

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2022

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Board Members Present: Mary Dugan, Russell Tilley, Wendy Moore, Emily Boss, Michael Walling

Others Present: Matthew Sheldon, Interim Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Amy Gerhartz, April Vunk, Rhonda Burnside; Community Member Wayne Gerhartz, Kristin Winn, Todd Gould; Students Aiden Moore

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2021 and the emergency meeting of January 9, 2022 were approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Mary Dugan welcomed Matthew Sheldon back and thanked him for his continued service.

April Vunk and Sarah Saggese gave the Board a report about their CSE programs. Sarah Saggese was via video because she was coaching a modified game at the time of the meeting. April Vunk has a self-contained classroom for grades 7-12, a resource room and is the advisor for Honor Society. Sarah Saggese is a resource room teacher. They discussed the steps for developing an IEP and what an IEP contains. They discussed the testing modifications they develop, the types of testing modifications, and the types of program modifications.

Superintendent's Reports:

Matthew Sheldon discussed the Correction Action Plans, Response to External Audit and Extra Classroom Activity Audits with the Board. The Audit is sent to the State and schools are required to develop a Response to the External Audit and Extra Classroom Activity Audit. We did not have any findings but we have to respond to the recommendations. Both responses are on the agenda for approval at this meeting. We received our Single Audit for Federal Grants and there were no findings or recommendations.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the 2022-2023 Budget. Mr. Sheldon is meeting with the supervisors and going over their budget. Alicia Bowen is working on the salary component of the budget. We should get more information about the BOCES costs tomorrow for 2022-2023. We are waiting for the costs for the health insurance, may know more next week. Thomas Murphy is working on the Tax Cap. That has to be done by March 1, 2022. The Governor's proposal looks good. Special Education is the hardest part to estimate.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the COVID test kits and testing at school. We received another 180 tests kits. A letter was sent to parents, telling them we received more tests and they can come and pick them up. If the parents have used the tests they were given earlier, they can get another one. The nurse is using some of the kits for testing here. Our nurse can now test a student with symptoms here and send the other test in the kit home with the parents. We continue to test unvaccinated employees weekly. A nurse from BOCES comes in to do the testing.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the timeline for the interview process for hiring a new principal for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Sheldon gave the Board a job description for a PK-12 Principal. The postings for the position should be done around January 31, with the deadline around February 25. The applications will have to be reviewed and narrow down the candidates to three or four people in March. There should probably be four committees to interview the finalists.

Principal's Reports:

Katharine Smith introduced Rhonda Burnside to the Board. Ms. Burnside is a special education teacher at Morris Central School. Ms. Burnside is pursuing her administrative certification at SUNY Cortland and will be working with Ms. Smith as an administrative intern for the remainder of this school year.

Katharine Smith gave the Board an update about student assessments. January Regents exams were canceled. We were going to give one Regents exam. The student will receive an exemption for that exam, which is a graduation requirement. We have not received any information about the June exams. Last year the only exams given were ELA, Algebra, Living Environment, and Earth Science. They were the only exams required for federal funding. The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) will be given to the 8th graders on February 17th at 9:30 a.m. Twenty-three students will be taking the exam. Parents have been notified and so far we have not received any opt out requests. The students are divided into two groups, one taking the reading assessment and the other group will be taking the math assessment. The students are tested in the same room. They are given tablets and headphones. No student or district data is reported. Statewide and national data is reported. The ELA State Assessments will be given March 29 and 30 with make-up exams to follow. The Math State Assessments will be given April 26 and 27 with make-up exams to follow.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about upcoming student events. Mid-terms are January 24-27. It is a block schedule. Early dismissal for students PK-12 at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 28. All-County is at GMU on February 3 and 5. February 3 is early dismissal for grades PK-6 at 11:00 a.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences from 11:30 to 5:00. Snow date is February 10. February 6 the Outdoor Club is going Flashlight Sledding at Colonial Ridge Golf Course from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Drama Club performance has been moved to 2/12 at 7:00 p.m. and 2/13 at 2:00 p.m. It was moved because there was a basketball game on 2/11. February 18 there will be an early go home drill at 2:35 p.m.

Katharine Smith told the Board there were no candidates for the part-time art or long-term substitute for music. We are short on permanent substitutes because Scott Wetmore accepted a position at DCMO BOCES.

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 10 were approved as presented on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants # 62, 63, and 64, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Statements for the month of December 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Reports for the months November and December 2021, and the corrected report for October 2021, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Response to the External Audit, as presented.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Response to the Extra Classroom Activity Audit, as presented.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the agreement between Morris Central School District and the Edmeston Central School District to merge future athletic teams when either school does not have enough players to field a team.

7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Budget Transfer Report. \$10,000 was transferred from account 2820-490 to account 2820-150, retroactive to December 17, 2021.
8. **Be it Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the following resolution for the purchase and bonding of two buses to be voted on March 10, 2022:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$121,959, AND ONE (1) 35-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS, AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$73,888, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED AGGREGATE COST OF \$195,847, 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 DETERMINE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD. (See Attachment #1)

9. Approval of the Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants #65, 66, 67, and 68, as presented.
10. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Single Audit for Federal Grants prepared by Raymond G. Preusser for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

1. Approval of Brian Roser as the Boys' Modified Basketball Coach, retroactive to November 22, 2021. Mr. Roser's stipend is \$1,700.
2. Approval of Wayne Gerhartz as a volunteer to fill in when coverage for the doors during arrival and leaving of students as needed, help to cook for events, and help with the greenhouses for the 2021-2022 school year. Volunteers can never alone with the students.
3. Approval of Jason ^{Abrams} ~~Adams~~ as a substitute bus driver. Mr. Adams is the mechanic hired by New York Bus Sales that works at the MCS bus garage.
4. Approval of the resignation of Scott Wetmore as a permanent substitute effective January 21, 2022.
5. Approval of Madison Lewis as a substitute teacher aide and LTA, retroactive to January 14, 2022, for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves Amy Gerhartz as a Qualified Lead Evaluator to do teacher observations for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Approval of Shirley Newell as a probationary full-time .5 FTE cleaner retroactive to January 19, 2022. Ms. Newell's salary is \$13,728, prorated January 19 through June 30, 2022.

Public Comment: None


The Board went into executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss legal issues, personnel issues, and CSE on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m. on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #2743 were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:26 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy B. Matson".

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 20th day of January, 2022:

PRESENT: Mary Dugan, Russell Tilley, Wendy Moore, Emily Boss,
Michael Walling

ABSENT: None

Wendy Moore 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 of the Morris Central School Building on Thursday, March 10, 2022, 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 of the Morris Central School Building on Thursday, March 10, 2022, 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 SCHOOL BUS, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$121,959, AND ONE (1) 35-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$73,888, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$195,847, 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 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). An absentee ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of such special district meeting.

DATED: January 20, 2022
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 \$195,847. 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 20, 2022, 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 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 21 day of January, 2022.



District Clerk