

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, September 14, 2002
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Tara Sears
Tom Ordway
Erwin Morris
Sarah Williams
Mike Sharp

Board Members Absent:

Rachel DeGroat
Jake Sauer-Jones

Call to Order:

Tara Sears opened the meeting at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Erwin Morris, and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

Financial

Mike Sharp asked when was the purchase of the new baseball and softball uniforms. Larry Ringer stated the uniforms were purchased before the school closed for Covid-19 last spring. Tom Ordway asked if the AED's we purchased were the same as previously purchased. Mike Markwica replied these were a different company that Lynette Holman and Kathy McGowin researched. Mike Sharp asked if the price listed was for one device and Mike Markwica replied it was for two.

Motions & Discussion:

Discussion: School Opening. Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan spoke of the opening of school. Transportation went smoother every day and our SRO helps students cross the street. Mike Markwica wanted to state that our SRO wants it made clear he is not a crossing guard.

On-line learning: Noise is an issue and we are looking towards solutions. Tom Ordway wanted to thank the staff for all their help. Students are happy. Tom Ordway also thanked the parents and students for their contributions for our successful opening.

Mike Sharp asked if we have students logging on each period, and Heather Flanagan responded yes.

Mike Sharp stated he was very happy with Johnsburg's plan including the 12:30 dismissal. He stated that it is a long day in one room and our plan works well for the students. He then stated that parents have contacted him about students crossing the street, and he is glad to hear Mike Markwica has a plan in place. He asked if the SRO could have his patrol car lights on during dismissal for added safety, Mike Markwica stated he would ask Officer Gould and get back to the Board. Mike Markwica reported that the SRO is working out well.

Discussion: State Aid Cuts. Larry Ringer reported that the State is withholding 20% from our funds. If federal aid is cut we lose the 20%, if our federal aid comes through, the state will reimburse our 20% back to us.

We did have a carry over from last year, we will get noted by the auditor.

Mike Sharp asked Larry Ringer if he had the amount of savings from last year. Larry stated he does not, some line items went up some went down. Erwin Morris asked if sports was a savings for the district. Larry Ringer stated some, but we needed to purchase uniforms. Mike Sharp asked if we saved on substitute pay and Larry Ringer replied yes, about \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Larry Ringer reported that we sold two buses and a pick-up truck through Auction International. This auction house has no cost to the district.

Discussion: Sports. Mike Markwica invited Ryan Carpenter to

join us on the discussion. The Governor, NYSPHSAA, our section and our league all stated that September 21, 2020 can be the start date for high school sports to begin. The league is trying to get masks to be mandated. Mike Markwica and Ryan Carpenter reported on what districts are opting out of the 9/21/20 start date. Mike Markwica stated that the date is too soon, we are still working on our opening and daily schedules.

Heather Flanagan stated that the guidelines for sports are sending a mix message to students: Strict guidelines for in school day to day activities and very lax rules for sports.

Ryan Carpenter spoke of the “Fall Two” plan for a compressed season. Winter sports would start on 11/30/2020, Fall on 3/1/2021 and Spring will begin on 4/19.

Mike Markwica shared Jake Sauer-Jones thought on starting sports on September 21st. Jake is in favor of starting sports, feeling the safety we put in place in school should help us with any issues we may have by competing.

Sarah Williams stated that we are responsible for all our students not just athletes so we need to think past emotion and control what we can control.

Mike Sharp shared his concern with putting our students at risk with other schools who may or may not have the same standards as us.

Ryan Carpenter stated that he can not offer soccer in Physical Education classes but we can play soccer as a sport.

Tara Sears asked for a role call from Board members present for their thoughts on starting sports in September.

Mike Sharp: No

Sarah William: No

Tom Ordway: No

Erwin Morris: Abstained (not enough information to base his decision on).

Tara Sears: No

Mike Markwica stated he will keep everyone updated and when we have more concrete information he will report back to the Board.

Mike Markwica also stated he will send a message out to parent regarding our decision to hold off sports for now.

Tara Sears asked if we are also holding off on Extra-

Curricular sports. Mike Sharp replied that we can host them

safely. Heather Flanagan stated that at this time there is not a location for archery to practice.

Mike Markwica stated that other extracurricular activities are starting remotely with some safe alternatives for fundraising. He stated that he will not approve any door to door sales this year. He also stated he has spoken to Erika Patton and she has confirmed that she can offer a safe environment off-site for trap practice.

Tom Ordway asked three questions regarding trap meetings.

1. Will the site facility be available to our students
2. Will the site have someone to oversee if Indian Lake does not participate.
3. What are the safety practices that will be put in place.

Heather Flanagan will attend a practice and report back to the Board. Sarah Williams wants to make her decision on whether or not to offer trap after she hears Heather Flanagan's report.

Discussion: MOA Bus Driver. Mike Markwica reported that we started discussing this idea last February. Hiring Bus Drivers who are retired and who do not need our insurance at a higher rate than a driver who needs benefits. Tom Ordway asked if we have any current drivers who would fit into this category. Mike Markwica stated no. Erwin Morris asked if this deviation would be allowed in the CSEA contract, and Mike Markwica stated that the union would need to vote on it. Mike Sharp mentioned his concern on paying for a bus drivers training with only one year term. He was concerned the district would lose money. Mike Markwica stated we pay for all bus drivers training and it is always a risk that they may quit, but we have only lost one person to another school but we have gained two drivers from a different district. Tom Ordway stated he believes we should do this. Mike Markwica asked if this proposal could be added to the next meeting to be voted on, and the Board stated yes.

Mike Sharp asked where this rate stands with our competition.

Mike Markwica stated there is only one other district that he knows of that offers this incentive (Greenwich).

Erwin Morris asked if someone in the CSEA could take this option. Mike Markwica stated they could not, everyone who is not retired has to be offered health insurance.

Discussion: State-Wide lawsuit. In July, students with disabilities filed a lawsuit with every school in the state reporting that they were denied proper education during the closure. Our insurance company has already sent us a copy of the lawsuit and they are working on it.

Mike Sharp asked if this was a class action lawsuit, and Mike Markwica replied yes.

Other Business:

Mike Sharp: Indian Lake is going forward with trap and we have ten students signed up.

Erwin Morris: Stated he was very concerned that the guidance counselor was not involved in the creation of the new schedules. He stated that he believed we needed her expertise more during this time not less. Mike Markwica replied that an offer went out in the beginning of the summer asking for volunteers. He stated that he believes that he and Heather Flanagan were the most educated to create the schedule this summer because they had sat on each committee therefore, knowing all the limitations that were put on schedule and every student was given the classes they needed.

Erwin Morris replied that he knew some of the college courses were taken away and Mike Markwica explained that distant learning courses had to be removed due to the new schedule and SUNY Adirondack was not on the original list this year.

Erwin Morris also stated he was informed that we have an issue with students not getting a chromebook. Heather Flanagan replied that until a student returns the internet permission slip they are not given a chromebook. Once they hand their slip in they get one.

We have enough chromebooks for all students. Erwin responded that students that handed in forms on Tuesday did not get a chromebook by Friday. Heather Flanagan stated there is a process to go through before every student gets a chromebook.

Erwin Morris then asked for an update for the mandated “shop” teacher. Mike Markwica explained that we have two teachers interested in “shop” but it can not be scheduled until second semester.

Mike Sharp asked about Home Ec classes and Heather Flanagan replied that it is in the works for the second semester as well.

Visitor Comments:

Kim McKenna. Offering sports or non-competitive sports sends a mix messages to students regarding p.e., sports, and safety. She also asked the Board to be cautious about stating what sports are “safe” to play. If we allow archery and trap we can be as safe with tennis, golf. Kim McKenna also spoke on the opening of school went well and everything all parties did over the summer was worth it

Sarah Williams agreed with Kim McKenna about allowing non-competitive sports over others.

Mike Sharp stated that the sports guidelines are crazy but archery and trap are cut and dry.

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:16 seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

Date: _____