

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: November 18, 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 Amy Gerhartz, Shannon Harrington; Students Aiden Moore, Jackson Harp, Ethan Wagner, Kendall Gould, Aiden Ryther, Jeffrey Bourgois; Community Members Holly Pasternak, Diana Kara, Kristin Winn, Todd Gould, Tom Connelly, Rebecca Barringer, Matt Atcher, Merissa Morlock, Janelle Brown, Christopher MacLeman, Lynette MacLeman, Victoria Pegg

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0

Correspondence: None

Be It Resolved that the Morris Central School District of the Morris Central School District approves moving Public Comment from here to after the Principal's Reports on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 5-0.

Superintendent's Reports:

Dr. Babbie talked to the Board about consolidating the Community Bank accounts. By consolidating the accounts, the school can earn about \$500 a month and have a school credit card. The card would be used by the Superintendent, Principal, and Treasurer.

Dr. Babbie told the Board there would be an Otsego County Department of Health meeting at the school on November 22 at 1:00 p.m. Heidi Bond will be here to answer questions. The meeting will be open to the public and follow procedural guidelines.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that on Tuesday we were forced to go remoted for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday due to COVID. We are looking at alternate schedules to use when we are short staffed in the bus garage.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that due to the County funded ELC Grant we will be able to bring in an Itinerant RN from BOCES to administer the weekly COVID testing starting on December 1, 2021. We will be able to start testing vaccinated staff and students.

Dr. Babbie talked to the Board about the difficulty he had finding a school psychologist. A retired school psychologist, Amy Gerhartz knows, is willing to come in one day a week. He is on the addendum for approval.

Dr. Babbie shared the results of the Capital Project Thought Exchange Survey with the Board. 56 people responded to the survey.

Dr. Babbie told the Board that Representative Antonio Delgado was here last week. He presented the awards to the participants and winner of the bookmark contest.

Principal's Reports:

Katharine Smith gave the Board an update about the 3-8 Assessments. Last year NYSED submitted a waiver to the United States Department of Education for the 3-8 assessments, which was denied. The test format was shorter and only students attending school in person were required to take the exam. Statewide four out of ten students took the state assessment. NYSED is cautioning all schools that when

reviewing the data that the assessment results are not representative of the state student population and that year over year comparison should not be made.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the National Assessment of Education Progress. We have been selected to participate in the 2022 administration for the National Assessment. It is not optional and under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) we are required to participate for Title I Funding. The results are reported by state and national-level. No tabulation results are reported at the local level. An assessment team comes to the school to administer the exams. The assessments are set for February 17, 2022, our 8th grade will be participating. More information will be shared when it is received.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the upcoming student events. 11/23 is early dismissal for all students, faculty and staff at 11:00. 12/15 is the 7-12 Winter Concert in the big gym and live streamed at 6:30 p.m. There is a limit of three to five guests per family. We are not sure if the Junior Band will be ready to perform. 12/21 is the PK-6 Winter Concert at 1:00 p.m. in the small gym and live streamed. There will be a limit of two guests per family with staggered performance times. PK-3 will be class performances and grades 4-6 will be the students who participate in chorus. It is likely that the elementary band will not perform at this concert. 12/22 is early dismissal for all students at 11:00. Faculty and staff will be dismissed at 1:00.

Public Comment:

A parent was upset because the parent conferences were changed to remote meetings and she wasn't able to set with the teacher. She said they had been looking forward to concerts for two years and the 4-6 grade concert was canceled. She listed a number of events besides the Halloween Parade that could be causing the rise in COVID numbers. She said that vaccinated people can spread COVID and want the parents to have the right to do what they think is best. Another parent wanted to know why a rapid test could not be used for a student to be allowed back in school. Dr. Babbie told her to ask Heidi Bond at the public meeting next week. A student said it is hard to wear a mask all day in school, she cannot see her friends faces, and they cannot all eat together. She was upset about the concert and the schools Halloween Parade being canceled. Another parent said that other schools are allowing the rapid test to be used for the students to return to school. Why couldn't the gym or cafeteria be used for the parent-teacher conferences.

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

1. Approval of Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants # 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Statements for the month of October 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2021, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District accepts the Morris Central School Audit Committee's recommendation to approve the External Audit Report for the 2020-2021 school year prepared by Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, P.C.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Tax Collector's Report for 2021, as presented.
6. Approval of the Budget Timeline for the 2022-2023 Budget Vote.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the revision of Dr. Shannon Babbie's Contract to include three personal days, retroactive to November 10, 2021.

8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves BCA Architects for the 2022 Capital Project Pre-Referendum Services in the amount of \$10,000. The anticipated vote on the project is May 17, 2022.
9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves consolidating the Community Bank Accounts.
10. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves acquiring a credit card from Community Bank for the Morris Central School District. The Board also gives the Superintendent, Principal and Treasurer permission to use the card.
11. Approval of the Claim Auditor's Reports and Warrants 49, 50, and 51.

The following personnel items 1 through 12 were approved as presented on the motion Russell Tilley, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 5-0:

1. Approval of the resignation of Jennifer Mattocks, as a probationary special education teacher, retroactive to October 21, 2021.
2. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Katharine Smith, as principal, effective July 1, 2022.
3. Approval of Kallie Jaquay as a long-term substitute for Caitlin Smith, retroactive to November 3, 2021. Ms. Smith is covering the position Jennifer Mattocks held, until a certified teacher is hired. Ms. Jaquay will be paid \$200 per diem. If a special education teacher is hired, Ms. Jaquay will return to her position as permanent substitute at \$120 per diem.
4. Approval of Tritny Knapp as a substitute teacher (NC), teacher aide, and LTA, retroactive to October 22, 2021.
5. Approval of Tritny Knapp as a permanent substitute (NC) retroactive to November 4, 2021. Ms. Knapp's stipend is \$115 per day, on December 5, 2021, Ms. Knapp goes to \$120 per diem. If a certified teacher is hired as a permanent substitute Ms. Knapp may return to being a per diem substitute. As a permanent substitute, Ms. Knapp is eligible for individual health insurance with a 20% contribution.
6. Approval of Victoria Mylock as a long-term substitute (NC) for Michele Pepe's position. Ms. Mylock will be paid \$100 per diem, retroactive to October 25, 2021. After Ms. Mylock graduates from SUCO in December Ms. Mylock will be paid \$200 per diem with no benefits. (Ms. Mylock graduated on December 5, 2021.)
7. Approval of the maternity leave of Kelly Palmer starting on or about February 8, 2022 through approximately April 18, 2022. Mrs. Palmer is planning on returning to work on April 19, 2022. Mrs. Palmer will use up her remaining sick and personal days and the remainder of her leave will be unpaid.
8. Approval of Roxanne Campo as a probationary teacher aide, retroactive to November 3, 2021. Ms. Campo's salary is \$17,663, prorated November 3, 2021 through June 24, 2022.
9. Approval of Scott Wetmore as a permanent substitute (C) effective December 8, 2021. Mr. Wetmore will be paid \$140.81 per diem. He was given five years' experience for the years he taught at Morris Central School. Mr. Wetmore is eligible for individual health insurance with a 20% contribution.
10. Approval of Scott Wetmore as an after-school tutor. Mr. Wetmore will be paid \$25 per hour.
11. Approval of the following basketball coaches:

Head Boys JV Coach – Shawn Aikins with a stipend of \$1,300
Assistant Boys JV Coach – Cameron Best with a stipend of \$1,300

12. Approval of Steven Wilk as a part-time School Psychologist starting on December 2, 2021. Mr. Wilk will be paid \$350 per diem. If he works from home, he will be paid \$50.00 per hour.

Public Comment:

A parent spoke about the sudden surprise that the school went remote. He wanted more transparency for parents. Many parents would be willing to transport their children. He would prefer that his children are in class than being taught remotely. Zoom would be more interactive for remote classes. He said they are left to wonder what is happening when there are no responses after a Board meeting.

Mary Dugan said the Board appreciated their thoughts. There have been some good suggestions. There is always a balance on what can be said and what is confidential.

The Board went into executive session at 7:12 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 Emily Boss, seconded by Wendy Moore, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:04 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0, the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans # 3252, 2772, 2611, 2933, were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:05 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Wendy Moore, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson
District Clerk