

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** November 21, 2019

**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 Mallory Jorgensen, Caitlin Smith, Jody Bolton; Students Kassie Boss (daughter of BOE member Emily Boss), Anastasia Edwards, Kylie Brigham, Jan Meyer, Scott Strain, Hannah Tilley (daughter of BOE member Russell Tilley), Mollie Dugan (daughter of BOE member Mary Dugan); Tax Collector Joseph Tyson; Nicole Connolly, McKenzie Keator, Katie Bellman, Katelynn George

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 10, 2019 was approved as presented on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** Matthew Sheldon said he read a report about how college ready our students that graduated in 2012-2013 were. We were ranked fourth in the state for students graduating on time from college.

Mallory Jorgensen gave the Board an update on the transportation department. This year we plan to purchase one 65-passenger propane school bus, one 35-passenger gas school bus, and one Suburban. The plow will come off the Suburban we have now and put on the new vehicle. The 35-passenger will replace bus 103, which will have over 100,000 miles on it when traded in. The 65-passenger will replace bus 97. Mrs. Jorgensen said we have a new substitute bus driver, Matthew Atcher. He is doing an excellent job. She has also called in Stan Leonard to sub as a bus driver. The mechanics from New York Bus Sales are working out well. They recently had a bus inspection and all five buses passed. Mrs. Jorgensen said they changed lift companies from Jim Rogers to Filtrec. The lift is safe to use, but still needs more work done on it. There are new Drug and Alcohol laws which the drivers and the District must conform to. Starting January we will be able to monitor positive drug and alcohol screens through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Joseph Tyson gave the Board the annual Tax Collector's Report. There were 2004 parcels. We have 1650 parcels that the taxes were paid and 354 unpaid parcels. Total receipts collected; including the 2% late charge is \$2,368,448.16. The amount owed on the school taxes is \$23,880.84.

Caitlin Smith and Jody Bolton gave the Board an update on the elementary special education curriculum. Ms. Smith teaches kindergarten through fourth grade resource rooms. She has 18 students. Ms. Smith looks at the annual goals of the students and breaks the goals down quarterly. She is doing a lot of sight words with her students. The students have been sounding out the words. This cuts their fluency and comprehensive. The students do five sight words a week. Jody Bolton has a self-contained special education classroom for grades fourth through sixth. She teaches all subject areas, including life skills. They cook in the classroom. Mrs. Bolton wants them to master crockpot cooking. She has three math and three reading groups in the morning and works on life skills, social studies, and science in the afternoon. Mrs. Bolton said they are working on positive behavior. The students can earn stickers that can be used to earn computer time, painting time, and goodies. Some of the students go to regular education science and social studies, with the tests being modified.

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

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the capital projects. We are still having problems with the boilers put in during the 2016 project. We need to send in the Certificate of Substantial Completion by December 31, 2019 to receive full state aid on the project this school year. If sent in after December 31 we will only receive partial aid payment for this school year. We are not going to pay the company in full that

put in the boilers until they are both working properly. Boiler number 2 is still shutting down. We may have to get our lawyers involved. The Smart Bond project has started. They are digging trenches for the cable from the school to the bus garage. They are getting ready for the cameras inside and outside the building. The Outlay Project has started. They are working on the EIFS system outside the cafeteria. The Outlay Project is supposed to be completed by the end of the February break.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about our safety plan. The Comptroller is auditing districts safety plans. The Crisis Committee went over the template to see what is missing from our plan. We have about 90% of the information in our plan. We will need to move somethings from the District Safety Plan to the Building Safety Plan. We have a Building Crisis Team but will need to put together a District Team which consists of Board members, community members, parents, etc. The team will meet once a year to go over the safety plan.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about a three-way track merger. We have merged with GMU for four years for track. This year GMU and Unadilla Valley are merging their track teams and asked if we wanted to merge with them. This would move us from Class C to a Class D school. There would need three coaches; a head coach and two assistant coaches. Mr. Sheldon said this year we probably should do it. Schools are having trouble getting enough athletes for teams and are merging with other schools for several different sports. The Board discussed the various aspects of merging teams in various sports.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the BOCES Refund and State Aid Run. BOCES cannot have a reserve and has to send the unused money back to the districts annually. The amount of the refund could lower our state aid.

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

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the end of the first quarter and the reports cards. We had 21 out of 141 students in grades 7-12 failing one class and seven were failing more than one class. Ms. Smith had not received the academic honors list in time for the Board meeting.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the recent early dismissals. Ms. Smith said there were three early dismissals this month. Bag lunches were provided to the students that requested them. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 66 bag lunches went home with the PK-6 grade students.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Last year was the first time we had evening parent/teacher conferences. The elementary try to meet with the parents of all their students. The conferences started at 11:30 today. In grades 7-12 conferences are scheduled at the request of the teachers or the parents. There were 49 requests for conferences; three were requested by the parents. 43 conferences have been scheduled and guidance is trying to schedule the remaining conferences. The secondary teachers have requested that the next parent/teacher conferences be set up after return from break rather than at the end of the second quarter. This will give more time for intervention if needed.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the upcoming events. Area All-State is Nov. 22 and 23 at SUNY Oneonta. Modified sports start on Nov. 25. There is early dismissal for all students and teachers on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Break is Nov. 27-29. Dec. 3 is the PK-3 Concert at 10:00 a.m. Dec. 12 is the 4-6 Concert at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 18 is the 7-12 Concert at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 19-21 is the Basketball Tournament. Dec. 20 is the annual Senior Citizen's Lunch beginning at 10:30 a.m. All students are dismissed at 11:00 a.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 5 were approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:**

1. Approval of Warrants #18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2019, as presented.

3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2019, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Morris Central School District Response to Audit Findings and Recommendations for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the IPA to purchase the teachers' laptops for the 2020-2021 school year. The price of the laptops is cheaper now than they will be at the end of the school year. The amount of the IPA is \$10,347.92 plus interest to be financed over four years.

**The following personnel items 1 through 7 were approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:**

1. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Terms of Employment for probationary Director of Pupil Personnel, Gary Williams, as attached. (See Attachment #1)
2. Approval of Matthew Atcher as a substitute bus driver, retroactive to October 17, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school years.
3. Approval of Janelle Brown as a substitute teacher (NC) for the 2019-2020 school year.
4. Approval of Kevin Colella as a substitute teacher (NC) for the 2019-2020 school year.
5. Approval of Jessica Kelly as a substitute teacher (NC) for the 2019-2020 school year.
6. Approval of Melinda Webster as a substitute teacher (NC) for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves giving Rebecca Scofield an extra challenging stipend of \$1.00 per hour for working with a special education student, retroactive to October 15, 2019. The extra challenging stipend will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester and again at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The extra challenging stipend will be removed when it is no longer required.

**Public Comment:** None

The Board went into executive session at 7:26 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 Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:48 p.m. on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 5-0, the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #2999, 2933, 3091, 2876, 3123, and 2750 were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 7:50 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WENDY MOORE  
President  
MARY DUGAN  
Vice President  
EMILY BOSS  
RUSSELL TILLEY  
MICHAEL WALLING

**MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL**

PO BOX 40  
65 MAIN STREET  
MORRIS, NEW YORK 13808

**ADMINISTRATION**

MATTHEW SHELDON  
Superintendent  
KATHARINE SMITH  
Principal  
KIMBERLY MURRAY  
Director of Pupil Personnel

October 21, 2019

Gary Williams  
200 Johnston Circle  
Sidney, New York 13838

Dear Gary:

On September 19, 2019, the Morris Central School Board of Education will approve your terms of employment as Director of Pupil Personnel for the 2019-2020 school year, effective October 21, 2019.

If you agree with the following terms of employment, please sign and return to Mrs. Matson.

Sincerely,

  
Matthew L. Sheldon  
Superintendent

MLS/jbm

**Employment Benefits:****2019-2020**

Salary: \$80,000 (Prorated October 21, 2019 through June 30, 2020.)  
Sick Days: 12 per year plus unused personal days with no maximum accumulation. District will accept 25 sick days to transfer from previous employer. The 12 days are prorated October 21, 2019 through June 30, 2020. (10 days)  
Personal Days: 3 prorated October 21, 2019 through June 30, 2020. (2.5 days)  
Working Schedule: 180 days, plus twenty (20) days during the summer  
Paid Holidays: Per MTA contract  
Hire Date: October 21, 2019  
Professional Dues: District will pay for one membership into educationally relevant professional organization agreed upon by employee and superintendent.

**Health Insurance Contribution:** 12% of annual premium for individual or family policy (**Plan U**)

**Dental and Vision Insurance Contribution:** 100% of annual premium for individual or family policy

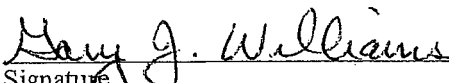
**Bereavement:** 5 days per year. The superintendent may grant additional bereavement days.

**Longevity Stipend:** A longevity stipend will be given after achieving incremental landmarks of service in the District. These landmarks will be at 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service. Longevity stipends will be added to the base salary after the percentage increase for that year has been calculated. Longevity stipends consist of the following: \$300 (10 and 15 years); \$600 (20, 25, and 30 years).

**Retirement Benefits:** Should the Director of Pupil Personnel retire from active service from Morris Central School District (after 10 years of service) under conditions which enable him to retire and receive full retirement benefits under the New York State Teachers Retirement System, the District shall pay the same contribution as agreed to in the Morris Central School's Teachers' Association contract for health insurance family coverage.

Should the Director of Pupil Personnel retire from active service from the Morris Central School District (after 10 years of service) he will receive \$75 for each unused sick day not to exceed two hundred fifteen (215) days for a total sum not to exceed \$15,000.

Dental and Vision Insurance will be provided at retirement as per the MTA contract.

  
Signature

10/21/19  
Date