

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: January 16, 2025

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Board Members Present: Mary Dugan, Russell Tilley, Theresa DeLaurentiis, Emily Boss, Wendy Moore

Others Present: Jamie Maistros, Superintendent; April Vunk, Principal; Staff Members Alexis Ochi, Jenna Turner, Shannon Deignan, Kalliann Harrison, Stephanie Masciola

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Dugan at 6:30 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2024 were approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Teresa DeLaurentiis, and carried 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

The following new teachers for 2024-2025 introduced themselves to the Board and answered the questions that the Board had for them: Alexis Ochi, art; Kalliann Harrison, fifth grade, Shannon Deignan, science; and Stephanie Masciola, social studies. Gerry Joy and Melissa Brown were unable to attend the Board meeting.

Superintendent's Reports:

Jamie Maistros discussed the 25-26 school calendar with the Board.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about the capital project. There are still doors and windows to finish in the main building. Ms. Maistros also discussed Phase 2 with the Board.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about transportation. We are going out for a bus vote on March 12. Ms. Maistros talked to the Board about adding buses for 25-26 to the May budget vote. In the future there wouldn't be a separate vote for buses.

Jamie Maistros told the Board we didn't have enough buses to provide golf this year.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about a Data Privacy Resolution regarding third party privacy and a breach in student data.

Principal's Reports:

April Vunk talked to the Board about the computer-based testing and simulations. The simulation exams will be held January 21 through January 31. The simulations are required by the state to be sure we are prepared and the students and teachers understand the procedure. This year is the first year that all the New York State assessments will be computer-based exams.

April Vunk told the Board we would be hosting four student teachers this spring. Three will be in the elementary and one will be in the high school.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the midterms and midyear Regents. The midterms are January 13 through 23. They can be exams, presentations or projects. We have students taking the English regents in January to gain credit for graduation.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the Backpack Program. The Backpack Program has expanded. In addition to the funds we already have, we received a \$10,000 grant. We are now doing a weekly delivery

to our students signed up for the program starting this week. We received our first food delivery from the Regional Food Bank. Jody Bolton's class has been setting up the program, packing and delivering backpacks. In addition, we are in the process of setting up a small food pantry in the cafeteria where students can take food if they need it. Secondary students in the backpack program will be using this pantry to independently pick the food they would like to take home for the weekend.

April Vunk told the Board our annual spelling bee took place on November 26th. Eight students participated in the Jr. Bee, while eleven were in the spelling bee. First place went to Rowan Schoellig (6th), second place to Michael Coffyn (8th), and third place to Bella Marino (5th). The winner of the spelling bee will represent MCS at the regional spelling bee in February.

April Vunk talked to the Board about Upcoming Dates. Jan. 20, No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Jan. 24 is Morning Program, PK-12 early dismissal at 11:00, and second quarter ends. It is a half day for students so the teachers can grade midterms, Regents, and work on report cards. Jan. 29, No school, Lunar New Year. Jan. 31, Report Cards. Feb. 1 All County Festival #1 in Worcester. Feb. 7 is early dismissal for PK-6 for Parent / Teacher Conferences. Feb. 10 through 14 is Spirit Week.

The following business items #1 through 5 were approved as presented on the motion of Teresa DeLaurentiis, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports for Warrants #51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2024 and Bank Reconciliations for the month of August 2024, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2024, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Budget Transfer Report of \$124,991.84, as presented.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the following resolution approving the bus purchases and setting the Bus Vote on March 12, 2025 from noon to 8:00 p.m.:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES, CONSISTING OF ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER DIESEL SCHOOL BUS AND ONE (1) 35-PASSENGER GAS SCHOOL BUS ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$299,552, LESS TRADE-IN VALUE, IF ANY, AND THAT SUCH SUM OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS, WITH SUCH TAX TO BE PARTIALLY OFFSET BY STATE AID AVAILABLE THEREFOR, AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED SUCH ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST SHALL BE ISSUED, OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD, as attached.

(See Attachment #1)

The following personnel items #1 through 3 were approved as presented on the motion Wendy Moore, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of a maternity leave for Heather Bevilacqua to start on or about April 18, 2005 through the end of the school year. Ms. Bevilacqua plans on returning to work on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Bevilacqua will be using unpaid FMLA leave during her maternity leave, after using up her sick and personal time.

2. Approval of John Banks III as a substitute cleaner for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Approval of the following spring coaches:

Modified Softball – Maria Deysenroth with a stipend of \$2,133.
Varsity Track – McKenzie Rhone with a stipend of \$2,879
Modified Track – McKenzie Rhone with a stipend of \$1,386
Varsity Baseball – Patrick Harmer with a stipend of \$4,130
Modified Baseball – Kyle Szokoli with a stipend of \$1,652

The following Administrative item #1 was approved on the motion of Teresa DeLaurentiis, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:

1. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the first reading of the revisions for the following policies:

Policy #5673 – (Renamed) Evacuation, Lockdown, and Emergency Dismissal Drills
#6550 – Leaves of Absences
#7513 – (Renamed) Medication and Personal Care Items

Public Comment: None

The Board went into executive session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss personnel Issues, and CSE/CPSE on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:07 p.m. on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CPSE students' plan #4039, was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:08 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Teresa DeLaurentiis, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson
District Clerk

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CALLING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING VOTE ON PROPOSITION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, New York, held at the District Offices, Morris, New York, on the 16th day of January, 2025:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Teresa DeLaurentiis presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Emily Boss:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Morris Central School District shall be held at the Main entrance lobby of the Morris Central School Building on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.

2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF
MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Morris Central School District shall be held at the Main entrance lobby of the Morris Central School Building on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 PM. The following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at said meeting:

PROPOSITION

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES, CONSISTING OF ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER DIESEL SCHOOL BUS, AND ONE (1) 35-PASSENGER GAS SCHOOL BUS, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$299,552, LESS TRADE-IN VALUE, IF ANY, AND THAT SUCH SUM OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS, WITH SUCH TAX TO BE PARTIALLY OFFSET BY STATE AID AVAILABLE THEREFOR; AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED SUCH ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST SHALL BE ISSUED, OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for early mail and absentee ballots to vote on the proposition may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the aforesaid special district meeting if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before such special district meeting if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued shall be available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk during regular office hours on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote (excluding Saturday and Sunday). Early mail and absentee ballots must reach the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of such special district meeting.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN that qualified military voters may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at jmatson@morriscsd.org. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 PM on February 15, 2025. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or email.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN, that applications for early mail and absentee ballots shall be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote and election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote and election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 PM on March 12, 2025.

A list of persons to whom early mail, absentee and military ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after February 27, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to the Election; and on March 12, 2025, the day set for the Election, said list will be posted at the polling place.

The District Clerk is authorized to amend or modify this notice to comply with applicable legal requirements.

DATED: January 16, 2025
Morris, New York

Judy B. Matson
District Clerk
Morris Central School District, New York

3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$299,552. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Duly put to a vote as follows:

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STATE OF NEW YORK }
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COUNTY OF OTSEGO } ss:

I, the undersigned clerk of the Morris Central School District, DO HEREBY CERTIFY as follows:

1. A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, State of New York, was held on January 16, 2025, and Minutes of said meeting have been duly recorded in the Minute Book kept by me in accordance with law for the purpose of recording the minutes of meetings of said Board.

2. I have compared the attached Extract with said Minutes so recorded and said Extract is a true copy of said Minutes and of the whole thereof insofar as said Minutes relate to matters referred to in said Extract.

3. Said Minutes correctly state the time and place when said Meeting was convened and the place where such meeting was held and the members of said Board who attended said Meeting.

4. Public Notice of the time and place of said Meeting was duly posted and duly given to the public and the news media in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, constituting Chapter 511 of the Laws of 1976 of the State of New York, and that all members of said Board had due notice of said Meeting and that the Meeting was in all respects duly held and a quorum was present and acted throughout.

5. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have hereunto affixed the corporate seal of the Morris Central School District this 17th day of January, 2025.

{SEAL}



District Clerk