

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: February 25, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

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

Board Member Absent: Emily Boss

Others Present: Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Members Michele Pepe, Roxanne Harrison, Maria Deysenroth, Dylan Jaklitsch; 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 January 21, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Michele Pepe and Roxanne Harrison talked to the Board about their first grade curriculum. Michele Pepe told the Board that the students cannot share manipulatives, supplies, or have a classroom library because of COVID. Each student has a basket with manipulatives, crayons, pencils, erasers, reader, etc. Roxanne Harrison shared the baskets she uses for her students. Each student has their own basket with the supplies, books, dictionary and a folder for math and one for ELA. They can only work with two students at a time instead of a group of four or five students because of COVID.

Maria Deysenroth and Dylan Jaklitsch talked to the Board about their Physical Education curriculum for the elementary classes. Maria Deysenroth said that because of COVID, PE classes have to be modified. For kickball, Mrs. Deysenroth has dirty ball and clean ball bins. Mrs. Deysenroth does all the pitching. She has a spray bottle to clean the balls. If a student touches the ball they have to hand sanitize. The hardest part is the social distancing. The students have been good about hand sanitizing and wearing their masks. Dylan Jaklitsch said he spends time spacing the students out so they cannot touch each other. He has had classes do obstacle courses on the lawn at the old front, snow shoeing on the soccer field, etc. In the small gym they have to find their spot that is marked on the floor for their warm up time and then move to their wall space for the classes. Mrs. Deysenroth and Mr. Jaklitsch co-teach several of the elementary P.E. classes.

Superintendent's Reports:

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Reserve Plan. We established a Vehicle Reserve on April 12, 2017. The Shared Business Office has the reserve in the Capital Reserve but does not show it separated out. The Capital Reserve has \$624,574 and the Vehicle Reserve has \$30,436. We will use \$10,679 from the EBLAR Reserve in 2020-2021. The Unappropriated Fund was higher than 4% at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We held on to it because we do not know how much aid we are going to lose this year.

Matthew Sheldon told the Board that our Tax Cap for 2021-2022 is 0.82%. We cannot go higher than that without a super majority vote in May.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the BOCES component of the 2021-2022 Budget. Firm Commitments have to be to BOCES by April 1, 2021. The preliminary cost of ONC and DCMO BOCES in 21-22 is \$1,017,000 down from \$1,146,000 this year. The BOCES aid is 68% for 21-22 down from 70%. Transportation aid is 87% for 21-22 down from 90%.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Federal Purchasing Policy. The Auditors felt our purchasing policies were too generic. This policy covers purchasing through federal grants, such as Title Grants, REAP, and CROP, etc.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Athletic Plan. This is required by the governor for high risk sports. The plan may be tweaked after we see how soccer goes. Tri-Valley has been discussing how to have spectators at games.

Principal's Reports:

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the tenth grade students returning to in-person learning four days a week. There are eighteen returning to in-person learning and seven students are doing remote learning. The six feet distance is maintained in all classrooms for instruction. The students have been very cooperative during lunch, with maintaining distance and wearing their masks when not eating. Most students carry their backpack, minimizing the time spent at their lockers. Class dismissals are staggered to cut down the number of students in the hallway at the same time.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the plan to continue re-entry of students to in-person learning. Next week students in Jennifer Mattocks and Jody Bolton's rooms will return to five days a week in-person instruction. If no issues arise tomorrow, the eleventh grade students will return to in-person learning four days a week starting on Monday March 1, 2021. There are twenty-five eleventh grade students. Twenty are doing in-person learning and five are remote learners. We are still working on getting the ninth grade back in school four days a week. There are thirty-six ninth grade students, thirty-one are in-person learners and five are remote learners.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the State Assessments. New York State Education Department submitted a waiver to The United States Department of Education requesting that the federally required state assessments be waived along with the accountability designations that are attached to those assessments. On Monday, The United States Department of Education sent a letter to all state education departments stating that blanket waivers of assessments would not be granted and that the assessments required for ESSA funding would need to be administered. They will, however consider waiving the accountability portion of the requirements. The USDE encouraged states to be flexible in regard to the tests including shortening them and extending the administration timelines. They also indicated that remote students should be tested. We must wait now for the Board of Regents to meet in March and make decisions regarding how and when the tests will be administered.

Katharine Smith gave the Board a student achievement update. 87 of 147 students in grades 7-12 were on an academic achievement list (56%), 11 of these students were remote learners. 34 of 137 students failed one or more classes (23%), eight were remote learners. Of the 34 students, 21 students were failing more than one class (14%), 6 were remote learners.

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 Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0:

1. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants for #38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Reconciliation for the month of January 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.
4. Approval of the Morris Central School Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Reserve Plan, as presented.
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Federal Purchasing Policy, as presented.

7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves Raymond G. Preusser, C.P.A., P.C. as the External Auditor for the Morris Central School District's 2020-2021 External Audit, at a cost of \$12,500.
8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Athletic Plan, as presented.
9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Morris Central School District and the Morris Teachers Association as follows:

For the 2020-2021 School Year, the position of Cross-Country Coach shall be created and added to the Coaching Schedule contained in Section 11.02 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Compensation shall be that of a Varsity sport coach with an entry level of \$2,700 and a cap of \$5,120 per season. This Agreement shall expire June 30th, 2021.

10. Approval of the Auditor's Report and Warrants #52, 53, 54, and 55 as presented.

The following personnel items 1 through 5 were approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 4-0:

1. Approval of Sarah Harvey as a long-term substitute to cover the maternity leave of Deidra Forgit starting on February 22 through approximately April 12, 2021. Ms. Harvey's stipend will be \$197.50 per diem with no benefits.
2. Approval of the maternity leave of Brittney Gregg starting on or about June 2, 2021. Mrs. Gregg anticipates returning to work at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Gregg will be using her sick and personal days.
3. Approval of a leave of absence for Samantha Pylinski starting on February 16 through approximately March 17, 2021. Ms. Pylinski will be using her sick and personal days. When the days are exhausted the remainder of the leave will be unpaid.
4. Approval of the following fall and spring coaches for the 2020-2021 school year:

Fall Coaches:

Boys Varsity Soccer – Brittney Gregg with a stipend of \$2,964
 Boys Modified Soccer – Brian Roser with a stipend of \$1,702
 Girls Varsity Soccer – Rhoda Flint with a stipend of \$3,773
 Girls Modified Soccer – Sarah Saggese with a stipend of \$1,769
 Cross-Country – Liana Garry with a stipend of \$2,788 (1 yr. exp.)

Spring Coaches:

Varsity Baseball – Pat Harmer with a stipend of \$3,634
 Modified Baseball – Michael Gregg with a stipend of \$1,882
 Varsity Softball – Julene Waffle with a stipend of \$3,226
 Modified Softball – Liana Garry with a stipend of \$1,702
 Varsity Track – Dylan Jaklitsch with a stipend of \$2,985

5. Approval of Shannon Harrington as a probationary School Treasurer effective March 15, 2021. Mrs. Harrington's salary will be \$44,000 prorated March 15 through June 30, 2021. (Mrs. Harrington will be attending an ASBO Bootcamp on March 10 and 11, 2021. Mrs. Harrington will be paid her daily rate of \$169.23.)

Public Comment: Mary Dugan thanked the school for allowing the Ski Club to go this year.

The Board went into executive session at 7:36 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 4-0.

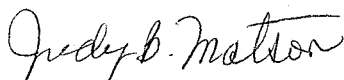
The Board came out of executive session at 8:03 p.m. on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0.

On the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 4-0: the IEP's of the specified CPSE students' plans #3183, 3166 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 4-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #3172 was approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:04 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy B. Matson
District Clerk