

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, February 13, 2023  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Minutes

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat  
Melissa Freebern  
Chris Jay  
Tom Ordway  
Sarah Williams  
Tara Sears

Board Members Absent: Erwin Morris

- Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Tara Sears and carried.
- Financial:** Larry Ringer reported that the newly purchased van was on backorder and there is no delivery date at this time. He also reported that fuel costs were \$10,000 to \$15,000 more than last year.
- Presentation:** Garrett Hamlin presented on behalf of Tetra Tech regarding our Unit Ventilator building project. He stated we needed approval from the school's architects and attorney before we could move forward with Train's proposal.
- Motion:** Rachael DeGroat made a **MOTION** to accept the equipment proposal from Train set up by Tetra Tech with the Understanding that approval will be needed by the school's attorney and architect, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve a merger with Minerva Central School for all sports for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve a merger with North Warren Central School for Cross Country Running and Nordic for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Mike Markwica explained that we are a merged team (Johnsburg-Minerva and North Warren) for Cross-County, but North Warren students join our Johnsburg-Minerva Nordic team.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Peter Olesheski as Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year as per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried. Tara Sears asked if anyone else put in for the position. Mike Markwica said no.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Allison Gonyo as Varsity Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year as per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried. Rachael DeGroat asked if we interview for all coaching positions. Mike Markwica stated we did it for new positions, not returning coaches.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Andy Bennett, Molly Rascoe, and Gene Maiorana as volunteer assistant coaches for varsity softball for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Jake Sauer-Jones as Modified Baseball coach for the 2022-2023 school year as per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Mike Sharp and Peter Olesheski as volunteer assistant coaches for modified baseball for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Aileen Stevens and Charlize Bernard as Co-Modified Softball Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year, splitting the stipend as per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Mike Markwica informed the Board that the two coaches were interviewed by all three ADs and stated that since they were new to coaching, the varsity softball coach would oversee the team.

Sarah Williams asked if they have to have training.

Mike Markwica reported that they do, but they have time to finish all requirements.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to authorize participation in the Cooperative Purchasing Program coordinated by Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Counties BOCES for bids awarded in the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the Visitor Comment Procedure as follows:

In an effort to provide an opportunity for all interested speakers, speakers shall have three (3) minutes during the public comment period. Community members who have signed up before the meeting will have the first opportunity to talk, followed by other visitors. If someone wants to speak for a second time, after everyone has had a chance to speak, they will have a second opportunity to speak for an additional three (3) minutes. The Board President or the Superintendent may respond when the BOE has received and reviewed the comments.

When members speak to the Board, they shall state their name, the name of the organization (if any) they represent, and the agenda item they wish to comment on. You will have three (3) minutes to address the Board, and the District Clerk will let you know when you have a minute left. Please be aware that by law, individual student information or particular personnel issues cannot be discussed at public sessions of the Board. The Board will not allow interruptions, slanderous remarks, or "name-calling" by speakers or the audience. We take public comment very seriously, and notes will be taken. The Board generally does not respond during the public comment. If an answer or comment is

needed, then the Board President or the Superintendent will respond later, either in writing or at the next board meeting. MOTION was seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried. Mike Markwica reported that this idea has been discussed at the last few Board meetings. The committee removed the time frame for the visitor commitment section and left it open-ended. Sarah Williams stated that this was not to limit public speaking but to organize it.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Lynn Collins' letter of Intent to Retire with gratitude effective June 30, 2023, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Cheryl Hayes' letter of Intent to Retire with gratitude, effective June 30, 2023, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to move forward with a viability merger study with Minerva Central School, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

**Discussion:** Firefighter/EMS tax exemption

Mike Markwica explained the exemption again to the Board and the public. He also spoke about the information the school's attorney sent him.

After a discussion, the Board decided they were not interested in offering this exemption at this time.

Mike Markwica will write a letter to Bruce Dunkley to inform him of the Board's decision.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Jake Sauer-Jones as volunteer assistant coach for varsity baseball for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building Committee:**

Sarah Williams reported that the Building Committee met with Garrett Hamlin from Tetra Tech to discuss our next building project, scheduled for 2026 as well as the unit ventilation project that is happening now.

**Wellness Committee:**

Heather Flanagan spoke regarding the second meeting of the Wellness Committee. The group is working on an updated Wellness Policy that will be presented at the next meeting.

**Finance Committee:**

Sarah Williams reported that the Finance Committee met, and they are waiting on the State's information before moving forward.

**Update Report:****Merger:**

Mike Markwica read and answered the public question that was sent in after our Merger Meeting.

**Parks and Recreation Director:**

Mike Markwica met with Peter Olesheski, newly appointed Parks and Recreation director for the Town of Johnsburg. He said he was excited that the Town and school would collaborate on programs, and he looked forward to working with him.

**Camp Inspire:**

Heather Flanagan reported on the summer camp program Camp Inspire which still is meeting throughout the year. There are twenty students who are still involved, and the program is scheduled to continue this summer.

**Parent Night:**

Heather Flanagan spoke on the upcoming Parent Night scheduled for this Thursday titled Unseen/Scene. Food will be provided, and a one-call now will be sent out to remind parents.

**Staff Day:**

Heather Flanagan informed the Board there will be a Staff Day on Friday, March 17th.

**Second-Quarter Grades:**

Heather Flanagan provided the Board with a handout showing the academic grades of students in grades 7-12 for the second quarter.

**Other Business:**

Tara Sears asked if the school could try to figure out how to promote more school spirit for varsity games. She also asked if a student would be willing to be Jiggy at all home games. Mike Markwica said he would talk to the ADs regarding ways to have more spectators.

Tom Ordway spoke about the MOTION regarding Visitor Comments because he was absent during the discussion or vote. He is not in favor of the three-minute length of time because the people who need to speak voted the Board members in, and they should be allowed to talk as long as they need to. He did not agree with the time limit.

Rachel DeGroat spoke about the new Town supervisor, Mark Smith. She suggested that Mike Markwica reach out to him and establish a rapport.

Tom Ordway wanted to thank everyone for coming in person to tonight's meeting, as well as those who were on the web.

Mike Markwica reported to the Board that Battle of the Books will take place in person this year, but parents were not allowed to go.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **Motion** to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel at 8:03, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:57, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.