

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: N/A

- Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504** Melissa Freebern made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Tara Sears and carried.
- Agenda Changes:** The following wording was added to IX. **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in regard to a formal complaint.
- Financial:** Tom Ordway asked Elizabeth Viele the final fuel report. Mrs. Viele replied that we ended the fuel season under budget. Tom Ordway asked if the District tractor was fixable. Mike Markwica stated he did not know as of this meeting.
- Presentations:** **Job Fair:** Anna Bowers presented information to the Board regarding the upcoming Job Fair being held on May 23, 2024 1 - 5 pm in the Gymnasium. Students can attend 1-3 pm, and then the community is invited to attend 3 - 5 pm. As of this meeting, there are 15 local businesses attending.

Budget Presentation: Business Official Kathy Spring and Superintendent Michael Markwica presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding the 2024-2025 District Budget proposal. A handout of the presentation was provided. Mike Markwica spoke of the State's final budget.

Motions:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to accept the 2024-2025 District School Budget of 12, 893, 528, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the WSWHE BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Program for the 2024-2025 school year, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2024-2025 BOCES Board Election Ballot, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the 2024-2025 BOCES Administrative Budget Vote, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Cindy Homer, Mary Cooper and Cassie Noel as Budget Vote Workers on May 21, 2024, from 11:30-8:30 at their present hourly wage, for Budget Vote, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm., seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve SUPA Introduction to Analysis of Public Policy. This course will satisfy the graduation requirement for Participation in Government. Students who successfully pass the course with a minimum grade of 73 will also receive three credits from Syracuse University, seconded by Chris Jay and carried

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Shannon Stone as the Elementary Running coach for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint David Anderson as a Volunteer elementary Running Coach for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Discussion:

Discussion on the 2023-2024 Travel Club Trip. Mike Markwica informed the Board that this year's Travel Club has a deficit of \$2,500, and they are looking towards the District to cover the cost as a one-time request. Mike Markwica stated that he had a meeting with the advisors, and they have worked on a new plan for notifying parents and students of the potential price earlier in the planning process.

Motion:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to allow the Jr. High Travel Club \$2,500 to cover expenses for the 2023-2024 Travel Club trip to Boston. seconded by Chris Jay.

A discussion was held:

Erwin Morris asked how many students were attending, and Mike Markwica stated seventeen with seven chaperones.

Erwin Morris asked if the money was going directly to the students and Mike Markwica said the money will be used across the board.

Sarah Williams asked if we could limit the number of chaperones.

Mike Markwica stated that chaperones offset the cost of the trip by helping to fill the bus.

MOTION was voted on - six in favor and one opposed. Erwin Morris. **Motion** carried.

Committee Reports:

Policy: Rachel DeGroat asked if the Policy Committee could attend a conference on May 8, 2024, regarding AI. The committee members can attend virtually in Mike Markwica's office.

Building and Grounds: Mike Markwica reported that over Spring Break, most of the Univents were installed. The control units are being installed now. He reminded the Board that COVID funds would cover the cost of this project.

Update Reports:

Mike Markwica reminded the Board that changes to our State aid will be announced soon for the 2024-2025 school year. Mike Markwica informed the Board that Barton Mines sent the District a thank you letter for our support in their project.

Mike Markwica stated that the Feasibility Study was finished and sent on to the State. Minerva Superintendent, Candice Husson, District Superintendent, Dr. Parker, Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum, Tony Muller and himself met to discuss the final draft. CASDA was asked to make some changes before sending on. There is a tentative date of May 29th at Tannery Pond for the first meeting with both Boards.

CASDA will present the proposal to both Boards. The public being allowed to ask direct questions at the end of the meeting for clarification. After that meeting, each Board will host their own community meeting where the public can give their opinions. The Boards will vote on the same night whether or not to proceed with the plan. If both Boards agree to move forward, a date for the Straw vote will be made public.

Mike Markwica reported on a tractor incident that took place in front of a group of students. The students quickly helped with the situation and he would like to commend them for their act of kindness.

Tom Ordway added that the students acted very responsibly.

Heather Flanagan spoke on the success of Diamondfest with the addition of a tennis match for next year.

Heather Flanagan also presented a handout with information on the number of students passing, failing one subject, and failing two or more subjects.

Executive Session:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in regard to a formal complaint at 6:42 pm., seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session at 7:30, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried. Chris Jay was not present for this motion.

Other Business:

Rachel DeGroat added a Resolution that the Board of Education denies the appeal of the parent in regard to the discussion during the Executive Session. The Board President will issue written communication to the parent in regard to the decision.

MOTION by Chris Jay, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Sarah Williams asked if the appointment of the Prom Advisors could be May to May, so there is a better opportunity to secure a

venue.

Mike Markwica stated that an email was sent to the faculty and staff asking for advisors for the 2024-2025 school year. The appointments will be listed in the next agenda.

Melissa Freebern reported to the Board that three Johnsbury students were going to display their artwork at the Hyde Museum in Glens Falls in May. The students are Ian O'Conner, Laniey Freebern, and Chet Perryman.

Tom Ordway stated that our Governor was working on making Trap illegal in schools. He stated that we, as a District, may need to write letters of support. He wanted to thank all the coaches for their support and hard work.

Mike Markwica reported that senior Cole Sears will be honored at the BOCES dinner at the Queensbury Hotel on May 16th. Board members are welcome to attend. Tara Sears and Tom Ordway both will attend the Student Community Service Award dinner.

Mike Markwica reminded the Board members that they need to do the Workplace Violence training.

Rachel DeGroat notified the Board that the Town of Johnsbury was holding a Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop to hear what our town may look like in the future. It will be held on May 9, 2024 6:30 - 7:30.

Visitor's Comments:

Boy's Varsity Baseball Team (Jeremiah Freebern speaker)

Jeremiah Freebern read a statement regarding the team's safety concerns about the baseball and soccer fields at Minerva Central School. Rachel DeGroat thanked the team and told them the Board takes safety very seriously, and she asked if a few members could meet with Mr. Markwica to discuss safety concerns in more detail.

Mike Markwica stated that he had called to find someone who could come and check the baseball field.

Mike Sharp: Mr. Sharp asked how it was possible to ignore a

request from a public member to discuss treatment from Administration and not uphold the Constitution of America. Rachel DeGroat stated that the Board had extensive discussions and he would receive a letter. She stated she could not discuss his complaint in a public forum.

Deanna Sharp: Stated that her children go to Administration and their concerns fell on deaf ears. She stated her children feel targeted.

Lexi Sharp: Asked why the Board was unwilling to hear from her to hear how she was treated.

Rachael DeGroat encouraged Lexi Sharp to put her formal complaint in writing, and the Board will address it.

Jake Sauer-Jones: Congratulated the boys for coming out tonight and speaking. He informed the Board that he nor Pete Olesheski had nothing to do with the player's concerns. Explained his concerns regarding the athletic program in three categories: communication, problem-solving, and expertise.

Hannah Sharp: Stated that she believes that issues that happened a long time ago are being brought up now, and she feels that she has not been heard at all.

Jake Sauer-Jones: Explained expertise and stated although the new uniforms turned out well but there are issues and if they spoke to him before they would have know what to purchase. He asked that the Board listen to the players concerns.

Deanna Sharp: Stated that her children, Lexi and Hannah enjoy softball the Administration, and the Board have taken joy out of the sport for them.

Mike Sharp: Stated that his punishment is unjust and based on retailization for his time on the Board. He feels other people have been ejected from games with less punishments.

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.