



MORRISTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 - 6 P.M. - LIBRARY

Members Present	President Lawrence Kring, III; Vice President Lisa Thompson; Joshua Hunter; Jeffrey LaJoy; Scott Ritchie; Kristy Simmons; and Chelsea VanArnam
Members Absent	Makia Greene, Student Ex Officio Board Member
Others Present	Staci Vaughn, Superintendent; Corey Flynn, Building Principal; Tiffany Irish, Director of Pupil Personnel & Athletic Director; Scott Boyer, Assistant Business Manager; Stacey Basford, District Clerk; Emily Mullikin, MTA; and Larry Yeddo, Director of Buildings, Grounds, & Transportation
Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	President Kring called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Public Comments	
Public Comments	There were no Public Comments.
Reports	
Superintendent - Staci Vaughn	<p>Our District was listed as a Featured School in this month's Rural Schools Newsletter. Check out the full newsletter and article here.</p> <p><u>Capital Project Phase I Update:</u> The propane tank has been installed, and concrete work around the location is now completed. The boilers were transferred over to the new permanent propane tank and were fully NYS inspected and approved on November 14th.</p> <p><u>Capital Project Phase II Update:</u> We received commitments from ConTech that they will have a new Project Manager and Site Superintendent. The Project Manager is Corey Storie, and the Site Superintendent is Lloyd Storie. We have also implemented a bi-monthly, on-site check in with Brooke Williams from Ashley-McGraw to ensure</p>

timely completion of change orders and/or adjusted drawings that may be needed as the project progresses. The new team for Phase II is already on site, they completed ground sampling for the new addition and began digging yesterday. The parent pick-up location will remain where it is. ConTech and Burns Brothers began working on the girls locker room this week. The anticipated plan is to demo part of the wall, replace the Y unit, and re-route the pipe directly out to the new pot. This work is being completed due to the frequent sewage flooding and back up occurring in the Girls Locker Room. It is anticipated that it will be completed for the basketball games scheduled for November 28th.

This month, Ms. Vaughn attended a dinner meeting with Regent Roger Catania at Northwest Tech. Regent Catania provided an update on the Portrait of a Graduate work and ensured the districts that we are already on the right path with many courses and projects that our students already complete. He anticipates more guidance and items, such as rubrics coming out of the State Education Department by the end of this year. We will continue to discuss the Portrait of a Graduate at our faculty meetings as we work through the exposure phase.

Following the concerns brought up at our last meeting, Ms. Vaughn met with Mr. Rick Anderson, Food Service Director, and Mr. David Gravlin, BOCES Food Service Director. To help the kitchen accurately plan for the needs of our last lunch period early and allow time for any adjustments in meal preparation, the 5th/6th grade homerooms are now submitting a lunch count. The milk was also discussed, which is delivered by Glaciers. The kitchen staff is temping the milk as it arrives to make sure it is delivered under the correct temperatures. Ms. Vaughn also emailed the staff asking that any concern of spoiled milk be communicated to the kitchen staff immediately, so they can begin documenting the occurrences. If we have a documented valid concern BOCES can push back on Glaciers, despite having been awarded the milk bid.

	<p>Mrs. Mary Ellen Mace sent the Board a letter asking they consider discussing the addition of a policy mandating the use of seat belts on school buses. Following our recent Safety Committee Meeting this fall, we began researching this very topic. At this time, there is no district in St. Lawrence or Jefferson County that currently requires seatbelt use on school buses. However, we learned that a statewide proposal regarding school bus seatbelt requirements was introduced in March 2025 and is scheduled for discussion during the 2025–2026 legislative session. Our Committee will continue to monitor this proposed legislation closely. As part of our review, we are also researching what other districts across New York State are doing in anticipation of this potential change. The Committee’s goal is to stay informed, so that our District is prepared to respond appropriately if new laws or regulations are adopted.</p>
<p>Building Principal - Corey Flynn</p>	<p>This year’s Halloween Parade and Trunk-or-Treat at MCS were a tremendous success! Due to unpredictable weather, both events were held indoors, ensuring our students and families could enjoy all the festivities in a safe and comfortable environment. Feedback collected through our ParentSquare survey showed strong appreciation for the decision to move the events inside, with many families expressing gratitude for a well-organized and enjoyable atmosphere despite the weather. A number of respondents shared their preference for holding these events outdoors when possible, and we will continue to prioritize outdoor celebrations as weather allows in the future. Remarkably, the weather contributed to record-breaking attendance at both the parade and Trunk-or-Treat, surpassing previous years. The enthusiastic turnout and positive feedback highlight the importance of these community events and the value of adaptability in our planning. Thank you to all staff, families, and volunteers who made this year’s celebrations so memorable. We look forward to building on this success and hope for clear skies next year! Ms. VanArnam asked if we had an estimated number of children that attended. Mr. Flynn and Ms. Vaughn responded that there were over 300. Ms. VanArnam thought it would be helpful to share that information with those setting up a trunk-or-treat next year.</p>

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Pollyann Demick has been appointed as one of two at-large members on the New York Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee. She looks forward to contributing to this important work and representing the school library perspective on a statewide level. Her responsibilities will include participating in scheduled virtual committee meetings and the statewide Intellectual Freedom Roundtable, as well as contributing to sessions at the NYLA annual conference each November. Mrs. Demick is excited for this opportunity to advocate for intellectual freedom and to bring valuable insights back to our district.

During the most recent marking period, attendance and academic achievement were strong across all grade levels. Out of 217 students enrolled district-wide from PreK through grade 12, nine (9) students in UPK-6 and nine (9) students in grades 7-12 achieved perfect attendance, reflecting a high level of commitment from both our elementary and secondary students. Academic achievement was particularly notable in grades 7 and 12. Among a combined total of 49 students in those two grades, 15 earned High Honor Roll with Distinction, 35 achieved High Honor Roll, and 18 were recognized on the Honor Roll. In grades 5 and 6, with a combined enrollment of 39 students, one student earned High Honor Roll with Distinction, 15 students achieved High Honor Roll, and six students made the Honor Roll. These accomplishments represent a significant portion of our student body and highlight both the hard work of our students and the ongoing support from staff and families. The District remains committed to fostering an environment where strong attendance and academic excellence are recognized and celebrated.

- 56.4% of students in grades 5–6 earned academic honors
- 49.3% of students in grades 7–12 earned academic honors

To view the Academic Honors Recipient List, click [here](#).

The District's instructional technology plan drives a sustained, district-wide effort to improve student performance, raise academic standards, and provide equitable, anytime-anywhere learning. Technology is fully integrated into teaching and learning, with teachers leveraging digital tools such as SchoolAI, Quizizz, Reflex, and IXL to personalize instruction, differentiate learning, and assess students in real time. Staff analyze data from programs like mClass DIBELS and IXL to inform instruction and provide targeted interventions, with progress closely monitored through assessment results and participation rates. Students use technology daily to demonstrate understanding through digital exit tickets, adaptive assessments, and interactive projects, receiving immediate feedback and enabling teachers to quickly address student needs. The District ensures equity and access through 1:1 device initiatives, Kajeet hotspots for home Internet, and robust infrastructure upgrades, as well as a wide range of online courses—including Edgenuity, distance learning, and dual-credit options—to meet diverse student needs. The technology plan focuses on five key goals: (1) Expand Online Learning: Increase opportunities for students to participate in online, dual-credit, and distance learning courses; (2) Integrate Digital Standards: Develop staff capacity to embed NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards as well as AI literacy across grades and disciplines; (3) Renew and Expand STEAM: Renew the STEM space to offer expanded STEAM programming and hands-on experience with technology and fabrication equipment; (4) Student-Run IT Help Desk: Establish a student-run IT help desk, providing real-world technology support experience and developing technical and communication skills; and (5) Enhance School Safety: Use technology to improve school safety, including visitor monitoring and real-time attendance tracking during emergency procedures. Ongoing professional development, student leadership opportunities, and strong family engagement through ParentSquare support these goals. The technology plan is reviewed annually, using data and stakeholder feedback to guide continuous improvement, ensuring technology continues to expand opportunity and achievement for every learner. Mrs. Simmons shared that her sister lives in Florida with her

	<p>niece, who is a tenth grader. Florida prepares students for going into the workforce, whereas New York tends to prepare students for college. She shared that the students in her niece’s school district are able to work in their school district. Mr. Flynn mentioned that the Student Advisory Board students reported an interest in working a student run IT helpdesk one day a week and possibly a student run store.</p> <p>On our November 10 Staff Development Day, staff focused on two key initiatives: an in-depth review of the Eureka Math² program and a professional development session with Brian Mendler, facilitated by St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES. UPK-6 staff explored Eureka Math², a research-based math curriculum emphasizing conceptual understanding, reasoning, and real-world problem-solving. Teachers reviewed the scope and sequence, assessments, and sample lessons, noting strong alignment with state standards and the value of embedded teacher supports and digital resources. Feedback was positive—staff found the program familiar and an improvement over current materials, especially at lower grades. Staff also participated in a session with Brian Mendler focused on managing student behavior without escalation. Mendler highlighted relationship-building, de-escalation strategies, and practical approaches for maintaining positive learning environments. This development day advanced district goals for instructional excellence and a supportive school climate. Staff gained valuable insights into potential math curriculum changes and effective approaches to student behavior. Mrs. Simmons shared that at Heuvelton, the teachers for grades first and up like the Eureka Math² program, but for Kindergarten and PreK is not liked as well. Teachers are pulling out old materials to teach with. Mrs. Simmons offered to bring in her Kindergarten material to share.</p>
<p>Director of Pupil Personnel & Athletic Director - Tiffany Irish</p>	<p>Varsity Boys Soccer ended their season with a 12-4-2 record. The boys fought for 110 minutes of soccer in the semi-final game and tied Heuvelton 1-1 but were defeated in penalty kicks and did not advance to the championship game. Varsity Girls Soccer ended their season with a 6-9-1 record and lost to Hermon-DeKalb in the quarter final game of sectionals.</p>

Fall Section X Awards included: Wyatt Clement - MVP Offense; Caleb Butler - 1st Team ALL NAC; Coltyn Brooks - 2nd Team ALL NAC; Mikayla Jones (Hammond) 1st ALL NAC; Makia Greene - 2nd Team ALL NAC; Josephine Hodgdon (Hammond) - Sportmanship; Joey Kring - Sportmanship; Athlete of Distinction: Cumulative GPA of 90 or better from 9th grade to the current marking period of their senior year: Hunter Simmons, Shae Rosenbarker (Hammond), Wren Phalen (Hammond), Josephine Hodgdon (Hammond), Sawyer Belile, Marshall Wright, and Joey Kring; The Varsity Girls soccer team was also recognized as a Scholar Athlete Team. This means that 75% of the team had an average of 90% or better for the marking period.

Basketball started yesterday for JV and Varsity. Modified Basketball starts on Monday. Current winter sport numbers are: Boys Varsity - 10; Boys JV - 16; Boys Modified - 9; Girls JV - 9; Girls Modified - 9; and Sideline Cheering - 14.

The Annual Jeff Stout Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29. The Athletic Boosters need volunteers. There will be food, a 50/50 raffle, and basket raffles.

The schedule for Friday is:

3:00 pm	OFA Girls Varsity vs IHC
4:30 pm	Norwood Boys Varsity vs Clifton-Fine
6:00 pm	Hammond/Morristown Girls Varsity vs Heuvelton
7:30 pm	Morristown Boys Varsity vs Alexandria Bay

The schedule for Saturday is:

10:00 am	Girls Consolation
11:30 am	Girls Championship
1:00 pm	Boys Consolation
2:30 pm	Boys Championship

	<p>Ms. Irish congratulated and wished good luck to our three athletes on the Ogdensburg Varsity Football Team: Ethan Simmons, Kylar Kirby, and Craig Simmons. They will play against Glens Falls in the regional match on Saturday, November 22 at Colonie High School at Noon. Ms. Irish shared that Ogdensburg Varsity Football Coach Matt Tessemer has now broken the record for number of wins for Section X, which was previously held by a Massena Coach.</p> <p>Mr. Flynn was pleased to share that we now have a pep band that will be performing at winter sporting events. He heard them practicing tonight, and they sounded really good. Mrs. Simmons commented that this was exciting. Ms. Vaughn mentioned she heard Pep Band Director, Mr. Matthew George, state that the pep band members, as well as the cheerleaders, are all interested in singing the National Anthem for the games.</p> <p>Mrs. Belile has shared with Ms. Irish that the cheerleaders are already doing new cheers and are picking up the new choreography very quickly.</p> <p>The second round of data meetings for this school year were held on November 12th. Data meetings are held with all WINN Providers and the classroom teachers to discuss all students' progress. Based on data and progress monitoring, students are arranged with different providers depending on the skills they need to work on.</p> <p>Report cards will be picked up during Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 24th and 25th.</p> <p>Mrs. Belile is gearing up to start meeting with students in January to look at class requests and start scheduling for the next school year.</p>
<p>Assistant Business Manager - Scott Boyer</p>	<p>Mr. Boyer asked if there were any questions on the financial reports being presented this evening. There were no questions.</p> <p>As of October 31st, the District has expended 27% of its 2025-2026 school budget. That leaves 73% left for the remaining eight (8) months of the fiscal year.</p>

	<p>The school tax collection period has concluded. To date, 89% of school taxes have been collected. The outstanding school taxes are approximately \$470,000, in which St. Lawrence County will make the District whole in January.</p> <p>MTA Health Insurance checks were issued for \$2,000 on November 6, 2025, as per the MTA contract. The total payout was \$82,000. The HRA utilization rate is still very low at 17.1% for 2024-2025, which indicates the teachers are continuing to use the plan responsibly which allows for the maximum bonus incentive once again this year.</p> <p>Mr. Boyer will start to develop the 2026-27 budget next week.</p>
<p>BOE Committees</p> <p>Buildings, Grounds, & Safety Committee (Mr. LaJoy, Mr. Ritchie, & Mrs. Thompson)</p>	<p>Ms. Vaughn reported that the BOE Facilities Committee met immediately following the last Board meeting to discuss the grant opportunity from NY Bus Sales for an electric bus. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with this and ultimately decided that the District will submit the EV Waiver Extension into the State Education Department portal in December and hope to receive the two-year waiver. While the grant opportunity for one electric bus would allow us to meet the “requirement,” it would also come with expenses not covered, such as the installation of a charger. The bus was a “model” bus with over 2,000 miles already on it, which also caused concern. It would still require voter approval (before the actual mandate timeline). Community feedback has been largely unfavorable, and the Committee expressed concern that potential “no” votes could unintentionally impact our general budget. Ms. Vaughn let NY Bus Sales know we are pressing hold on the opportunity and would re-group following the results of our waiver extension.</p>

Consent Agenda	
<p><u>No. 164-2026</u></p> <p>Approval of Consent Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports, & CPSE/CSE Recommendations</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. LaJoy, seconded by Vice President Thompson. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, approved the consent agenda for their November 18, 2025 regular meeting.</p> <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting <p><u>Financial Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/P Check Register - October 31, 2025 • Budget Status Report - August 31, 2025 • Budget Status Report - September 30, 2025 • Budget Status Report - October 31, 2025 • Budgetary Transfer Report - August 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 • Budgetary Transfer Report - September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 • Budgetary Transfer Report - October 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025 • Revenue Status Report - August 31, 2025 • Revenue Status Report - September 30, 2025 • Revenue Status Report - October 31, 2025 • Treasurer's Monthly Report - October 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025 • Trial Balance - Fiscal Year 2026 - Cycle 2 - July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 • Trial Balance - Fiscal Year 2026 - Cycle 3 - July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 • Trial Balance - Fiscal Year 2026 - Cycle 4 - July 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025 <p><u>CPSE/CSE Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective November 18, 2025 • Students #2128, #2257, #2258, #2740, #2774, & #2775 <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
Old Business	
Old Business	There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business	
<p><u>No. 165-2026</u></p> <p>Acceptance of Claims Auditor's First Quarterly Report - July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, accepted the Claim Auditor's First Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.</p> <p>Claim Auditor's First Quarterly Report</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 166-2026</u></p> <p>Approval of School Tax Collector's Report</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Simmons. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, approved the School Tax Collector's Report.</p> <p>School Tax Collector's Report</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 167-2026</u></p> <p>Approval of Substitute Personnel Pay Rates for the 2026 Calendar Year</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, approved the Substitute Personnel Pay Rates for the 2026 Calendar Year.</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified Teacher - \$135/day & \$239/day after 15 consecutive days ● Non-Certified Teacher - \$125/day & \$193/day after 15 consecutive days ● Certified Teaching Assistant - \$125/day ● Registered Nurses - \$165/day ● Bus Driver - \$28/hour (Paid for 2 hrs. min) ● All Other Substitute Personnel - \$16/hour <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 168-2026</u></p> <p>Approval of Policy Updates</p>	<p>MOTION made by Vice President Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Simmons. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, approved the following policy updates as recommended by Erie 1 BOCES Policy Services, effective November 18, 2025:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Update #5413 “Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards” - Showing Changes • Policy Update #5681 “School Safety Plans” - Showing Changes • Policy Update #5850 “Data Networks and Security Access” - Showing Changes (formerly Policy #5674) • Policy Update #7522 “Concussion Management” - Showing Changes <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 169-2025</u></p> <p>Approval of TIPS Membership</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, approved the District’s membership with TIPS, a national cooperative purchasing that qualifies under NYS Competitive Bidding Laws, effective November 4, 2025.</p> <p>TIPS Membership Agreement</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p>Personnel</p>	
<p><u>No. 170-2026</u></p> <p>Appointment of Varsity Baseball Coach</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Ms. VanArnam. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, appointed the following athletic personnel:</p> <p>Spencer Kirby Varsity Baseball Coach Effective March 9, 2026 Stipend of \$3,662 (Step 1/Year 3)</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 171-2026</u></p> <p>Appointment of Elementary Basketball Personnel</p>	<p>MOTION made by Vice President Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, appointed the following elementary basketball personnel, effective September 16, 2025 at minimum wage:</p>

<p><u>No. 174-2026</u></p> <p>Appointment of Substitute Winter Athletic Personnel</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, appointed the following substitute winter athletic personnel, effective November 28, 2025 at \$52/event:</p> <p>Lynn Tayler Substitute: Scorekeeper/Scorebook, Timer/Scoreboard, & Shot Clock Keeper</p> <p>Jessica Hoffman Substitute: Scorekeeper/Scorebook, Timer/Scoreboard, & Shot Clock Keeper</p> <p>Bobbie-Lynn Lashomb-Willard Substitute Chaperone</p> <p>Easton Willard (\$15.50/hour) Substitute: Timer/Scoreboard & Shot Clock Keeper</p> <p>Hunter Dewey Substitute Chaperone</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 175-2026</u></p> <p>Appointment of Modified Boys Basketball Coach</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Ms. VanArnam. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, appointed the following athletic personnel:</p> <p>Ryan Demick Modified Boys Basketball Coach \$2,075 (Step 1/Year 1) Effective November 24, 2025</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
<p><u>No. 176-2026</u></p> <p>Appointment of Volunteer Assistant Coaches</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, appointed the following volunteer athletic personnel with no stipend:</p> <p>Spencer Kirby Volunteer JV Boys Basketball Assistant Coach Effective November 17, 2025</p>

	<p>Mike Faucher Volunteer JV Boys Basketball Assistant Coach Effective November 17, 2025</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p>
For Your Information	
For Your Information	Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the Library
Public Comments	
Public Comments	<p>Mr. Hunter asked if the group could go back to the seatbelts on buses discussion. He would like to see the District encourage the students to wear their seatbelt and discuss how it could save their lives should the bus ever be in a rollover accident. Only PreK children under the age of four are required to wear seat belts at this time. Mr. Yeddo mentioned that the new buses will have shoulder straps. Ms. Vaughn suggested having our Student Resource Officer, Mr. Richard Polniak, do presentations on the buses stating the importance of using seatbelts. Ms. Vaughn will meet with Mr. Polniak to get this started.</p>
Executive Session	
<p><u>No. 177-2026</u> Executive Session</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. LaJoy, seconded by Vice President Thompson. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Vaughn, entered into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss the 2025 annual evaluation and 2026 contract of an administrative employee.</p> <p>Vote Passes: 7-0</p> <p>The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:53 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.</p>
Adjournment	
<p><u>No. 178-2026</u> Adjournment</p>	<p>MOTION made by Mr. LaJoy, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Resolved that the Morristown Central School District Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey L. Basford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Stacey L. Basford
District Clerk
11.19.25