

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** February 17, 2022

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

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

**Board Member Absent:** Wendy Moore

**Others Present:** Matthew Sheldon, Interim Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Heather Powell, Amy Gerhartz; Community Members Wayne Gerhartz, Jennifer Jensen, Kristin Winn, Todd Gould; Students Leah Rehrmann, Kelsey Chase, Robert Hand, Keegan Valentine

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2022 and the emergency meetings of February 9 and 10, 2022 were approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 4-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** A parent said that mask mandates were ending everywhere except schools. She said the governor will decide about schools after the February break. She wants masks to be optional for the students.

Michael Walling said the event at the golf course was very well attended and the students were very good.

Mary Dugan said there was great support for the MCS athletes at the Tri-Valley Championship game. There was a lot of school spirit. Our team won at the end of the third overtime. It was great to see after the last couple of years.

Heather Powell gave the Board a report about her music curriculum. We have 22 students in the high school band, 23 in the middle school band and 20 in the jazz band. Ms. Powell said the elementary band is up and running. Five students went to All County at GMU. The students are preparing for concerts, NYSMA, the Memorial Day Parade, etc. The PK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade concert is on April 29; the 4-6 concert is on June 9. Ms. Powell thanked the Board again for allowing the senior band to go to the Trills and Thrills and hopes that next year the junior band will also be able to go.

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

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the 2022-2023 Budget, BOCES Costs and the Tax Cap. The budget is close to finalizing. BOCES cost is expected to be less than this year, depending on special education. The Tax Cap is at 2.46%. We are able to raise the taxes up to that limit without needing a super majority vote.

Matthew Sheldon discussed the Reserve Plan with the Board. The Plan shows what money is in each reserve. We are moving money into the Capital Reserve to help pay for a future Capital Project. We are moving money into the Vehicle Reserve. If we have a very tight budget in the future, we will be able to use that reserve to pay for the bus purchased instead of bonding for the bus. Money is also being put into the TRS and ERS Reserves to pay for the cost of retirement for teachers and staff. We are moving money from the Tax Certiorari Reserve to the General Fund. The Tax Certiorari Reserve pays for appeals won by property owners appealing their property assessment.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Capital Outlay Project bids. We received two bids. Both were high and Mr. Sheldon said he wants to talk to the Board about them in executive session before the Board votes on them.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the possible Capital Project. Mr. Sheldon said that the project with the bus garage is estimated at \$7,819,745 and without the bus garage it is estimated at \$3,919,745.



We need a new PA system. The estimate for a new system is \$288,000. This might be able to go into the stimulus funding.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the new Mask Mandate. The Governor is supposed to make a decision about masks in schools after the winter break. Our questions are if the mask mandate is dropped are the quarantine regulations and social distancing regulations changing. If they don't change after dropping masks, entire classrooms may have to be quarantined for one positive case. We have had several positive cases in the last week or so. The consensus of the Board was if the mandate was lifted the parents should be able to choose if their children will wear a mask or not.

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

Katharine Smith gave the Board an Assessment Update. The NAEP was given today. Twenty-two students took the test. The two proctors spoke very highly of our students' behavior and effort they put into the exam. 3-8 ELA state exams will take place at the end of March. We will be using a total of 29 proctors. We will also need 25 rooms or offices in order to accommodate all the testing needs. A letter will be sent home to parents after the break. We received the ordering information on Wednesday for the June Regents exams and ordered them today. At this time there is no information regarding the possibility of canceling these exams or providing the students with the exemption option.

Katharine Smith spoke to the Board about Safety and Drills. The Early Dismissal Drill will be February 18; students are dismissed at 2:35. Notices were sent home to parents. We have one more lockdown drill and four fire drills that will take place when it warms up. We are also looking at the possibility of an off-site evacuation drill later in the spring. We usually evacuate to the churches and the buses go to the churches and pick the students up. We have not done this since the pandemic started. We have many new teachers and bus drivers.

Katharine Smith told the Board both our varsity basketball teams achieved scholar athlete status. Our fall teams were also designated as scholar athletes.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about Student Events. Next week is winter break. The Lady Mustangs will play Schenevus at Schenevus on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. The Drama Club performance has been moved to March 12 at 7:00 p.m. and March 13 at 2:00 p.m. Performers will get four tickets per show and a number of additional tickets will be set aside for students and staff members who would like to attend. Outdoor Club will have ice skating and hockey at the Cooperstown Village Rink on March 2. The bus leaves at 3:15 and returns at 6:10 p.m.

Katharine Smith spoke to the Board about APPR. The State Education Committee voted to send a bill suspending teacher and principal evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year. The bill now needs a sponsor in the assembly. Regardless, we have all evaluations done and our student measure is in place.

**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 Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0:**

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants # 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 76, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Statements for the month of January 2022, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Reports for the month of January 2022 as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District designates Matthew Sheldon to represent the District on the governing Board of the Catskill Area Schools Employee Benefit Plan for the plan year 2021-2022. In the event this officer is unable to attend the Board meeting for a specific month, the District's interim designee will be Shannon Harrington.



5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves merging the Morris Central School Varsity Softball team with the Edmeston Central School Varsity Softball team for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves merging the Morris Central School Varsity and Modified Track teams with the Edmeston Central School Varsity and Modified Track teams for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Reserve Plan as presented.
8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve moving funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the following Reserves:  
  
\$55,000 to the TRS Reserve  
\$50,000 to the ERS Reserve  
\$200,000 to the Vehicle Reserve  
\$1,000,000 to the Capital Reserve  
  
Total: \$1,305,000
9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve moving \$38,917 from the Tax Certiorari Reserve to the General Fund.
10. Approval of the 2022-2023 School Calendar.

**The following personnel items 1 through 12 were approved as presented on the Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 4-0:**

1. Approval of Lisa Rozanski receiving the Extra Challenging Stipend of \$1.00 per hour, retroactive to November 1, 2021. If Mrs. Rozanski's position changes and the stipend is no longer warranted it will be removed.
2. Approval of Caitlin Smith's request for one unpaid leave day on March 25, 2022 for family reasons. She is using her personal days on March 22, 23, and 24. The dates were corrected from the agenda.
3. Approval of Sarah Saggese's request for two unpaid leave days on March 10 and 11, 2022 for family reasons. She is using her personal days on March 7, 8, and 9, 2022.
4. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, the following probationary appointment is hereby made:
  - a) Name of Appointee: Victoria Mylock
  - b) Tenure Area: Elementary Education
  - c) Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: February 28, 2022
  - d) Expiration Date of Appointment: \* February 28, 2026
  - e) Certification Status: Childhood Edu. (Gr. 1-6), Initial. Exp. 1/31/2027  
Early Childhood Edu. (Birth-Gr. 2), Initial, Exp. 1/31/2027
  - f) Salary: \$40,000, prorated 2/28/22-6/30/22

\*To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law §§2509, 2573, 3121, and 3014. in order to be granted tenure the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, her or she will not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, *classroom teacher* and *building principal* mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in the Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this Part.



5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves Matthew Sheldon as Qualified Lead Evaluator for the teachers' evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves Matthew Sheldon as Qualified Independent Evaluator for the teachers' evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves Matthew Sheldon as Qualified Evaluator and Qualified Independent Evaluator for the Principal's evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year.
8. Approval of tenure for Heather Powell, effective September 1, 2022, is hereby made:
  - a) Name of Appointee: Heather Powell
  - b) Tenure Area: Music
  - c) Date of Commencement of Service of Tenure: September 3, 2019
  - d) Certification Status: Music, Professional
9. Number 9 is removed; it is a duplicate of number 4 under Personnel.
10. Approval of the following Spring 2022 Coaches:
  - Varsity Baseball – Pat Harmer with a stipend of \$3,752
  - Modified Baseball – Michael Gregg with a stipend of \$1,943
  - Varsity Softball – Julene Waffle with a stipend of \$3,331
  - Modified Softball – Maria Deysenroth with a stipend of \$1,938 (6 yrs. exp. maximum allowed by the MTA Contract.)
  - Varsity Track – Jeffrey Rhone with a stipend of \$3,168 (5 yrs. exp.)
11. Approval of Richard Daigle, Sr. as a substitute cleaner, retroactive to February 15, 2022 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
12. Approval of Crystal Bevins as a substitute Registered Nurse for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

**Public Comment:** A parent said she appreciates the parents requests to end mask mandates. She said that at this time Otsego County has a high rate of cases. She would like the rate to go down before the mask mandate is removed for schools to help slow the number of cases. She wants the school to be able to stay open and teach the students in person.

The Board went into executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss negotiations, personnel issues, employment of a corporation for the Capital Outlay Project, and CSE on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 4-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:55 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0.

**Business:**

11. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the bid results from Murnane Building Contractors of \$92,000 for the Capital Outlay Project on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 4-0. The bid from Upstate Companies was \$123,000.

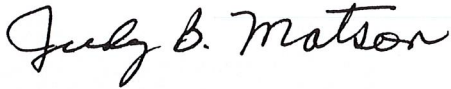
On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans 3232, 2802, and 2616 were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board went back into executive session at 7:56 to discuss personnel issues on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 4-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:00 p.m. on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 4-0.

The Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 4-0.

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 and title.

Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk