

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: Mach 18, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

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

Others Present: Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Members Jerome Degan, Brian Roser, Patrick Harmer, Michael Gregg; Students Matthew Wendler, via Zoom

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Jerry Degan talked to the Board about his ELA curriculum. Mr. Degan teaches 7, 8, and College ELA. This year he is also teaching 9th grade ELA. They work on text structure, summarization, comprehension, etc. Mr. Degan has to move to the room the students are in this year, instead of the students coming to his room. Most of the students are doing a pretty good job. It is more challenging for the remote students.

Michael Gregg, Patrick Harmer, and Brian Roser talked to the Board about their social studies curriculum. Michael Gregg teaches US History and Government, College US History, 8th grade Social Studies and Economics. The students read articles and form their own opinions, back up their opinion, share their opinions, etc. The Economics class is working on tracking where the money goes, home purchases, credit use, etc. Patrick Harmer teaches Global 1, Global 2, Participation in Government, College Participation in Government for half a year and the other half College Economics. Global 1 and 2 are not able to work in groups because of COVID. They have packets and hold discussions when the work is done. Mr. Harmer thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Sheldon for the job they are doing to try to get the students back in school safely. Brian Roser teaches 7th grade Social Studies and Life Skills. The students are working on literacy, focusing on reading, writing, and getting ready for the skills needed in high school and Regents exams. Life Skills, the students are working on literacy, organization, study skills, financial skills, etc.

Superintendent's Reports:

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the 2021-2022 Budget. Mr. Sheldon talked about the highlighted items on the budget. At this point, the budget shows a 2.26% tax increase. This will have to be reduced to .82% which is our tax cap. We are still waiting for more information from the state about our state aid.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about transitioning to the new treasurer. Brenda Belden and Alicia Bowen are each working with Shannon Harrington two days a week to bring her up to speed. It is going very well. They will go to one day a week each soon.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the unused snow days. We had planned on using the unused snow days the last week of school, but there will be Regents during that time. Mr. Sheldon said he will meet with Elaine Parker and Mike Iannelli to see where we will use the unused snow days.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about sports. At the Tri-Valley meeting of the superintendents, it was decided that the fall sports would have two home spectators and two visiting team spectators per athlete. Two coaches would be sent with each team, possibly one in a car, in case an athlete shows symptoms and has to be removed. There will be badges for the spectators. If they do not follow the COVID protocol, they will be removed from the game and cannot attend any game for the remainder of the season. There will be one access point and it will be monitored. Passes will be sent home for the parents to use.

Principal's Reports:

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about COVID fatigue. Ms. Smith said some students in high school have been expressing to teachers and counselors that they are having symptoms of depression, exhaustion, and anxiety, etc. These symptoms are called COVID fatigue due to long term stress of dealing with the restrictions related to COVID. It is mainly seen in students in grades 9-12 and seems to have started to become an issue after they returned to in school instruction four days a week and sports started. The transition has not been easy for some of the students. We are working with Bassett Healthzone to have class presentations on the topic to help students understand what they are feeling and learn about some strategies to deal with the stress and related symptoms.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about transitioning the 9th grade students to in person instruction four days a week. One of the four remote students will return to in person instruction. It looks like we will be ready for the ninth graders to return four days a week on March 29th. We are still working on setting up rooms. The band and chorus rooms will be classrooms for the ninth grade. The cafeteria will be used for at least one study hall. The students will eat in the big gym. We are still working on Mr. Packard's DDP class because it is a large class.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the State Assessment. The Board of Regents met and put in place plans for the assessments in case the waiver request sent to the United States Department of Education is denied. 3-8 ELA and Math exams will be shortened to one day. Only one session will be administered. Individual schools will be given the option to administer Session 2 for school use only. They will be scored in school and the scores will not be sent to the state. Students will NOT be tested remotely. It is being suggested that parents of remote students be given the dates and be offered the opportunity for the students to come to school to take the exams. 4th and 8th grades science exam will be the written portion only. No performance test will be given. The test administration period has been extended. ELA, Algebra, Living Environment, and Earth Science regents will be given. There will be no performance part for the Earth Science Regents. The minutes required for labs have been waived for both science exams. The exams will not be a graduation requirement. The Regents schedules has been altered.

Katharine Smith gave the Board an update about the elementary computer lab. We are at the time in the replacement cycle that the elementary computer lab would have to be updated. All the students currently have Chromebooks. We have decided not to replace the desktops at this time. The PK-4th grade teachers were only going to the lab once a week. Any potential computer-based testing can be done on the students Chromebooks.

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 Michael Walling, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants for #56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2021, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the agreement between the Morris Central School and Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School to share an Occupational therapist for the 2021-2022 school year. Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School is employing the occupational Therapist. Morris Central School will utilize this provider at a level of 0.40 FTE and pay Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School 25% of the costs associated with employing this provider. The cost shall include both salary and benefits. Morris Central School will be billed quarterly.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves rescinding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Morris Central School District and

the Morris Teachers Association for adding a Cross-Country Coach to the MTA Contract for the 2020-2021 school year. We did not have enough athletes for a team.

6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve the certified results of the Bus Vote held on March 17, 2021 as follows:

Yes: 26 No: 2 Total: 28

7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the election official for the bus vote held on March 17, 2021 as follows

Lois Jones, Deb Newell, Elaine Frederick, Dale Hungerford, Lucy Holcombe, Kathy Kodrich;
Chief Election Officials Cindy Gumble, Elaine Parker

8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the bus bond resolution as follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 18, 2021 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES, AUTHORIZING BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN CONTEMPLATION THEREOF, THE LEVY OF TAXES IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURES OF SUCH SUMS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, as attached. (See Attachment #1)

9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Communicable Disease – Pandemic Plan as presented.

10. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the merger of the Morris Central School and Laurens Central School varsity and modified baseball teams for the 2021 spring season.

The following personnel items 1 through 8 were approved as presented on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of the resignation of Samantha Pylinski as a teacher aide effective March 1, 2021.
2. Approval of the resignation of Rebecca Scofield as a teacher aide effective April 9, 2021.
3. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District rescinds the contract for cross-country coach with Liana Garry approved at the February 25, 2021 Board meeting. There were not enough athletes for a team.
4. Approval of Mike D'Amico as an unpaid assistant coach for the track team for 2021.
5. Approval of Liana Garry as an assistant to the athletic teams for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Garry's stipend will be \$1,600.
6. Approval of Lindsey Laing as a long-term substitute for the maternity leave of Carly Norton expected to start on or about April 8, 2021 through the end of the school year. Ms. Laing's stipend will be \$197.50 per diem.
7. Approval of Sarah Harvey as a permanent substitute upon completion of her long-term subbing for Deidra Forgit's maternity leave on or about April 12, 2021. Ms. Harvey's stipend will be \$115 per diem. She is eligible for individual health insurance with a contribution of 20%.
8. Approval of Lisa Marino as a probationary teacher aide starting on March 15, 2021. Mrs. Marino's salary will be \$15,438, prorated March 15 through June 25, 2021.

Public Comment: None

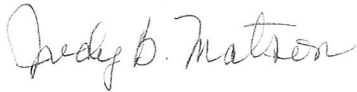
The Board went into executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and CSE on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:50 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #3063, 2570, 2677, 2955, 2953, 2886, 2750, 2756, and 2719 was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 7:51 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy B. Matson".

Judy B. Matson
District Clerk

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ADOPTING BOND RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, New York, held at the District Offices in Morris, New York, on the 18th day of March, 2021:

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

ABSENT: None

Michael Walling presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Mary Dugan:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 18, 2021 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES, AUTHORIZING BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN CONTEMPLATION THEREOF, THE LEVY OF TAXES IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH SUMS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the Morris Central School District, New York, at a special meeting of such voters duly held on March 17, 2021, duly approved a proposition authorizing the levy of taxes to be collected in installments, in the manner provided by the Education Law, for the specific objects or purposes hereinafter described; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Morris Central School District has undertaken or shall undertake certain capital expenditures, as more particularly described in Section 3 hereof.

Section 2. The Morris Central School District is hereby authorized to issue its General Obligation Serial Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$153,658, pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York, in order to finance the specific objects or purposes described herein.

Section 3. The specific objects or purposes to be financed pursuant to this resolution (hereinafter referred to as "purpose") are the acquisition of one (1) 65-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$126,853, and one Chevy Traverse at an estimated maximum cost of \$26,805, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$153,658.

Section 4. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) the maximum aggregate cost of said purpose, as estimated by the Board of Education, is \$153,658, and such amount is hereby appropriated therefor, (b) the Morris Central School District plans to finance the cost of said purpose entirely from funds raised by the issuance of said Bonds and the Bond Anticipation Notes hereinafter referred to, and (c) no money has heretofore been authorized to be applied to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 5. It is hereby determined that the purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 29 of Paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is five (5) years.

Section 6. The Morris Central School District is hereby authorized to issue its Bond Anticipation Notes in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$153,658, and is hereby authorized to issue renewals thereof, pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York in order to finance the purpose in anticipation of the issuance of the above described Bonds.

Section 7. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) there are presently no outstanding Bond Anticipation Notes issued in anticipating of the sale of said Bonds, (b) the Bond Anticipation Notes authorized hereby are not issued in anticipation for Bonds for an assessable improvement.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and declared that the Morris Central School District reasonably expects to reimburse the general fund, or such other fund utilized, not to exceed the maximum amount authorized herein, from the proceeds of the obligations authorized hereby for expenditures, if any, from such fund that may be made for the purpose prior to the date of issuance of such obligations. This is a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation §1.150-2.

Section 9. The faith and credit of the Morris Central School District, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes as the same respectively become due and payable. And annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all taxable real property of said School District, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 10. The power to further authorize the issuance of said Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said Bonds

and Bond Anticipation Notes, subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Local Finance Law of New York, including without limitation, the consolidation with other issues, the determination to issue Bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, whether to authorize the receipt of bids in an electronic format, and to sell and deliver said Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education or to the Vice President of the Board in the event of the absence or unavailability of the President. The President of the Board of Education and the District Clerk are hereby authorized to sign by manual or facsimile signature any Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes issued pursuant to this resolution, and are hereby authorized to affix to such Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes the corporate seal of the School District and to attest the same.

Section 11. This resolution, or a summary hereof, shall be published in full by the District Clerk of the School District together with a notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of said Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the School District. The validity of said Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said School District is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity, is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 12. 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:

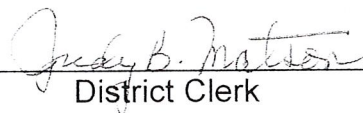
1. A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, State of New York, was held on March 18, 2021, and Minutes of said meeting have been duly recorded in the Minute Book kept by me in accordance with law for the purpose of recording the minutes of meetings of said Board.

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, 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 18 day of March, 2021.



District Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE PURSUANT TO
LOCAL FINANCE LAW SECTION 81.00

The bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, was adopted on March 18, 2021, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such bond resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Morris Central School District is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Judy B. Matson
District Clerk
Morris Central School District,
New York

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 18, 2021 OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION
OF SCHOOL BUSES, AUTHORIZING BOND
ANTICIPATION NOTES IN CONTEMPLATION THEREOF,
THE LEVY OF TAXES IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN
PAYMENT THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH
SUMS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING
OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Object or Purpose: the acquisition of one (1) 65-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$126,853, and one Chevy Traverse at an estimated maximum cost of \$26,805, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$153,658.

Period of Probable Usefulness and
Maximum Permissible Term of Any Borrowing: five (5) years.

Amount of Debt Obligations Authorized: up to \$153,658.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the School District Clerk of the Morris Central School District, Morris, New York.

Dated: March 18, 2021
Morris, New York