

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** February 13, 2025

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

**Board Members Present:** Mary Dugan, Emily Boss, Wendy Moore

**Board Members Absent:** Russell Tilley, Teresa DeLaurentiis

**Others Present:** Jamie Maistros, Superintendent; April Vunk, Principal; Staff Members Caitlin Smith, Jamie Sherwood, Patrick Harmer, Jenna Turner, Lindsey Gifford; Student Matheus Martins; Community Members Maggie Brenner, Tom Washbon; Fred Akshar, Brandon Clarke, Akshar Consulting

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2025 were approved as presented on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 3-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Lindsey Gifford, Caitlin Smith, and Jamie Sherwood talked to the Board about CSE / SPEECH / PT / OT. Lindsey Gifford talked about the different mandates, surveys, and forms required by the state and federal government. She also talked about ways they help the special education students get ready for college. Caitlin Smith talked about the different special education teachers employed at MCS. We have five special education teachers. Eileen Hartnett has a 12-1-1 class for the elementary. Caitlin Smith is a consultant and resource room teacher for grades 2-6. Jody Bolton has a life skills classroom. Richelle Lawton and Kyle Szokoli are consultant and resource room teachers for the middle and high school students. Jamie Sherwood is an Occupational Therapist from Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School. We have her services two days a week. Stephanie Connally is our Physical Therapist. Jennifer Parker is our Speech Therapist.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CARRYING A GUN IN SCHOOL POLICY.**

A public hearing was held discussing hiring a School Resource Officer for Morris Central School. The officer will be armed in the school building. There is a policy on the agenda approving their carrying a gun in school. The officer will wear regular clothing and the gun will be concealed. They will be in the hallways interacting with the students. The officer will be retired from law enforcement. Fred Akshar from Akshar Consulting and Brandon Clarke a retired police officer attended the meeting. The officer will have the same training that our employees have along with Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. In addition they will received the training and refresher courses that are required for an SRO. There were a few that attended the meeting that were uncomfortable with the officer carrying a gun and wanted to know why it couldn't be in a lockbox, where they could get it if needed. They were told that if there was an active shooter in the building the officer would not have time to go get their weapon and respond without people being hurt.

### **Superintendent's Reports:**

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about the Capital Project. They will be starting on the doors next week. The new bus garage is coming along. The drivers are going to take a tour of the building soon. The garage will be operational by July at the latest. Phase 2 of the project has been approved. We will be doing the playground and replacing the oil tank. The oil tank is 22 weeks out and may not be done until October.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about the new policy on the agenda for approval of the first reading. The policy allows school resource officers to carry a gun in the school and on school property.

Jamie Maistros talked to the Board about the 2025-2026 Budget. Our health insurance is going up more than 10 percent next year. The tax cap is to be determined. The first run of the state budget show we had an increase of two percent. Federal funding could be lost. Ms. Maistros talked about the Rockefeller Finding.

### **Principal's Reports:**

April Vunk talked to the Board about academic achievements and gatherings. For the second quarter there were 22 on Honor Roll, 31 on High Honor Roll, and 30 on the Principal's List. The "You Are Stars" gathering was held on the afternoon of February 13<sup>th</sup>.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the Grading Policy. There is a committee looking at the policy and seeing what needs to be changed. Mrs. Vunk discussed a few of the changes being looked at with the Board.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the New York State Assessments for grades 3-8. All tests are done on the computer this year. The testing window is April 7 through May 16. 3-6 ELA will be on April 7 and 8. 7 and 8 ELA will be on April 9 and 10. 3-6 Math will be on April 23 and 24. 7 and 8 Math will be on April 28 and 29. 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science will be on May 5 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science will be on May 7.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the Superintendent's Conference Day on March 14. Plans have begun. Staff development will be offered in various academic and social areas. We hope to provide time for personal development and mindfulness activities.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the Kindness Initiative. For the last two weeks we have been participating in a kindness initiative. Students have been caught by the administration doing random acts of kindness or just generally being kind. They are given a kindness clip which they can turn into the office for a prize. The students have been enjoying this.

April Vunk talked to the board about PARP, which stands for "Pick A Reading Partner". PARP will take place for three weeks and include many activities such as DEAR, Read Across America, celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, and masked readers who will be revealed at the March morning program.

April Vunk talked to the Board about the upcoming dates. Feb. 14 is the Morning Program. Feb. 17-23 is Winter Break. March 3-21 is PARP. March 7 is Five Week Reports. March 1 is All County Festival #2. March 13 is Honor Society's Blood Drive. March 14 is Superintendent's Conference Day. March 17 the varsity spring sports begin.

**The following business items #2 through 6 were approved as presented on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 3-0: (Item #1 was removed. We did not receive any Claim Auditor's Reports for Warrants before the Board meeting.)**

2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2025, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2025, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Change Order #3-01 increasing the contract with Louis N. Picciano and Sons, Inc. from \$428,200.00 to \$461,786.47 for replacing a hot water heater.
5. Approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar, as presented.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the following resolution from the RIC improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices:

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have

collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

"WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;"

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the Morris Central School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Morris Central School Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

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

1. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Maria Deysenroth as a PE teacher, effective July 1, 2025.

**The following Administrative item #1 and 2 were approved on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 3-0:**

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

2. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the first reading of the following new policy:

Policy #3414 – Law Enforcement Weapons on School Property

**Public Comment:** Several people discussed having a School Resource Officer at Morris.

The Board went into executive session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss personnel Issues, on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 3-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m. on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 3-0.

The Board adjourned at 836 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk