

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, February 22, 2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tara Sears
Jake Sauer-Jones
Erwin Morris
Sarah Williams

Board Member Absent: Rachel DeGroat
Tom Ordway
Mike Sharp

Call to Order: Tara Sears opened the meeting at 7:04 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Motions & Discussion: **MOTION:** Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to accept the Communicable Disease - Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan, seconded by Jake Sauer Jones. Mike Markwica explained why this plan is being added and the process of getting the Plan approved. Erwin Morris asked who from the District will report information to the county and decide what needs to be reported. Mike Markwica explained that reporting is the Administrator's job and the State and County determine what is to be reported. Jake Sauer-Jones questioned the reporting of influenza, and Mike Markwica said we have always reported any influenza cases known at the school. **MOTION** was carried.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to accept Neil Dunkley as Head of Building and Grounds at \$45,136 Level 31, beginning February 23, 2021, seconded by Tara Sears.

Erwin Morris asked how we came up with that level. Mike Markwica stated that this level is higher than the previous level we offered the last person because Mr. Dunkley brings more experience to the position. Jake Sauer-Jones asked when Mr. Dunkley left Barton Mines, and Mike Markwica said he left Bartons to work at Gore Mountain. **MOTION** was carried.

MOTION: Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Shannon Stone as Cross Country Running coach at \$4,140 for the 2020-2021 school year., seconded by Erwin Morris. Mike Markwica reported that this is a Fall II sport, but it is different than soccer. Running is a part of the Adirondack League, and no school participated in Cross Country Running this fall. Soccer is a part of the MVAC, and many schools participated this fall and the schools who did not participate are not interested in participating this spring, so we wouldn't have teams to play. Mike Markwica also reported that Cross Country would take place on roads this spring, and the soccer field will not be cleared to play on. Erwin Morris reported that Nordic was a success, so he feels positive for Cross Country.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if both Minerva and North Warren will be joining us, and Mike Markwica stated they would. Mike Markwica noted that the first meet would be held on March 16th, and baseball and softball games will not start until later, so there is an opportunity for students to take part in both. Jake Sauer-Jones commented that anything we can do to get our students the opportunity to be more active, we should do. **MOTION** carries.

DISCUSSION: K-6 Additional Support. Mike Markwica reported that beginning next Tuesday, students in academic need would have the opportunity to stay after 12:30 for additional math and ELA help in small group support. Remote students can also receive extra help if they come in the building at this time and provide their own transportation.

Heather Flanagan provided a handout on both remote and in-person students failing in Pre K-6 grade. Heather Flanagan explained the numbers on the sheet are not uncommon for this time of year, and most students will achieve passing grades by year-end.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that adding this extra time will be helpful

and thanked the Administration and teachers for doing this. Sarah Williams asked if the teachers who decide who can attend, and Heather Flanagan stated it was.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve the 2021-2022 District Calendar, seconded by Erwin Morris. Mike Markwica explained the only difference on next year's calendar is the addition to Junethinth. Because it falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on a Monday. so we added an extra day, September 1, 2021.

MOTION: Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to appoint Dee Sharp and Erica Patton as Co-Coaches for Archery Club at \$1,040 each for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica reported that Mike Sharp spoke to the Town of Johnsbury Supervisor, Andrea Hogan, to get permission to hold Archery Club practices at Tannery Pond. Tara Sears asked what the disinfecting policy will be on shared equipment, and Mike Markwica stated it would be the same policy created for the Trap club. Tara Sears then asked the numbers of members for Tannery Pond and Mike Markwica said that four students would be able to shoot simultaneously. Jake Sauer-Jones asked where the non-shooters will be while others are shooting and Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan stated that the area was big enough to host many students. Tara stated that she wanted students to be able to take part but she wants to make sure they will be safe.

MOTION: Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Mike Sharp as a volunteer Archery Coach for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to increase the grade of eligibility for Archery Club from 8th grade to 9th grade, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica reported that Mike Sharp stated there were two ninth-graders who have been members of the club since the beginning and would like to continue with Archery. Tara Sears asked if we were going to allow the students to also continue in tenth grade. Jake Sauer-Jones asked why we put a grade level on it, to begin with, and Tara Sears stated it was

created so the club would not conflict with varsity sports. Erwin Morris suggested making a motion not to set a precedent to increase the grade each year. Mike Markwica said he would speak to the coaches and make sure there is enough staff to student ratio with the additional ninth graders.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Mike Markwica reported the Finance Committee met to go over new contracts for renewing.

Updates:

Travel Club: Mike Markwica met with the advisors of the Travel Club. A discussion to offer the ninth grade students a day trip. More to follow.

Prom: Mike Markwica stated he has a meeting scheduled with the advisors of the Prom to discuss options for this spring. Jake Sauer-Jones asked about the cost of testing kits, and Mike Markwica stated they are free at this time.

BOCES Re-Opening: Mike Markwica stated he is one of three superintendents and Jim Dexter, BOCES Superintendent, who is on a committee to discuss the new CDC guidelines with our State Legislatures. As of now, Johnsbury Central School is ahead of the regulations with our set protocols. One of the most significant changes is getting the 6-foot rule changed. Jake Sauer-Jones questioned if we can use the government stimulus money to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and remove the 6-foot ruling. Mike Markwica will look into this further.

Other Business:

Erwin Morris: Stated that Clinton County is a part of our BOCES, and their sports program is for in-person learners only. Mike Markwica stated that New York State mandates that a school must allow remote learners the opportunity to play sports.

Erwin Morris asked how we will handle Honors Night, Honor Society, AP testing, and prom. Mike Markwica stated that he has a meeting scheduled with both the Prom Committee and the National Honor Society advisors. AP tests were given last year, and we have yet to hear about this year's regent schedule. Erwin Morris also reiterated that we need to concentrate on extra-

curricular activities.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if we have any students that we have not heard from at all or very little. Heather Flanagan said we have a few who are not logging on. Jake Sauer-Jones asked at what point do we put a visual on the kids who are not visual. Heather Flanagan stated that she contacts the county, and they know the few students we have. Jake Sauer-Jones said he wants to make sure all our students are safe.

Adjournment:

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:09, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

_____ Date: _____