

MORRISON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 16, 2020 6:00 PM (closed session) 6:30 PM (open session)

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. CLOSED SESSION-FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MATTERS RELATING TO A SPECIFIC STUDENT(S)
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-ACTION ITEM
 - A. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the agenda as presented.
- V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES-ACTION ITEM
 - A. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting from October 19, 2020.
 - B. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the minutes of the special Board of Education meeting from November 9, 2020.
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. DISTRICT BILLS AS OF NOVEMBER 16, 2020.
 - B. BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORTS
 - C. NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS
 - 1. Hires: None at this time
 - 2. Resignations:
 - a) Keegan Shank-Custodian Morrison High School
- VII. COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VIII. GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT
 - IX. REPORTS
 - A. FINANCE/FACILITY
 - B. ENROLLMENT
 - C. TECHNOLOGY REPORT

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the MHS participation in IHSA Boys and Girls basketball for the 2020-2021 season as presented.
- B. COVID-19 UPDATE-DISCUSSION ITEM
- C. DISTRICT AUDIT-DISCUSSION ITEM
- D. R.C. SMITH CONTRACT-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the 2020-2021 contract with RC Smith Transportation as presented.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TENTATIVE 2020 MCUD #6 TAX LEVY-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the 2020 tentative tax levy as presented.
- B. MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MORRISON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION WORK-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the memo of understanding with the Morrison Education Association for additional Junior High Special Education work as presented.
- C. EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the early graduation request of student #554276301.
 - 2. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the early graduation request of student #202144.
- D. RETIREMENT REQUEST-ACTION ITEM
 - 1. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the retirement request and retirement incentive for Fran Smith, a certified teacher at Northside Elementary School.
 - 2. The motion is that the Board of Education approves the retirement request of Dean Wallace District Director of Facilities effective January 1, 2021.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Morrison Community Unit School District #6, County of Whiteside, State of Illinois, was duly called and held at 5:31 PM via an in person (Morrison HS Library) and Zoom teleconference due to COVID-19 on October 19, 2020.

On roll call, the following were present: Jim Ridley, Tricia Mickley, and Cathleen Vegter. Attending remotely were Terri Wilkens, Lauri Helms (joined 5:33pm), Gus Linke (joined 6:30pm). Absent: Wolfgang Schmidt. Also present were Superintendent Scott Vance, Recording Secretary LuAnn Wieneke, Andy Harridge (NS Principal), Jeremy Keesee (SS Principal), Joe Robbins (JH Principal), Cory Bielema (HS Principal), Duane Shaffer (IT Director), Connie Royer (teacher), Derek McAnally (teacher), Tonia Prombo (teacher) and Jerry Lindsey (theCity1.com). Joining remotely was: Andrea Wolever (NS Teacher), Karen Mayberry (NS Teacher), Wendy Connelly (NS Teacher), Tori Eads (District Employee), Tara Dykhuizen (NS Aide), Krista Baker (HS Teacher), Sally Lindsey (HS Secretary), Danelle McNeece (JH Custodian), Justin Stevenson (HS Teacher), Gabbie Cultra (HS Teacher), Heather Bush (parent), Sidonna Mahaffey (parent), Barb King (parent), Attorney Mertes (parent) and Kim Ewoldsen (parent).

5:32 PM

Closed Session

Motion: Mickley; Second: Ridley;

To enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of a specific employee and matters relating to a specific student.

On roll call voting Aye - Mickley, Ridley, Wilkens and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

6:47 PM

Adjourn Closed Session

Motion: Mickley; Second: Ridley;

To adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session in the Morrison HS Library and via Zoom conference. On roll call voting Aye – Linke, Wilkens, Mickley, Ridley, Helms, and Vegter. Nay – None; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Cathleen Vegter asked for changes to the agenda. The motion is to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion: Mickley: Second: Ridley

On roll call voting Aye - Wilkens, Mickley, Ridley, Helms, Linke and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Cathleen Vegter called for any changes or corrections to the minutes of the last regular Board meeting held September 23, 2020.

Motion: Ridley; Second: Mickley;

To approve the minutes of the last regular Board meeting held September 23, 2020.

On roll call voting Aye - Mickley, Ridley, Helms, Linke, Wilkens and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Wilkens; Second: Mickley;

To approve the consent Agenda including District bills for payment as of October 19, 2020, Building Activity Reports (September) and Resignations: Samantha Brown – NS Paraprofessional, Hires: none

On roll call voting Aye -Ridley, Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent, Sidonna Mahaffey-- Asked the Board, why at this point in time are they considering bringing students back to school 4 days a week when the COVID numbers are rising? This will be addressed later in the meeting under New Business- F - 4 Day in-person Instruction Plan

Good News from Around the District

- NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY- Andy Harridge (Principal)
 - 1. Anthony Fulton completed his Eagle Scout project at Northside. He collected 473 books for each student at Northside to receive 2 free books to take home.

SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY- Jeremy Keesee (Principal)

- 1. We started the United Way Penny Drive.
- We conducted our fire drill with all classes and grade levels which went successfully Oct.
 and we were still able to safely socially distance when leaving and while outside to complete the requirements set by the ROE to be completed with a fire department member.
- 3. I just got some of the greatest news from a staff member in the district. I had shared out with my Southside families that Sauk was offering free tutoring to area students during these difficult times at the beginning of the year. I wasn't aware that anyone had taken advantage of this opportunity, but Connie Royer shared that they were offering to our district staff this past week. One district staff member responded that their daughter was a part of the program and was currently tutoring a few Morrison students. I asked if they were Southside kids, because I had shared this at the beginning of the year when Jon Mandrell sent it to the area Principals. I was super excited they were offering it at that time, but I am now even more excited that some of my families have jumped on board and are now receiving help from Morrison kids that are currently at Sauk.

MORRISON JUNIOR HIGH- Joe Robbins (Principal)

Today the Jr High School teachers began teaching students that are in-person along with
the students that are remote for each class period via Google meets. All students in
each class are either at school on their A/B day or at home on their Chromebook signed
into their class for that classes time period. Mr. Robbins said for the most part things
went pretty well.

MORRISON HIGH SCHOOL – Cory Bielema (Principal)

- 1. Last month, it was reported that Key Club was working with Tony Fulton (MHS class of 2021) to complete his Eagle Scout project. He was able to collect over 400 books to be distributed to students in grades K-3.
- 2. Tyler Sutton has led the charge for the Auditorium Sound System Update. It has been fully funded by community donations and grants. The new system is tentatively scheduled to be installed on November 23-24. This update will include a complete replacement of the sound board, speakers, and cabling/wires in the auditorium. The old equipment is between 15-35 years old (depending on the piece of equipment). This update will add a large number of additional inputs at stage level, allowing for a more flexible and usable space.

- 3. Olga Krueger, a teacher at Clinton High School, informed me in early October of the community volunteer work of a few of our MHS students. Mark Cyphers, Zach Hall, and Zayden Boonstra teamed with students from CHS to help clean up Eagle Point Park in Clinton after the damage caused by the Derecho storm.
- 4. On September 26th three members of Morrison FFA competed virtually for the first time ever in the State Forestry CDE. This competition allowed students to test their knowledge in forestry principles, tree identification, forestry diseases, map reading, and chainsaw safety. CDEs or Career Development Events allow students to prepare for future careers within the agricultural industry.
- 5. On October 14th and 15th Morrison FFA had three students participate virtually in the Elite Conference. This conference is for students interested in Agricultural Education as a career. The students had the opportunity to learn more about the career, speak to current Ag Ed college majors, hear from colleges from across the state, and ask questions of current teachers within the career. This was a great career exploratory experience for our members.
- 6. Last week the High School seniors took their SAT tests.

Reports

<u>Finance/Facility Report</u> — Finance reports are included in the packet. The District and City have done a walk through up at the area north of Northside school where the additional parking lot will be. Mr. Vance has reached out to the individual who over looked the assembly of playground equipment in Fulton to see if they would help with our playground sets that need to be assembled. At this time he has not heard back from them.

Enrollment

The District enrollment numbers have dropped slightly over the last month.

Technology Report -

Hotspots -

All hotspots are loaned out to families at this time. A couple are looking at getting Wifi connections this week so those will then be available for other families.

Bandwidth -

Mr. Shaffer applied for partial reimbursement for the additional bandwidth that was installed at the schools. It looks like we should be getting \$5600 to cover part of the cost.

Mr. Shaffer also stated that he has been certified as a Google certified Educator so he will be able to train staff on different things Google can do for them.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

HS THREE RIVERS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mr. Bielema updated the Board -- This Thursday there is a Principal's meeting. They have send out "feelers" to schools to fill the vacancy in the conference if Fulton leaves after this year. According to the Conference constitution they are to give the Conference teams a two (2) year notice before leaving. Teams that have expressed interest in coming to our conference are Mercer County (possibly), Mendota and Macomb. The conference teams would go to an East/West split and the travel times for the three (3) teams would be 1hr 20min, 1hr and 2 hr respectively. Mr. Bielema will bring updated information to the Board as it becomes available.

ALUMNI BOARD

Mr. Vance told the Board about the Alumni Board that Connie Royer has been working on. There have been a lot of responses from past students and this information will be posted on a display board for current students to take advantage of.

FY'20 DISTRICT AUDIT

Mr. Vance stated that the audit went very well this year. There was only one area that they addressed and with the small amount of staff that will always be listed. Gus Linke thanked Kyla for doing a nice job.

ACTION ITEMS

DISTRICT COVID-19 METRIC PLAN

Motion: Ridley; Second: Vegter;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the district COVID-19 metric plan as presented. On roll call voting Aye – Ridley, Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley and Vegter. Nay – None; Motion carried.

BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Motion: Wilkens; Second: Ridley;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the policy updates as presented.

On roll call voting Aye - Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley, Ridley and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

WACC HEALTH LIFE SURVEY AMENDMENT

Motion: Mickley; Second: Ridley;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the HLS Amendment for Whiteside Area Career Center for

\$6700.

On roll call voting Aye - Linke, Wilkens, Mickley, Ridley, Helms and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

2020-2021 CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN

Motion: Ridley; Second: Wilkens;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the 2020-2021 Consolidate District Plan as presented. On roll call voting Aye – Wilkens, Mickley, Ridley, Helms, Linke and Vegter. Nay – None; Motion carried.

RELEASE OF USED BOOKS

Motion: Mickley; Second: Linke;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the release of the used books from Morrison High School and Northside as presented.

On roll call voting Aye - Mickley, Ridley, Helms, Linke, Wilkens and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Morrison Community Unit School District #6, County of Whiteside, State of Illinois, was duly called and held at 6:30 PM via an in person (Morrison HS Library) and Zoom teleconference due to COVID-19 on November 9, 2020.

On roll call, the following were present: Gus Linke, Tricia Mickley, Jim Ridley, Lauri Helms, and Cathleen Vegter. Attending remotely were Terri Wilkens and Wolfgang Schmidt. Also present were Superintendent Scott Vance, Recording Secretary LuAnn Wieneke, Andy Harridge (NS Principal), Cory Bielema (HS Principal), Duane Shaffer (IT Director), Connie Royer (teacher), Derek McAnally (teacher), Gregg Dolan (AD/teacher) and Jerry Lindsey (theCity1.com). Joining remotely was: Jeremy Keesee (SS Principal), Joe Robbins (JH Principal), Tonia Ernst, Heather Bush, Barb King, Katie Rider, Donna Boonstra (SS Nurse), Jen Curran, Attorney James Mertes, Jason Strating, Matt Tichler, Andy Riggen (IT Dept), Annie Palmer (HS Teacher), Lindsay Ebersole (SS Teacher), Abbi Manning (NS), Wendy Connelly (NS Teacher), John Petzke, Carol Stralow, Kelli Eastman (NS Teacher), Jenni Williams (NS Teacher), Tracy Bormann, Clara Bush (student), Laini Houzenga (HS Office), Katie Jakubs, Kerry Grimm (HS Teacher), Mark Ernst (JH Teacher), Brooke Newman, Attorney Magen Mertes, Kay Smith, Leann Marinangelli, Ian Geiger, Brandon Shelton, Andrea Wolever (NS Teacher, Tori Eads (District Employee), Chelsea Stuart, Melissa Landes (HS Teacher), Todd Veltrop (JH Teacher), Jenny Anderson (JH), Krista Baker (HS Teacher) and others.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent, Attorney Jim Mertes—Mr. Mertes address the Board and asked that they take a cautious approach when considering sending students back to school 4 days a week. He also praised the teachers of the school District for all their preparation and hard work.

Parent, Katie Beveroth-Rider--- Mrs. Rider readdressed a couple of Mr. Mertes statements and questioned whether this would cause extra stress to the teachers. She also asked if teachers had been surveyed as to whether they felt it would be safe to bring all students back to school. Mrs. Connie Royer gave details of the latest survey that was just sent out to teachers and they were split 50/50 as to whether they had concerns with all students being brought back 4 days.

Derek McAnally---Mr. McAnally added his concerns as a teacher and feels the school should take a safe approach when deciding whether to bring students back 4 days.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISTRICT FACILITY USAGE FOR OUTSIDE GROUPS

Mr. Vance asked the Board for guidance as to whether outside groups should be allowed to use the schools. Afterschool Club and a travel team has approached the District to use the facilities. The Boards general consensus was that Afterschool Club which consists of Morrison District students should be allowed to use the area previously used with the agreement that all school guidelines would need to be followed (masks worn, social distancing, etc.). As for other groups such as traveling teams the Board felt that we should not be opening up building for that type of use at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

MCUSD #6 FOUR DAY IN-PERSON LEARNING

Motion: Mickley; Second: Ridley;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the plan to increase in-person instruction to four days per week beginning November 10, 2020.

A lengthy discussion by the board members covering pros and cons of increasing student attendance preceded the vote. Mr. Ridley questioned whether the students were being cooperative with wearing masks and social distancing and how many other schools in the area have moved to 4 or more days per week. Mr. Vance said all schools in the area have already gone to 4 days and have not reported any huge upswing in numbers of positive cases. The students have been very agreeable to wearing mask. Mr. Schmidt stated he had lengthy conversations today with Dr. William Bird of CGH Medical Center and Cory from the Whiteside Co Health Department and feels that 4 day attendance might not be the course to be taking with the number of positive cases of those under 20 years old increasing. Mrs. Mickley stated that proceeding in a safe way is needed but a secondary motivation to getting the students back in school is the number of them that are struggling with their education. The Jr High alone has seen a significant number of students that are failing classes increase from approximately 20 in past years which is now at 70 after the first quarter.

On roll call voting Aye - Ridley, Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley and Vegter. Nay - Schmidt; Motion carried.

MCUSD #6 UPDATED COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

Motion: Mickley; Second: Linke;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the updated COVID-19 mitigation plan as presented.

On roll call voting Ave – Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley, Schmidt, Ridley and Vegter. Nay – None; Motion carried.

MORRISON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL

Motion: Mickley; Second: Linke;

The motion is that the Board of Education approves the MHS Boys/Girls basketball teams to participate in the 2020-2021 season.

It was decided to wait until November 16th Regular Board meeting to make a decision. The Conference AD's are meeting Tuesday, November 10th and the IHSA is meeting on Wednesday, November 11th. Once the Board gets additional information from those groups they will be able to make a more informed decision.

On roll call voting Aye -TABLED. Nay - None; Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN MEETING

7:51 P.M.

Motion: Wilkens; Second: Linke; The motion to adjourn the meeting.

On roll call voting Aye - Helms, Linke, Wilkens, Mickley, Schmidt, Ridley and Vegter. Nay - None; Motion carried.

resident)		
(Secretary)	Date Approved	

Good News From Around the District

Northside:

• Students were very excited to see students from the other half of the alphabet on Tuesday.

Southside:

Morrison Junior High:

- The first few days of all students in the building have gone well. The students seem very excited and happy about being able to see friends that they may not have gotten to see very often.
- MJHS is planning a reward/work makeup day(s) for next week. Distanced learning has proven difficult for many students and we are trying to find ways to help out those that need extra support but also reward those that have kept up with their classes so far.
- Covid numbers remain low. At the junior high we are not aware of any student to student transmission. As far as we can tell all transmissions have been from one family member to the other. Usually parent to student.

Morrison High School:

- The Student Council held a "trunk or treat" event for NS and SS students. There were 15 cars decorated and they
 handed out over 4000 pieces of candy. Additionally, Student Council had a mini-lock in to decorate the High
 School building and boost student spirit and morale. The week of events included prizes for trivia, costumes, and
 decorated masks.
- Students attending Erie, Fulton, Fulton Unity Christian, Morrison, Prophetstown, Rock Falls, and Sterling
- high schools participated in the Whiteside County High School Presidential Election Simulation, which was conducted by social studies teachers and school administrators at their respective schools in late October and early November. Just as states run their own elections, each high school determined how to structure its voting process. The simulation, organized by the Social Studies Department at MHS, allocated electoral votes based on enrollment to each participating school (or "state") in order to simulate the role that the Electoral College plays in selecting the President and Vice President every four years. With all ballots counted, the Trump/Pence ticket won the election with 359 electoral votes compared to the Biden/Harris ticket's 179 votes. The Trump/Pence ticket won the "states" of Erie, Fulton, Fulton Unity Christian, Morrison, Rock Falls, and Prophetstown while the Biden/Harris ticket won the "state" of Sterling.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

2019-2020	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	+/-
EARLY CHILDHOOD	43	43	43	44	44	43	43	43	43	0
KINDERGARTEN	70	70	70	70	70	69	69	69	69	-1
1ST GRADE	79	79	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	-1
2ND GRADE	63	62	62	62	64	62	62	62	62	-1
NS TOTAL	255	254	253	254	256	252	252	252	252	-3
3RD GRADE	70	70	70	70	70	70	69	69	69	-1
4TH GRADE	86	86	86	86	85	84	84	84	84	-2
5TH GRADE	79	79	78	78	78	78	77	77	77	-2
SS TOTAL	235	235	234	234	233	232	230	230	230	-5
6TH GRADE	87	89	89	89	90	90	90	90	90	3
7TH GRADE	78	78	78	77	76	75	75	75	75	-3
8TH GRADE	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	79	79	1
MJHS TOTAL	243	245	245	244	244	243	243	244	244	1
9TH GRADE	85	86	86	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
10TH GRADE	89	89	88	87	84	84	84	84	84	-5
11TH GRADE	64	64	63	63	62	62	62	62	62	-2
12TH GRADE	62	61	61	61	60	60	59	59	59	-3
MHS TOTAL	300	300	298	296	291	291	290	290	290	-10
MCUD TOTAL	1033	1034	1030	1028	1024	1018	1015	1016	1016	-17

2020-2021	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	+/-
EARLY CHILDHOOD	41	45	46							-41
KINDERGARTEN	60	58	59							-60
1ST GRADE	64	65	65							-64
2ND GRADE	70	69	71							-70
NS TOTAL	235	237	241	0	0	0	0	0	0	-23
3RD GRADE	57	54	56							-57
4TH GRADE	63	61	63							-63
5TH GRADE	78	77	79				,			-78
SS TOTAL	198	192	198	0	0	0	0	0	0	-19
6TH GRADE	71	71	71	9						-71
7TH GRADE	87	87	87							-87
8TH GRADE	70	71	71							-70
MJHS TOTAL	228	229	229	0	0	0	0	0	0	-22
9TH GRADE	76	75	76							-76
10TH GRADE	82	82	81			as a				-82
11TH GRADE	80	78	77							-80
12TH GRADE	58	57	56							-58
MHS TOTAL	296	292	290	0	0	0	0	0	0	-29
MCUD TOTAL	957	950	958	0	0	0	0	0	0	-95
YEAR TO YEAR	-76	-84	-72	-1028	-1024	-1018	-1015	-1016	-1016	-94