

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat  
Erwin Morris  
Tom Ordway  
Tara Sears  
Mike Sharp  
Jake Sauer-Jones  
Sarah Williams (V)

Board Member Absent: N/A

**Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:04 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motions:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** at 6:05 to adjourn to Executive Session for Collective Negotiations, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session, at 7:01, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Rachel DeGroat called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04

**Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones, Mike Sharp abstained, Motion carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

**Agenda Changes:** Rachel DeGroat asked for an Executive Session to be held at the end of Regular Session XIII for the purpose of Negotiations on an individual contract.

## **Motions/ Discussion**

**MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION:** to accept the following Resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the collective bargaining agreement beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2025, by and between the Johnsburg CSD and the Johnsburg Central School Teachers' Association, and approves payment thereunder, seconded by Mike Sharp, Erwin Morris abstained and the Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION:** Kim McKenna spoke on behalf of the Re-Opening Committee. She listed reasons why the committee believes that the school should continue the established educational practices that are in place now for the remainder of this school year.

Fred Morse, Head of Transportation, also spoke, agreeing to keep the same schedule. He stated that changing anything right now will be detrimental to the transportation department.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if changing things back to 2:30 now won't work how will it work for September, and Fred Morse replied that it would depend on the State and County guidelines.

Mike Sharp stated he was in favor of extending the day, and if our reasons for not extending the day were due to sports, that was wrong. He asked how many students were in electives, and Heather Flanagan said she would get that information to the Board at the next meeting.

Mike Sharp expressed that some requirements are not being met and Mike Markwica reported that some requirements have been lifted and gave the example of PE requirements for graduation. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that the children who do not need additional help are suffering.

Mike Sharp stated he did not like the idea of offering any study halls during our shortened day.

Tara Sears stated that she understands all sides but if we have a large percentage of students failing, we need to look at getting our students back into school.

Tom Ordway stated that we would then have to feed the older students so we would lose academic time.

**MOTION:** Mike Sharp made a **MOTION** to extend the school day creating two thirty minute classes and offering a twenty minute lunch, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones, opposed by Rachel

DeGroat, Tara Sears, Tom Ordway, Erwin Morris, Sarah Williams, Motion was denied.

**MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to Cast Ballot for the entire slate for the BOCES Board of Education, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

**MOTION:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to Cast Ballot for the BOCES Administrative Budget Vote, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

**MOTION:** Mike Sharp made a **MOTION** to approve a medical leave of absence for Pattie Ordway, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones, Tom Ordway abstained, Motion was carried.

**MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve Eilene Totzke for a long term sub for Pattie Ordway starting Monday, April 12, 2021, Step One at her degree, from the JCSTA contract, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

**MOTION:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept a Letter of Retirement from Ellen French for June 30, 2021, with gratitude, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

**MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Shannon Stone as a coach for the Elementary Running Club for the 2020-2021 school year at \$400.00, seconded by Tom Ordway. Tara Sears asked when the club would be starting and Heather Flanagan reported they would begin tomorrow for two days a week. Motion carried

**DISCUSSION:** Mike Markwica spoke on the Community Service Award for Graduating Seniors that will be held virtually on May 6, 2021. This years recipient is Hunter Mulvey. He asked if any Board Member would like to attend the event and Tara Sears stated she would. Cindy Homer will arrange for Tara Sears to receive her virtual invitation..

**Updates:**

**Parsons:** Mike Markwica reported that the Behavioral Health

Services organization will be replacing Parsons. We will keep Amanda Bane as our Social Worker and will receive the same amount of counseling time, and BHS services are free to the district. They will be switching over at the end of this year.

**Bartons:** Members from Barton Mines stopped by and they are moving forward with our solar project with Apex Solar for our pavilion. The solar panels will provide electricity for outlets, fans, and a teaching unit so students can be educated on solar energy. Mike Sharp asked if we could instale retractable side walls to allow for usage during inclement weather and Mike Markwica said he would look into that.

**Summer School:** We will be having Summer School this year and Mike Markwica reached out to Andrea Hogan, Johnsburg's Town Supervisor to see if the Town would like to offer a half day activity program so the students could attend after summer school. Andrea Hogan stated the Town was not interested in this idea. Mike Markwica said they are looking for some type of an enrichment program for the second half of our summer school program.

**Sewer:** Andrea Hogan, Town of Johnsburg Supervisor, reported to Mike Markwica that the new sewer project being installed as far as the school. This is something the Buiding and Grounds Committee should pursue further. A meeting will be set up.

**Sidewalk/Signs:** Mike Markwica reported that he spoke to the county road design person who said there is not any money for sidewalks. A meeting will be created with the Building and Grounds Committee.

**Fun Day:** Heather Flanagan reported that the Elementary Fun Day was successful.

**ELA Testing:** Heather Flanagan reported the English Language Arts state test went well, and the Math state testing will be next week.

**Regents:** Mike Markwica explained the process students have for

the four regent exams being offered. Students can opt-out but still receive credit, students can take the exam but not submit their grades and still receive credit, or students can take the regents and have the grade count. Students do need to pass the class the regent exam covered to get credit for the course.

**Other Business:**

**PROM:** Tom Ordway asked if there would be a wooden dance floor installed for the prom, and Mike Markwica stated there would be. Tom Ordway explained that some students were concerned about heels going through the grass.

**Graduation:** Tom Ordway asked if graduation was going to be held on the field, and Mike Markwica reported that nothing was set at this time, but it was likely that is where it would take place.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Rachel Brower spoke of rubber attachments that could be purchased to protect the heels of shoes.

**Executive Session:**

Tom Ordway made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for Contract Negotiations for at 8:28, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

**Adjournment:**

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:45, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_