

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, August 21, 2023
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 6:03 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

CSE/CPSE/504 Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Financial: Kathy Spring presented data from 2016-2017 through 2021-2022, showing the cost to run the CIE meal program to the District. The 2022-2023 school year has yet to be closed out, so the projected cost could change.

The cafeteria fund has absorbed the costs due to fund balance. Increases in costs are due to inflation and higher costs of all goods. Last year, we could not secure bids for everything, so some items Karen Moore, cafeteria manager, had to purchase were at market prices. Bids are looking better for this year.

Cost increases are also due to the settlement of the contracts: higher wages and a 12% increase in health insurance. Not everyone switched to the HRA. The District started the CEP program in the 2018-2019 school year.

Sarah Williams stated that food prices are stabilizing, which should help. She asked the Board to refrain from taking action this year and wait to see how better bids and price stabilization affect the overall program. CEP is an excellent program for families in our District.

Mike Markwica stated that after three years of offering this program, it would be difficult to discontinue it. He believes the District will need to requalify at the end of this school year but does not foresee any problems being approved due to our high poverty rate. He also stated that Minerva Central School has been with the program for over twenty years.

Presentation:

Cole Sears and Angelo Galle presented on behalf of Boy's State. This year's conference's theme was leadership and community.

Motion:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss the Building Level Emergency Response Plan at 6:29, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session at 6:35, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Jeff Ordway as a Science Teacher at \$187.50 per day, effective September 1, 2023, seconded by Tara Sear. Mike Markwica explained that Jeff Ordway will teach physics and chemistry. **MOTION** carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2023-2024 Building Level Emergency Response Plan, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the 2023-2024 District Wide Safety Plan, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica reported that this the community to review and ask questions before it was finalized. the **MOTION** carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the tuition request for Elizabeth Dague, a third-year returning student entering the sixth grade, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Khaleah Cleveland and Thomas Zauner as Co-Modified Boy's Soccer coaches, at \$1,392.50 each per the JCSTA contract, for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica explained that Tom Zauner and Khaleah have additional commitments, and co-coaching will allow them to fill each other's gaps. Tom Ordway asked how the hiring of Tom Zauner would affect the bus garage for sports runs. Mike Markwica stated that Tom Zauner will only be used as the driver when it is his turn on the rotation schedule. **MOTION** carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the Board of Education Goals for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Melissa Freebern. Michael Markwica stated that the dates for each committee meeting were listed at the bottom of each page and could be changed if needed. Rachel DeGroat asked if there would be email reminders sent out and Mike Markwica stated there would be. **MOTION** carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2023-2024 Tax Warrant, seconded by Chris Jay. Kathy Spring reported that the warrant has the same information that was listed in the vote in May 2023. **MOTION** carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Zachary Pierson as Athletic Director for \$2,750 for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tara Sears. Rachel DeGroat, Sarah Williams, and Tara Sears all asked about Zachary Pierson's duties. Mike Markwica explained that he would be responsible for both modified and varsity-level sports. Rachel DeGroat asked Tom Ordway and Tara Sears if the **MOTION** could be amended to state that, and Tom agreed. Revised **MOTION**: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Zachary Pierson as Athletic Director for all modified and varsity level sports at \$2,750 for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Allison Gonyo as the Elementary Athletic Director for \$1,250 for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Melissa Freebern. Sarah Williams asked why

this new position was created. Mike Markwica responded that this is a direct result of the Board wanting the athletic director to be more involved in the elementary sports program. The overall AD positions have always included elementary programs. Melissa Freebern asked if the levels Allison Gonyo and Zachary Pierson covered as athletic directors were related to the classes they taught. Heather Flanagan stated there was no correlation at all. The MOTION carried.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds:

Tara Sears reported that the committee met with Garrett Hamlin and Erik Latihk of Tetra Tech to discuss potential options for science labs in the next capital project. Mike Markwica stated that measurements were taken, and Tetra Tech will report back to the committee with their findings.

Rachel DeGroat also reported that the committee discussed the ongoing uninvent project. To allocate funding by the September deadline, the equipment is being purchased and stored at the school until installation.

Update Report:

Merger:

Mike Markwica reported there will be a Merger Meeting at Minerva Central School with CASDA and BOCES to discuss the possibility of CASDA doing the feasibility study. The meeting will be open to the public, but visitor questions will not be taken then. Mike Markwica also pointed out that a replacement may take a while due to availability.

BSHN:

Mike Markwica reported that Amanda Bane of BSHN has taken a full-time position at Indian Lake Central School. The company is actively trying to fill the position and, for now, is offering Telehealth.

Camp Inspire:

Heather Flanagan reported that thirty-one students participated in Camp Inspire (twenty last year) this past week at Echo Lake Camp located in Warrensburg, New York. The participants will meet five times over the school year and will “graduate” in June.

Yearbook:

Heather Flanagan reported on the ice cream social that was scheduled for students to pick up their 2022-2023 yearbooks. The event went well. The administration hoped for a bigger turn-out. Rachel DeGroat thanked both Maria Glode and Rebecca Morris for their hard work.

Summer School:

Heather Flanagan reported that the summer school program has ended with a daily attendance average of twenty students. Three students completed credit recovery, including a senior who now has officially graduated.

Other Business:

Tom Ordway thanked all the summer employees for all their hard work. He also thanked Kathy Spring and Mary Alexander for returning after retiring to help the District. Tom Ordway also welcomed Liz Viele to the District.

Mike Markwica asked if any Board member could attend the Staff day scheduled for September 5th. Rachel DeGroat stated someone on the Board would attend.

Visitor Comments:

Kathy Mulligan praised Cole Sears and Angelo Galle for speaking and thanked the District for offering such a beautiful program. She then stated how clean the building was. She also asked for clarification on the merger process; Mike Markwica and Rachel DeGroat explained.

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:09 pm, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.