

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: January 18, 2024

Kind of Meeting: Regular

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

Others Present: Jamie Maistros, Superintendent; April Vunk, Principal, Staff Members Patrick Harmer, Jenna Turner, Michael Iannelli; Students Tatiana Ives, Aislinn Ray, Jacob Morlock, Carter Tuttle, Everett Pondolfino; Superintendents Kristen Shearer, Christine Nichols, Bill Dorritie, Terrance Dougherty

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Dugan at 6:31 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2023 were approved as presented on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Terrance Dougherty talked to the Board about merging athletics. Merging athletics gives the students more opportunities to play in sports and makes it easier to have enough athletes for a team.

Superintendent's Reports:

Jamie Maistros gave the Board a safety update. Josh Reiss is coming to the next Safety Committee meeting to go over a workplace violence survey with the team. Upstate is coming to the February meeting to talk to the Board.

Jamie Maistros gave the Board a Capital Project Update. The state approved our Capital Project. The bids for the capital project will be opened on February 22. There will be a special Board meeting on February 28 at 7:45 a.m. to approve the bids for the Capital Project. We need to decide on the alternates to bring the cost down to the amount the voters approved.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about the Governor's proposed budget for 2024-2025. She proposes eliminating the Gap Elimination Aid. Transition Aid can be reduced if the enrollment goes down. Mrs. Maistros is waiting for more information.

Principal's Reports:

April Vunk talked to the Board about Computer Based Testing. We completed our computer based testing simulation. Fifth grade did the ELA test and eighth grade did the math test. Six teachers were assigned to proctor the tests. The system worked well. The feedback was positive from both the proctors and the students.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the student teachers at Morris. We have seven student teachers. Four in the elementary, two in the secondary and one in the PE department. The student teachers are from SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cortland.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the Midterms and the January Regents. The midterms will be given January 22 through 25. Some teachers are giving standard tests; others are doing content related projects. There are five students taking the January Regents. Four students are taking the exams for credits for graduation.

April Vunk talked to the Board about our Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee was held on December 15. It was organized by Julia Bjorvand and Diane Sneddon. Nine students in grades three and four participated in the Jr. Bee. Eight students in grades five through eight participated in the regular Spelling Bee. The winner will compete for Morris at the regional Spelling Bee in February. The students will be recognized at the January Morning Program.

April Vunk talked to the Board about an Attendance Initiative. Since COVID there have been students struggling with chronic absenteeism. We have identified this as an area of concern that needs to be addressed. We are working with the attendance officer and the teachers to make sure the data is correct. We will be starting an attendance initiative with the elementary students through the morning program. We are encouraging students to work together as a class and come to school, as long as they are not sick, in order to have the best percentage of attendance for the month. The class with the best attendance will receive a banner to hang outside their door and token of appreciation from Mrs. Vunk.

April Vunk talked to the Board about upcoming dates. Jan. 19 is Morning Program. Jan. 26 is early dismissal for PK-12 at 11:00. The teachers will be grading midterms, Regents, and report card preparation. Feb. 1 and 3 is All County Festival #1. Feb. 2 is early dismissal for PK-6 for Parent/Teacher Conferences and report cards. Feb. 12 through 16 is Spirit Week.

Be It Resolved upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve the following:

The following business items 1 through 7 were approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports for Warrants # 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2023 and Bank Reconciliations for November 2023, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2023, as presented.
4. **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 for March 12, 2024 from noon to 8 p.m. as follows:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER DIESEL SCHOOL BUS, ONE (1) 19-PASSENGER GAS SCHOOL BUS AND ONE (1) CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$307,556, 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 THEREFORE; 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 IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD; as attached. (See Attachment #1)

5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Class of 2024 Senior Trip to Boston, Massachusetts on Friday, June 14 through Sunday June 16, 2024. The estimated cost of \$6,450 for transportation and \$4,020 for the hotel, which includes eight rooms for 31 students, two rooms for the chaperones, and one room for the bus driver. Total cost for transportation and hotel is \$10,470, as attached. (See Attachment 2 for the other costs.)

6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves April Turnbull-Vunk as Co-Signer for the School and Student Accounts, effective January 12, 2024, replacing Katharine Smith.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Budget Transfer Report in the amount of \$54,375. This is for transferring the Insurance Buyouts to a different code.

The following personnel items 1 through 8 were approved as presented on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Teresa DeLaurentiis, and carried 5-0:

1. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves April Vunk as a Qualified Lead Evaluator for the teachers' evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Mary Velez as a Spanish teacher, effective June 30, 2024.
3. Approval of Sophia Gerace as a substitute teacher (NC) for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Gerace is a student teacher from SUCO and is able to substitute for Claire Fraser, retroactive to January 16, 2024.
4. Approval of Lisa Coyle as a substitute cleaner for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approval of Alivia Bell as a substitute teacher (NC). Ms. Bell is a student teacher from SUCO and is allowed to substitute for Ryan Manchester.
6. Approval of Grace Patrei as a substitute teacher (NC). Ms. Patrei is a student teacher from SUCO and is allowed to substitute for Diane Sneddon.
7. Approval of Giana Montemurro as a substitute teacher (NC). Ms. Montemurro is a student teacher from SUCO and is allowed to substitute for Julia Bjorvand.
8. Approval of the following coaches for the spring season of 2024:

Varsity Baseball – Patrick Harmer with a stipend of \$4,000
Modified Baseball – TBD
Varsity Softball – Julene Waffle with a stipend of \$3,551
Modified Softball – Maria Deysenroth with a stipend of \$2,066
Varsity Track – McKenzie Rhone with a stipend of \$2,788
Modified Track – TBD

The following Administrative item #1 and 2 was approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 5-0:

1. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the second reading and approval of the new policy as follows:

Policy #7350 – Timeout and Physical Restraint
(This policy replaces #7350 Corporal Punishment.)
2. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the first reading of the new policy as follows:

Policy #6192 – Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement

Public Comment: There was a discussion of the merits of merging teams between the superintendents and others that attended the meeting.

The Board went into executive session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss personnel Issues on the motion of Teresa DeLaurentiis, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:48 p.m. on the motion Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 8:49 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy B. Matson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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 18th day of January, 2024:

PRESENT: Mary Dugan, Russell Tilley, Emily Boss, Wendy Moore,
Teresa DeLaurentiis

ABSENT: None

Russell Tilley presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Wendy Moore:

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 Main entrance lobby of the Morris Central School Building on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 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 Main entrance lobby of the Morris Central School Building on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 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 ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER DIESEL SCHOOL BUS, ONE (1) 19-PASSENGER GAS SCHOOL BUS AND ONE (1) CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$307,556, 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, 2024. 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, 2024.

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, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to the Election; and on March 12, 2024, 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 18, 2024
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 \$307,556. 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 18, 2024, 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.

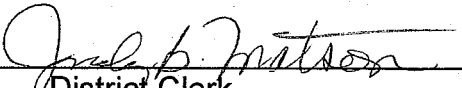
2. I have compared the attached Extract with said Minutes so recorded and said Extract is a true copy of said Minutes and of the whole thereof insofar as said Minutes relate to matters referred to in said Extract.

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, as modified by the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders, if applicable, and that all members of said Board had due notice of said Meetings 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 22 day of January, 2024.

{SEAL}



District Clerk

#2

We the Senior Class of 2024 are asking your permission to go on an overnight class trip. The trip would last from June, Friday the 14th to Sunday the 16th. We would head to Boston, Massachusetts early Friday morning. Stops would include a lunch and bathroom break. Students could also bring their own snacks during the trip and at the hotel. The number one hotel choice is the Hotel in Revere, MA | Comfort Inn® Official Site | Comfort Inn & Suites Logan International Airport (choicehotels.com). 31 Students - approximately 8 rooms - have 4 people to one room, 4 chaperones - 2 rooms - have 2 per room, 1 Bus driver - room to self. The Hale Transportation estimated price is \$6,450 plus board for the driver. The estimated hotel pricing is \$3,520 plus \$500 for the bus driver. Breakfast and wifi are included in the purchase. A pizza party has also been included in the class price. With our current account balance, each student would need to spend around \$50 to go on the trip, excluding any other optional purchasing and food costs.

However, the senior class has upcoming fundraisers that will increase the funds in our account. These fundraisers include the Hypnotist show, ice cream, bake sales, and the car drive. Future expenditures include the Prom and the senior gift.

Necessary expenses beyond the initial pricing include three lunches and two dinners. With current funding, the student would be left to pay for this.

Optional expenses, depending on what students choose to do and what they can do with the amount of chaperons include shops at Quincy Market, local beaches and shops, a Duck Tour, the New England Aquarium, a Ghost Tour, Freedom Trail, and exploration, and a Boston Dinner Cruise.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal.

Expenses	Calculated Amount		
Transportation	\$6,450.00		
Board for bus driver	\$500.00		
Housing (free with and breakfast)	\$3,520.00		
Pizza Party	\$240.00		
Total	\$10,610.00	Divided by 81	\$130.85
Majority of class to go	\$9,672.26		\$119.27
Total of 81 group departure	\$1,937.74	Total Divided after subtraction	\$22.58
Necessary Personal Expenses	Unknown		
Optional Expenses			
Individual Activities Optional	Price Per Person		
Shops at Quincy Market	NA		
Local Beaches and Shops	\$49.99		
Duck Tour	\$15.00		
New England Aquarium	\$44.48		
Ghost Tour (room for group discount)			
Freedom Trail and Exposition	Free to walk, purchasable items along the way		
Boston Dinner Cruise (majority of class has to go)	\$120.00 to \$150.00		