

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** January 21, 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 Kathy Bechtold, Michael Iannelli; Student Sierra Ratcliff

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2020 was approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Kathy Bechtold talked to the Board about her fourth grade curriculum. Ms. Bechtold teaches math and science. She said her classes are small. The students cannot share manipulatives or other items because of COVID. They have been very good about wearing their masks and social distancing. Ms. Bechtold said her online students have been motivated.

Michael Iannelli talked to the Board about sports. The State has set a tentative date of March 1<sup>st</sup> for sports to start. There has not been a decision made about basketball, yet. Fall sports, soccer and cross-country, will run from March 1 to May 1. Spring sports, baseball, softball and track, will run from April 19 until late June. Remote students will be able to play. Conditioning will start February 1. Mr. Iannelli said he hopes to get the fall sports done before the spring sports start. Matthew Sheldon said the biggest problem will be transportation. The bus drivers are not willing to take extra trips. We have a substitute that is willing to take trips if he is not working at the school he is employed by. Mr. Iannelli said Laurens would like to merge baseball but he doesn't think we will do that this year.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the timeline that Dr. Caty Huber has set for the Superintendent's Search. The position will be posted on February 1. Applications will be due March 1. March 1 -8 will be the initial screening and review of applications. March 11 the Board will meet to review the applications and determine which candidates will return to the District on March 18 for an interview with the Board. The Board will decide which candidates will come back to participate in stakeholder interviews. Depending on the number of candidates, the interviews are scheduled to take place on March 29, 30, and 31, 2021. They are in the process of creating a brochure. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2021.

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

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the vaccination roll out for 1B which includes all school employees. It is almost impossible to get an appointment. The Governor has limited the amount of vaccines the Otsego County Department of Health can receive. 12 employees were able to sign up to receive the vaccination, so far. We do not know if we can have a clinic at the school.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Single Audit for Federal Funds for the 2019-2020 school year. CROP puts us over the \$500,000 limit and a single audit has to be done. Alicia Bowen is working on a Comprehensive Procurement Policy that the auditors said was lacking. The Audit was done by Raymond G. Preusser, C.P.A., P.C.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Budget Transfers Report that is on the agenda for approval. Some items were moved to a different code and others were coded wrong and corrected.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the 2021-2022 school budget. According to the governor's budget we may have a 5% reduction of aid this year instead of a 20% reduction. Mr. Sheldon said they are gathering the information to put the budget together.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Communicable Disease Pandemic Plan. The plan is required by the state to be completed by April 1, 2021. There has been no guidance from the state as to what is supposed to be in the plan. We received a template from Safety Risk that we are using to put the plan together. The plan has to be to the unions in February and must be Board approved. The Crisis/Safety Committee met to go over the plan.

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

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the third quarter Instructional Model. After the Christmas break we had 12 students that switched to remote. Two homeschool students re-enrolled and went to remote learning. As of today we have 54 remote learners for the second quarter. The deadline for parents to decide if their children are going to be remote or in-school learners for the third quarter has been extended to January 25<sup>th</sup>. As of today, we have nine students returning to school that have been remote. Nineteen have already committed to remote learning for the third quarter. We are still waiting to hear back about 26 students. We are looking at the options for one of the first grade with remote learners returning to the class to keep them social distanced. There is a possibility of a concern with one of the fourth grades with students returning. We are looking at increasing instructional time for all students. Based on the number and grade level of the students we can look into bringing 9-11 back with or without Wednesday, or using Wednesday as an instructional day (rotating for grades PK, 9-11). The concerns are maintaining social distancing, space for meals in order to maintain social distancing, transportation, staffing, and room availability. We are already using the auditorium and have begun using the cafeteria for classes.

Katharine Smith told the Board we have not received an update on the State Assessments for this year.

**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 Waling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:**

1. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants for #34, 35, 36, and 37, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Reconciliation for the month of December 2020 as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2020, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the revisions to the External Audit Response as presented.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the bus purchasing resolution as follows:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE 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, LESS TRADE-IN VALUE, IF ANY, AND THAT SUCH COSTS OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS; AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED \$153,658 SHALL BE ISSUED, OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD, as attached. (See Attachment #1)

6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves naming Alicia Bowen as the primary contact for NYLAF and de-activating Katharine Smith as the NYLAF primary contact.
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves waiving the mid-term exams for the 2020-2021 school year.
8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Budget Timeline for the 2021-2022 Budget Vote to be held on May 18, 2021.
9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Budget Transfer Reports, as attached. (See Attachment #2)
10. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Single Audit for Federal Grants prepared by Raymond G. Preusser C.P.A. P.C. for the 2019-2020 school year.

**The following personnel item number one was approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:**

1. Approval of April Vunk as mentor for Kelly Allaire, January 4 through June 30, 2021. Mrs. Vunk's stipend will be \$250, prorated for six months for a total of \$150.

**Public Comment:** Sierra Ratcliff said she and other students feel the school and staff are doing all they can do to get the students what they need.

The Board went into executive session at 7:38 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 Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

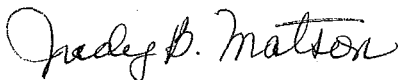
The Board came out of executive session at 8:01 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CPSE students' plans #3181 was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #3184 was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:02 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CALLING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING VOTE ON PROPOSITION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District, New York, held at the District Offices, Morris, New York, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 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 Russell Tilley:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Morris Central School District shall be held at the main entrance of the Morris Central School Building on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.

2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF  
MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Morris Central School District shall be held at the main entrance of the Morris Central School Building on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 PM. The following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at said meeting:

PROPOSITION

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE 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, LESS TRADE-IN VALUE, IF ANY, AND THAT SUCH COSTS, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS; AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED \$153,658 SHALL BE ISSUED, OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots to vote on the proposition may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the aforesaid special district meeting if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before such special district meeting if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued shall be available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk during regular office hours on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote (excluding Saturday and Sunday). An absentee ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of such special district meeting.

DATED: January 21, 2021  
Morris, New York

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

3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$153,658. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES  
5

NAYS  
0

STATE OF NEW YORK }  
  }  
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 January 21, 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 21st day of January, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk

BOCES BUDGET CODE TRANSFERS  
12/17/2020

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
2250.490	127,200.00	1310.490	2,300.00
		1430.490	2,640.00
		1680.490	54,100.00
		1981.490	10.00
		2060.490	41,600.00
		2280.490	50.00
		2330.490	26,300.00
		2610.490	200.00
	<u>127,200.00</u>		<u>127,200.00</u>

July B. Matson  
District Clerk

1/25/21  
Date



NON-BOCES Budget Code Transfers  
12/17/2020

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
1330.160	2,225.00	1330.400	2,225.00
1620.402	7,700.00	1620.410	7,700.00
1621.200	6,990.00	1621.400	6,990.00
2110.400	350.00	2110.400-23	350.00
2110.120	20,550.00	2020.150	300.00
2110.490	40,000.00	2020.160	2,120.00
2250.470	2,180.00	2110.160	56,000.00
9060.800	17,000.00	2110.150	4,000.00
9722.600	4,300.00	2110.200	200.00
9722.700	3,500.00	2250.150	3,450.00
		2610.400	300.00
		2610.450	40.00
		2810.150	2,500.00
		2810.160	50.00
		2810.450	100.00
		2815.400	50.00
		2815.450	1,500.00
		9040.800	7,520.00
		9050.800	9,400.00
			104,795.00
			104,795.00

Miscode budget - not payroll position  
 Underestimate of telephone expenses  
 Carryover not coded same as budget (twice?)  
 Sub-account - NYSSMA fee  
 Equipment over budgeted amount  
 Consultant fee not in budget  
 Library yearbook  
 Parent printing supply  
 AED Supplies/Batteries, Toner  
 Underestimate of Worker's Comp  
 Overpayment - refund - credit balance on account

Judy Watson  
District Clerk

1/21/21  
Date