

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Date of Meeting:** April 15, 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 Carlena Johnson, Vidya Nagarur, Julene Waffle; Student 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 March 18, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Julene Waffle showed the Board some of the art projects the students did for their independent reading project for her one of English classes. The English classes are working on poetry, documents, essays, etc. Some of the classes are getting ready for Regents.

Julene Waffle talked to the Board about the Yearbook. Mrs. Waffle did most of the pictures this year because the high school students could not go into the elementary classrooms. They did an ad hunting trip to Oneonta, and have been selling ads via the telephone. The students write, edit, and design the yearbook. The cost of doing the yearbook is between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year. Mrs. Waffle said she is hoping they break even this year. The yearbook will be late again this year because of COVID.

Carlena Johnson and Vidya Nagarur talked to the Board about their science curriculum. Mrs. Johnson showed slides from Heather Grant who teaches Science 7 and Earth Science. The slides showed some of the work the students are doing and information about the grant that Mrs. Grant received. Mrs. Grant was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Johnson teaches Living Environment and Science 8. Science 8 has studied digestion, body systems and are starting plants. In Living Environment, the labs are virtual labs doing simulations and case studies. Mrs. Nagarur teaches Chemistry, College Chemistry, and Physics. They are doing virtual labs, independent labs and inquiry base activities. In college chemistry they do independent labs and virtual case studies.

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

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the 2021-2022 Budget. The total budget is \$9,675,000, which is an increase of \$34,743. The tax increase is 0.75%. Our tax cap is 0.82%. If the budget is voted down and we have to go to a contingency budget, we would have to cut \$199,000. Some of the administrative cost would be cut, the capital outlay project would be cut, among other items. Mr. Sheldon discussed the stimulus funds we are supposed to receive. Part of the funds are spread out over four years. After four years the money is gone.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Property Tax Card. The Property Tax Card shows the amount of the budget, taxes to be collect, a schedule of the reserve funds, etc.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the end of school year and the use of the unused emergency days. Mr. Sheldon said we will be giving four Regents on June 16,17, and 18. June 18 will be the last day for high school students. The elementary will go a full day June 22 and half days for June 23, 24, and 25. There are two unused emergency days to use. One day will be used the Tuesday after Memorial Day and the other day will be used on Juneteenth Day, June 21. While not required, it is strongly suggested we celebrate Juneteenth Day.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the BOCES Administrative and Capital Budget Vote.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the revisions made to the Grade Weighting and Class Ranking Procedures. The changes gave more credit for the AP courses, etc. The purpose of the revisions was to decrease the possibilities of ties for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

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

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the NYS Guidance for Schools issued recently. The distance between elementary students has been reduced to three feet, depending on the transmission rates in the area. Masks must be worn at all times except when eating. There must be six feet between students when eating. Middle and high school students can be three feet apart if they are in their cohorts, if that is not possible they must be six feet apart and always wearing a mask except when eating. Adults, people singing or playing a wind instrument must be six feet apart. Six feet must be maintained in all common areas and masks must be worn. Physical barriers are no longer recommended. They now recommend ventilation and air filtration.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the return of students to four days a week. The return of the ninth grade students has gone smoothly. Getting the rooms cleaned in between classes was a challenge in the beginning. There are 35 remote learners. Ten students returned to in-person learning for the fourth quarter. We had four new students start this week. We still have some overflow classrooms available.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the State Assessment updates and the Revised timelines for the Next Generation Standards. The waiver that NYSED sent to the United States Department of Education was denied. A letter regarding the testing was sent home with students in grades three through eight and was posted on Facebook and our website. The 3-8 ELA exams will be given April 20<sup>th</sup>. Any students that opt out will have to do asynchronous learning. We do not have the space or staff to supervise the students not taking the test. There will be four Regents exams given. The students are expected to take the exams but they are not required for graduation. The timeline for the Next Generation Standards for ELA, math and science has been revised. The first ELA and math exams given for grades 3-8 that is aligned to the Next Generation Standards will be the spring of 2023. The last fourth grade science aligned with our current standards will be June 2022. No elementary science exam will be given in 2023. The new exam will be given in 2024 for both fourth and eighth grade students. The last current exam for eighth grade science will be given in 2023. June 2025 will be the first exam for the new Biology and Earth Science Regents. June 2026 the first new exam will be given for Chemistry and Physics Regents.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the end of the year events. Ms. Smith said nothing is set in stone yet. For elementary we are looking at options for an end of the year field day. We are looking into the option of going to Gilbert Lake for some or all of the students and also doing an outdoor field day activities at school on June 22, the last full day for elementary students. We are discussing a sixth grade graduation instead of the PK-6 Moving-Up Day. We are also looking at combining the traditional academic and music awards with the sports awards this year. They will probably be held outside in a tent. We are reviewing the guidelines for the prom. The guidelines really limit what can take place, but are still a bit unclear. For graduation, based on the guidelines, it looks like our best bet is an outdoor ceremony due to the stipulations regarding proof of vaccinations and/or proof of a negative test. The number of guests will have to be limited again, social distancing and wearing masks are required.

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

1. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants for #62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 67, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Reconciliation for the month of March 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2021, as presented.

4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve the Budget of \$9,675,000 for the 2021-2022 school year. The 2021-2022 Budget will go to the voters on May 18, 2021.
5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve the following agreements with DCMO BOCES: The Cooperative Purchasing Agreement, Generic Agreement, Food and Cafeteria Supplies Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year, as attached. (See Attachment #1)
6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the changes made to the Grade Weighting / Class Ranking Procedures, as attached. (See Attachment #2)
7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Tax Report Card for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented.
8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the request of \$462 from the Morris Beautification Committee for May 2021 through the fall of 2021. The Morris Beautification Committee plants tulips and prepares six flowerpots for the school property.

**The following personnel item number 1 was approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0:**

1. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Michael Walling, the following probationary appointment is hereby made:
 

a) Name of appointee:	Jenna Turner
b) Tenure Area:	English Language Arts
c) Date of Commencement of Probationary Service:	September 1, 2021
d) Expiration Date of Appointment*:	September 1, 2025
e) Certification Status:	English Language Arts 7-12, Initial, Exp. 8-31-22
f) Salary:	\$42,275

\*To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law §§2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, *classroom teacher* and *building principal* mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this Part.

**The following Administrative item number 1 was 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 Superintendent, Matthew Sheldon to cast one vote in approval of the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES Administrative Budget for 2021-2022 school year as presented. The Board also approved the Superintendent, Matthew Sheldon to cast one vote each for the six candidates running for the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES Board of Education. The candidates are Dr. Deborah Fox, Collin Miller, and Jaqueline Parry for 3 Year Term (2021-2024), Cynthia Kukenberger and Tim Powell to finish 3 Year Term (2019-2022), Alan Rubin to fill a vacancy, 3 Year Term (2020-2023).

**Public Comment:** Wendy Moore said she was speaking as a parent supporting her child. Her son had been in Junior Honor Society, applied for Honor Society and was denied. He met the academic standards. At a meeting, they were told he did not meet the character and leadership part. It was suggested that he

was late with homework but there is no evidence of it. He was told he didn't volunteer in class. He told his mother that he raises his hand and the teacher calls on other students. At fourteen, he contacted animal shelters so he could volunteer because he wants to be a veterinarian. He has shadowed at animal shelters and has been called in when they were short of staff. At sixteen he was a lifeguard. At school he has been a class treasurer, went to Boys State, takes two college courses, sticks up for his friends and diffused arguments between friends. She said her goal was to bring attention to the process, which she feels is broken. Mrs. Moore feels that students should be built up instead of being knocked down.

The Board went into executive session at 7:56 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 8:22 p.m. on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CPSE students' plan #3199 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 #3195, 3085, 2988, 2603, 2541, 2540, 2998, 2586, 2509, and 2482 were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

The Board adjourned at 8:25 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**COOPERATIVE PURCHASING  
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**

**WHEREAS,**

The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below wishes to appoint the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to advertise for bid, accept, tabulate bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts; (3) abide by the Award of the BOCES Board; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

**CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT CLERK**

I, Judy B. Matson, District Clerk of the

Morris Central School Board of Education, hereby certifies that the above resolution was adopted by the required majority vote of the Board of Education at its meeting held on 4/15/21.

Judy B. Matson  
Signature of District Clerk

4/19/21  
Date

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**GENERIC  
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**

**WHEREAS,**

It is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below wishes to appoint a committee made up of participating schools to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids and providing the information to their Board of Education who will make the awards; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the above committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned items, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that it will award contracts based on information provided from the bid; (3) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

**CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT CLERK**

I, Judy B. Matson, District Clerk of the  
Morris Central School Board of  
Education, hereby certifies that the above resolution was adopted by the required  
majority vote of the Board of Education at its meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Judy B. Matson  
Signature of District Clerk

4/19/21  
Date

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FOOD and CAFETERIA SUPPLIES  
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**

**WHEREAS,**

It is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly Cafeteria supplies including but not limited to food and paper items, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Central School named below wishes to appoint a committee made up of participating schools to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids and awarding bids and reporting the results to the schools; therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the above committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (3) that it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

**CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT CLERK**

I, Judy B. Matson, District Clerk of the

Maris Central School Board of Education, hereby certifies that the above resolution was adopted by the required majority vote of the Board of Education at its meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Judy B. Matson  
Signature of District Clerk

4/19/21  
Date

## GRADE WEIGHTING/CLASS RANKING

Morris Central School's policy for the procedure used for calculating the class rank based on a weighted scale as determined by regents/non-regents/AP/college courses. The following table indicates the points (or weight) assigned for a particular grade range:

	AP/COLLEGE	R- ½ CR	R-1 CR	Non-R- ½ CR	Non-R-1 CR
99-100	18	8	16	7	14
97-98.9	17.5	7.75	15.5	6.75	13.5
95-96.9	17	7.5	15	6.5	13
93-94.9	16.5	7.25	14.5	6.25	12.5
91-92.9	16	7	14	6	12
90-91.9	15.5	6.75	13.5	5.75	11.5
88-89.9	15	6.5	13	5.5	11
85-87.9	14.5	6.25	12.5	5.25	10.5
82-84.9	14	6	12	5	10
79-81.9	13	5.5	11	4.5	9
75-78.9	12	5	10	4	8
70-74.9	11	4.5	9	3.5	7
65-69.9	10	4	8	3	6
<65	0	0	0	0	0

Points are assigned for a particular grade depending on whether or not the course is a ½ credit course or full credit course and whether or not it is a regents or AP/college course. More points are given for AP/college and regents courses and full credit courses. These point totals are added up for each course the student has completed and then divided by twice (2X) the sum total of the number of units of study. An example follows:

Student X:	Grade	Credit Given	Points Assigned
English (regents)	92	1 unit	14
Math (non-regents)	94	1 unit	12.5
AP History	83	1 unit	114
Science (non-regents)	78	1 unit	8
Spanish (non-regents)	62	1 unit	0
PE	96	½ unit	6.5
Total		5.5	5

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Class rank} &= \text{points} \div 2 \text{ times the number of credits} \\ &= 55 \div (2 \times 5.5) \\ &= 55 \div 11 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Class rank} = 5.0000$$

### Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian



- ❖ The students are ranked in order from the highest class rank value down to the lowest class rank value. The Valedictorian will have the highest class rank value and the Salutatorian will have the second highest class rank value.
- ❖ Eligible seniors must be a full-time student of the school district in their junior and senior year.
- ❖ Students who are enrolled after the first day of school in their junior year will not be eligible.
- ❖ Final calculation of ranking will be completed at the end of the third quarter of the senior year.
- ❖ In the event of a tie using the weighted system, there will be more than one recipient for the honor. No tie breaker will be used.

#### **Selection of the Scholar Recognition Award**

- ❖ The recipient will be the student who is ranked first at the end of the first semester, senior year. In the event of a tie using the weighted system, the student with the highest GPA at the end of the first semester will be the recipient.

#### **Selection of the New York State Academic Excellence Scholarship**

- ❖ The recipient will be the student with the highest grade on state selected regents entering his/her senior year.

### **MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM**

1. The passing grade for all courses is 65.
2. If a student repeats a subject, the better of the two final marks is the one used. The poorer mark is not counted. The same holds true for regents exams. All grades will appear on the transcript.
3. The quarterly average will be determined by giving 40% credit for daily class work and 60% for unit tests given during each quarter. Daily work includes all work except the unit tests (class participation, daily quizzes, homework, special reports, etc.). Unit tests are to be given during each quarter. The quarterly test mark is the average of all unit tests given during the quarter. A unit test is defined as a block of information studied in each subject area that is related to a particular topic.
4. A midterm exam is to be administered that is inclusive of all subject matter studied in the first 20 weeks.
5. A final exam is to be administered that is inclusive of all subject matter studied in the entire 40 weeks.
6. Any student taking a regents exam will have that grade count as their final examination mark.
7. A final mark will be computed using the following formula
 
$$\frac{2 \times (1^{\text{st}} \text{ quarter average} + 2^{\text{nd}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + 4^{\text{th}}) + \text{midterm} + \text{final}}{\text{-----}}$$

8. For ½ year courses, the above formula will be divided by 5 and not 10

9. All final grades, both in January and June, once they have been placed on report cards, cannot be changed or altered without approval of the principal.
10. All the students are allowed to drop a course up until two weeks into the course. After the second week, the student must remain in that course until completion.
11. All students must remain in a course for at least one week before being allowed to drop it.
12. Students must take a minimum of 6 ½ credits, including physical education, each year.
13. No incompletes can exist at the end of the school year.
14. AM/PM students must be taking a minimum of 2 regular subjects plus physical education.
15. Any online classes, except those taken for credit recovery or required for graduation, taken by a student will not be calculated in his/her GPA or used when calculating rankings. All online classes that are elective in nature will be paid for by the student and also will not be noted on report cards or on a student's final transcript.
16. When assigning a numerical number to a college level course that uses a letter grading system, the following numerical scores will be assigned to letter grades: A=95, B=85, C=75, D=65, F=55.

### **HONOR ROLL**

1. Students attaining an overall average of 94.5-100 will qualify for the Principal's List. All subjects taken will be averaged.
2. Students attaining an overall average of 89.5-94.4 will qualify for High Honor Roll. All subjects taken will be averaged.
3. Students attaining an overall average of 84.5-89.4 will qualify for Honor Roll. All subjects taken will be averaged.
4. To be considered for Principal's List, High Honor Roll or Honor Roll, all subjects taken must have a passing grade. No incompletes will be honored.