

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

October 16, 2012

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held October 16, 2012, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Tom Neeley called the regular meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

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

Member absent: Mrs. Michelle Kaeb

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there are no Freedom of Information requests to report.

709Connect Update –

Mrs. Scarfe reported that there was good attendance at the 709Connect meeting held on Thursday, October 11. The attendees gave great feedback, which is posted on the District website. Many were not aware of the age of the buildings or that there have been no new additions in the 80's, 90's or 2000's. The most mentioned concern was the need for gymnasiums for PE. Overwhelmingly, groups responded that purchasing land for future long-range facility master plan or investment was a good option for the Board of Education. Several groups cautioned that land purchased should be in conjunction with first developing a plan.

Mrs. Scarfe noted that the next 709Connect meeting will be on Thursday, November 1, on the topic of "Curriculum." She also expressed thanks to the MEA members who volunteered to supervise childcare during the meeting. Several attendees took advantage of this service.

President's Report –

Mr. Neeley reported the board had a good meeting with the high school teachers earlier in the evening. It was great to see their enthusiasm for their students and their new principal, Mrs. Johnson.

Discussion Items –

“Rising Star” Initiative – Marjorie Johnson

Ms. Johnson reported that since Morton High School did not attain the 85% meets and exceeds in reading and math last school year, it did not meet AYP for the year under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind. This is the second year in a row that the school has missed making AYP by tenths of percentage points. This puts MHS in Academic Early Warning Status and triggers some state requirements for the School Improvement Plan. Ms. Johnson explained the “Rising Star” web-based continuous school improvement process. She noted that of the indicators assessed by the high school internal review team, eight (8) were deemed to be “fully implemented” and three (3) were deemed “partially implemented.”

Ms. Johnson considers the Rising Star process to be an excellent vehicle for continuous school improvement. The assessment of the indicators of effective practice has already led to good discussion. It provides the vehicle for the School Improvement Team to take a detailed look at Morton High School’s practices and performance and provides resources to help craft an improvement plan designed to make MHS better.

Dr. Hall emphasized that MHS was extremely close to making AYP. It is an excellent, award winning school, as are all of the schools in Morton School District 709.

Consent Agenda –

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

Approving and Signing Minutes of the October 2, 2012, Regular Meeting; October 5, 2012, Special Meeting; and the Closed Session Minutes of the October 2, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Approve Personnel Report

Approve Application for Recognition of Schools

Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 10-5-12	Bills 10-9-12	Payroll 10-12-12
Ed. Fund	\$166,340.23	\$625.08	\$413,691.99
Bldg. Fund	16,287.82	--	30,197.58
Trans.Fund	15,223.49	--	14,843.24
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	397,072.50

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried.

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 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:42 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Kaiser, 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 7:50 p.m.

Adjournment -

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

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kaiser, Secretary

Thomas Neeley, President