education bill that was recently passed by the Illinois Legislature. His presentation included information on PERA (Performance Evaluation Reform Act); impasse and strike (teachers will be allowed to strike only after an independent fact-finding panel deliberates and each party makes public its final offer seven days after impasse is declared.); required board member training (by January 1, 2013, must have completed training on the Open Meetings Act); teacher evaluations (after 2 unsatisfactory evaluations in a seven year period, ISBE can suspend or revoke certificate); filling vacancies (selection criteria is based on certification and quality, not seniority); evaluation plan required by September 1, 2012; Principal and Assistant Principal evaluations (use of data and indicators of student growth-required by March 1, 2012); RIF's (explained RIF groupings; more emphasis on evaluation, but

seniority will still be considered); Joint Committee (equal number of district and association representatives; must meet by December 1, 2011. Committee has 180 days to develop a district evaluation plan or district must implement ISBE model). Mr. McCoy explained new tenure rules for teachers hired after the PERA implementation date. A teacher may be tenured after two years if same teacher had tenure in another district; after three years if teacher has three consecutive excellent ratings; after four years if teacher is at least proficient. Teacher must be dismissed if not proficient after four terms.

Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. McCoy for his informative presentation. Dr. Kilpatrick reported that the district's Joint Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 22.

Freedom of Information Requests –

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

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported he and Dr. Kilpatrick attended a recent meeting on the County Sales Tax referendum. If passed, the tax can only be used for construction or renovations of facilities. He reported that a majority of the county school districts must pass resolutions in order for the referendum to be on a ballot.

Mr. Neeley reported that HB 3793 had recently failed to pass in the legislature. If passed, the bill would have been detrimental to our district and many of our neighboring districts in Tazewell County. He expressed his disappointment that our local legislators voted for the bill. He noted his support for legislators to find a more equitable way of funding schools.

Mr. Neeley reported that the board members met earlier in the evening with the high school teachers. He thanked Mr. Johnson for hosting the meeting and noted the reports of classroom projects and activities taking place at the high school. Also noted are the many ways the staff and students are serving our community.

Discussion Items –

Board Compliance – Board/Superintendent Relations –

Mr. Neeley reported that the Board/Superintendent Policies have been reviewed by him and Dr. Kilpatrick and have determined that the district is in compliance. He will sign the form and place it in the Master Compliance binder in the District Office.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Other –

Dr. Kilpatrick suggested the Community Engagement Workshop for board members and administrators could be held on November 29 prior to the Joint Boards meeting.

2nd Closed Session –

Motion by Mrs. Kaiser, second by Mr. Heinold, 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 8:45 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Taylor, 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 9:12 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Heinold, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President