

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** January 16, 2020

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

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

**Others Present:** Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent; Principal Katharine Smith; Staff Members April Vunk, Sarah Saggese, Gary Williams; Students Morgan Barnes, Keegan Holt

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Moore at 6:30 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2019 was approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Sarah Saggese and April Vunk gave the Board a report on their seventh through twelfth grade special education curriculum. April Vunk has been in Morris for eighteen years. This year she moved from elementary special education to the secondary. She has a self-contained classroom for grades seven through twelve. Sarah Saggese is a special education resource room teacher for grades eight through twelve. They said that the school was cited for Indicator 13 on our IEPs. Mrs. Vunk and Ms. Saggese printed all of the students IEPs and checked them for being incomplete or noncompliant. One word can make an IEP noncompliant. If any is found the parents have to be contacted to get permission to make the correction. If the parent will not allow the change a new meeting has to be called. We are also responsible for any errors on the IEPs for students that are placed out of our district even though we did not write the IEPs.

Gary Williams gave the Board a report about the Special Education Department. Mr. Williams started his position as Director of Pupil Personnel in October. Mr. Williams said we have two 12-1-1 self-contained classrooms: one for grades kindergarten through three and one for grades four through six and one self-contained classroom for grades seven through twelve. There are three resource rooms, one for grades one through three, one for grades four through seven and one for grades eight through twelve. We have 79 students with IEPs: 34 students in grades kindergarten through six and 45 in grades seven through twelve. We have eleven students in out of district programs. We have eight students going to ONC BOCES programs, one in a DCMO BOCES program, one student at a Unadilla Valley program and one student going to Springbrook. Mr. Williams said he has had very good conversations with the staff to provide more inclusion for our students. We are working on getting April Vunk trained so she can provide TCI training in Morris.

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

Matthew Shelton talked to the Board about a Private School Tuition Increase. We received a very large tuition increase from Pathfinder. The rates are set by the state. They go back two years to set the rates. Mr. Sheldon called the State and was told the rates went up because Pathfinder has had a drop in enrollment over the last two years. We were charged \$42,000 for two students. In the past the charge has been between \$1,200 and \$1,400. We will get aid back on it but it may take ten years to receive it.

Matthew Sheldon gave the Board a Budget Update. Mr. Sheldon said it looks like in some areas the aid went down and in others there is a slight increase. Over all we are doing very good. Michael Walling asked for a separate meeting for a budget workshop and asked for information on last year's budget and actual revenues and expenses compared to the budget. Mr. Sheldon said we would schedule a meeting.



Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the projects. The boilers have been working for the last three weeks. We are waiting until the end of January to make sure the boilers keep working before making the final payment to Picciano. The Smart Bond is really coming along. They are getting ready to install the cameras, strobe lights, and panic buttons. They are having trouble trying to decide what they are going to do with the cafeteria floor for the Capital Outlay Project. The cameras and the bathroom floors in the elementary wing are supposed to be completed during the February break. Mr. Sheldon talked with John Tol for items to go on a possible Capital Outlay Project for next year. Discussed was a door for Headstart, a second exit out of the boiler room, and the parking lot. The parking lot would have to be milled down to the ground in order to receive aid on it. Two years ago the quote was \$75,000. 10% of a Capital Outlay Project has to be done inside the building. We may do one half of the parking lot next year and the other half the following year.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about athletic mergers. We have been merging track with GMU for several years. Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton is merging with Unadilla Valley this year. We can merge with them. It will put us in Class C and move us to the MAC League instead of the Tri-Valley League. Our team would be going to Broome County to play other teams. Mr. Sheldon said he spoke to Laurens Central School. They are merged with Milford Central School for the last three years. Milford has the track. If we merge with Laurens and Milford we would remain as a Class D school in the Tri-Valley. Laurens would be interested in merging for other sports also. After a lengthy discussion by the Board the consensus of the Board is to merge with Laurens and Milford for the Track this year.

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

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades seven through twelve held on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m. Teachers requested 32 conferences and one parent requested a conference. There were 27 conferences scheduled. Ms. Smith said that next year when the five-week notices are sent out they may also send home information about the conferences.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the upcoming events. The midterms were today, tomorrow and Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Regents exams are next week. Four exams will be given. Early dismissal for grades PK-12 is on January 24. Parent/Teachers conferences for grades PK-6 only on January 29, snow date is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Spelling Bee is on January 24 at 9 a.m. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade visit to BOCES for the students interested is on February 5. The Drama Club Production is on February 7 and 8 at 7:00 p.m. An Internet Safety Presentation is on February 10<sup>th</sup> for grades 5 and 6 and grades 7 through 9 put on by the Missing Persons Clearinghouse and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Winter Break is February 17 through 21.

**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 1-3 were approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:**

1. Approval of Warrants 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2019, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Reports for the months of November and December 2019, as presented.

**There were no personnel items.**

**Public Comment:** None

The Board went into executive session at 7:44 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and CSE on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

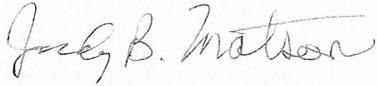


The Board came out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0, the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #3128 was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:21 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk