

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** October 14, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

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

**Others Present:** Dr. Shannon Babbie, Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Member Mike Packard; Community Members Todd Gould, Kristin Winn, Lynette MacLeman, Christopher MacLeman, Victoria Pegg, Tom Connally, Janelle Brown; Students Triana Hawkins, Ethan Wagner, Fiona Ventura, Laurel Brigham, Jackson Harp, Aidan Ryther, Jeffrey Bourgois

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Dugan at 6:33 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 22, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0

**Correspondence:** Mary Dugan shared thank you cards with the Board from Heather Powell and the MCS Senior Band.

**Public Comment:** Several parents talked about their children being quarantined for ten days because they were in close contact with a person in school that tested positive for COVID. The parents felt the children are being isolated, they cannot go to school, play sports or see their friends. They thought that the children would not have to be quarantined if they were distanced six feet apart. The parents talked about the amount of homework sent home for elementary students and about their concerns that their children would fall behind because they are not in school. The parents were concerned that there will be a forced mandate to get all children five years old and older vaccinated for COVID.

A representative from Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. talked to the Board about doing a possible \$12,805,000 Capital Project. It would help keep us from having spikes in loans and keep our state aid for projects steady. Our aid back on a project is 84.6%. There is no scope for the project, at this point and the size could change. The timeline suggests a vote on the project in May 2022, approval from SED by May 2023 and construction starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Mike Packard took the Board members to his classroom to demonstrate the CNC Router. The Board thanked Mr. Packard for his demonstration.

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

Dr. Babbie told the Board that the school paid \$25,000 for the flood damage and insurance paid \$47,500 of the damage.

Dr. Babbie shared the 2022-2023 Budget Timeline with the Board.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that Amy Gerhartz is on the agenda for approval as the new Director of Pupil Personnel. Mrs. Gerhartz will be starting on November 1, 2021.

Dr. Babbie said because we are in a High Zone for COVID the Rotary Halloween Party will not be held at the school this year. It will be held outside behind the Morris Firehouse.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that Open House will be held virtually this year because of the high number of COVID cases in the area.

Dr. Babbie told the Board the unvaccinated employees or employees that do not want to tell their vaccination status are tested for COVID weekly. We will be able to open the testing up for vaccinated employees on October 18 and students on October 25.



Dr. Babbie told the Board that School District Foundation Aid is being restored.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that the scheduled visit from Representative Delgado had to be rescheduled until sometime in November. Representative Delgado was called back to Washington D.C.

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

Katharine Smith gave the Board an update about the Superintendent's Conference Day. A large group of elementary teachers along with Jerry Degan worked on training and planning for the pilot of one possible new ELA curriculum for grades K-8. The pilot will begin soon and run through December. They hope to have a decision in January either to go ahead with the pilot program or pilot a different program. There was a great deal of collaboration by other teachers during the conference day. All teachers submitted a personal professional development proposal for the day, which included who they were working with, what they were working on, and the expected outcomes for the day.

Katharine Smith gave the Board a COVID Update. 22 students were sent home last week as close contacts to positive COVID cases. We had four positive COVID cases among students and staff. Ms. Smith said there have been questions about contact tracing. We do not make our own rules for contact tracing. We follow what we are given by the Department of Health. We have had 3 or 4 different versions to follow since before school started. Originally, if students were at 6 feet apart even while eating, they would not have to be quarantined. During our last contact tracing events, we were told students need to be more than 6 feet apart, in order to avoid quarantine. We were surprised, we had spaced all the students 6 feet apart while they were eating, according to the previous guidelines. We understand and acknowledge the confusion. The CDC may set a recommendation, but our DOH may adopt more stringent guidelines. A typical contact tracing event for one positive case takes on an average 6 to 8 hours to complete.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about CROP. CROP attendance is averaging about 55 students a night. We have four groups, K-1, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4-8. Our enrollment is around 80. Themes for September included Friends and Feelings, focusing on Social Emotional Learning. October's theme is Fall & Halloween for K-2 and Courage and Fall for 3-8. October starts our Cornell Cooperative Extension Kids Cooking In The Kitchen. We have eight families signed up. This will be a virtual class every Tuesday night from 5:30 to 6:30 with a total of eight lessons.

Katharine Smith gave the Board a hiring update. We are hiring a teacher aide for our primary 8:1:1 class. Mrs. Chicorelli interviewed a person today and has another interview tomorrow.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about Upcoming Student Events. 10/21 Fall Concert grades 9-12 at 6:30 p.m. 10/29 Halloween Parade at 2:15, tentative. 11/10 PK-6 Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m. 11/11 No school, Veterans Day. 11/12 First Quarter Ends. 11/15 Varsity Winter Sports begins. 11/18 Early dismissal PK-6 at 11:00 a.m. for Parent Conferences held from 11:30 to 7:00 p.m. For grades 7-12 conferences will be 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants # 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Statements for the month of September 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2021, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the merger of the Morris Central School Golf Team and the Unadilla Valley, and Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School Golf Teams, retroactive to August 26, 2021.



5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Type II SEQRA for the Outlay Project as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Morris Central School District ("District") Board of Education ("Board") is proposing work to be performed at various District buildings under the 100K Capital Outlay Project (SED 47-12-01-04-0-001-013 and 47-12-01-04-0-002-009) including providing exterior brick repointing, firestopping at the science classroom walls, replacing the Head Start Entrance Door and adding a door in the storage room along with some exterior sidewalk replacement ("Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, as the scope of the Project is a routine activity of the District which qualifies as a Type II action as set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5, of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the information and documentation, which describe the design and intent for the proposed Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, based upon the record before it, including the general, specific, and detailed knowledge of the Board of the proposed Project and pursuant to the applicable standards of Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 of SEQRA, the Morris Central School District Board of Education does hereby determine that the proposed Project is classified as a Type II Action, and accordingly, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

6. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants # 36, 37, and 38, as presented.

**The following personnel items 1 through 10 were approved as presented on the motion Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:**

1. Approval of Rachel Wisniewski as a CROP Activity Leader for the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive to September 28, 2021. Ms. Wisniewski's stipend is \$18.00 per hour.
2. Approval of Kathy Bechtold as a mentor for Rhonda Burnside with a stipend of \$200.
3. Approval of Deidra Forgit and Jenna Turner as Student Council Advisors for the 2021-2022 school year, with a stipend of \$450 each, retroactive to August 26, 2021.
4. Approval of Laura Hazen working at the reception desk from 3 to 4 p.m. three days a week during CROP, retroactive to September 22, 2021. Ms. Hazen is receiving \$21.83 per hour.
5. Approval of Miriam Koroma-Annan as a substitute teacher (NC), retroactive to September 28, 2021.
6. Approval of Lisa Rozanski as a probationary teacher aide effective November 1, 2021. Mrs. Rozanski's salary will be \$16,427, prorated November 1, 2021 through June 24, 2022.
7. Approval of the following winter coaches:
  - Boys Varsity Basketball – Gerry Joy with a stipend of \$3,526
  - Boys JV Basketball – TBD
  - Boys Modified Basketball – TBD
  - Girls Varsity Basketball – Rhoda Flint with a stipend of \$4,893
  - Girls JV Basketball – Claire Fraser with a stipend of \$2,685
  - Girls Modified Basketball – Sarah Saggese with a stipend of \$1,879
  - Cheerleader Advisor – Trista Hilts with a stipend of \$1,400
8. Approval of the probationary appointment of Amy Gerhartz as the Director of Pupil Personnel effective November 1, 2021. Mrs. Gerhartz' salary will be \$80,000, prorated November 1,

2021 through June 30, 2022. Part of Mrs. Gerhartz' salary is working 20 days during the summer. Mrs. Gerhartz will be training with Deborah Chicorelli.

9. Approval of SUCO student Carolyn Raio as a substitute teacher (NC) and teacher aide on Fridays for the 2021-2022 school year.

10. Approval of SUCO student Lauren Murphy as a substitute teacher (NC) and teacher aide on Fridays for the 2021-2022 school year.

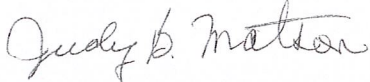
**Public Comment:** A parent talked about the teachers' masks making it harder for the students to hear or understand them, contract tracing and testing.

The Board went into executive session at 7:41 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 on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:48 p.m. on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 8:49 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Emily Boss, 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