

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
February 7, 2022  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Rachel DeGroat  
Tara Sears  
Tom Ordway  
Sarah Williams

Board Member Absent:

Erwin Morris  
Jake Sauer-Jones  
Mike Sharp

- Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022 Board of Education Meeting. seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504:** Sarah Williams made a MOTION to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, second by Tom Ordway and carried.
- Financial:** Larry Ringer reported he is monitoring fuel costs. He stated that our bill is almost double compared to last year but we should even out by the end of the year.  
Tom Ordway asked where the itemized reports on the General Fund Expenditures were, and Larry Ringer said they were listed like always.
- Discussion/Motions:** **Presentations:**  
Nancy DeStefano, Assistant Superintendent for BOCES Instructional Programs spoke on the different classes and opportunities offered to our students. She explained how the students used core subjects in their curriculum, had hands-on training in their perspective fields and had opportunities to become certified or received licensing.

Nolan Pierson, Caden DeGroat, Evan Wing, and Molly Smith spoke on their own programs and how they planned on using their schooling after graduation.

Tom Ordway said how great these program opportunities were.

Jim Dexter, Superintendent of WSWHE BOCES, provided a slideshow which focused on the future: Challenge in the next 3 to 5 years. He also thanked the BOE for allowing Mike Markwica to be involved with programs and committees.

Tom Ordway thanked Jim Dexter for his years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

Mike Markwica told the BOE Members that Jim Dexter was a huge advocate for small schools.

#### **MOTIONS:**

Tara Sears made a MOTION to accept the WSWHE BOCES Cooperative Bid Schedule for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to accept the Sports Merger for Cross Country and Nordic with North Warren Central School for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Cassie Noel as Special Education/Counseling Secretary at \$26,856.90 effective January 3, 2022, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams made a MOTION to appoint Shelley Fuller as AIS Math Teaching Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year at Level 18, as stated in the CSEA contract, seconded by Tom Ordway. Mike Markwica explained there was a past precedent of offering returning retired staff work the same level of pay they were on before they left. MOTION carried.

Sarah Williams made a MOTION to appoint Shannon Stone as Advisor to the School Newspaper at \$275 (half of the annual stipend of \$550) for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Tara Sears. Mike Markwica stated the idea of a

student-run newspaper was discussed at a meeting Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan held with the Senior Class. The idea was for the newspaper to begin next year, but Mrs. Stone offered to start now. MOTION was carried.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to accept the 2022-2023 school calendar, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to change the Student Handbook to allow students in grades 7-12 to carry clear backpacks throughout the day with a signed agreement, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica explained that the consent would be for the school to search the backpacks. Rachel DeGroat asked if students could cover the bags with paint or decorations.

Mike Markwica said they would have some ability to identify their own bags.

Tom Ordway asked if there were any money available for students who could not purchase a clear backpack would be able to. Mike Markwica said the school has a grant for student supplies.

Vote was taken 3-1. Rachel DeGroat, Tom Ordway, and Sarah Williams voted in favor; Tara Sears was opposed. MOTION carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Brent Pavlick as a Spanish Teacher, Step 6MA as stated in the JCSTA Contract beginning March 10, 2022, seconded by Sarah Williams.

Mike Markwica reminded the Board that we would still have the Elevate K-12 program for the remainder of the year and Brent Pavlick will teach the 9A class as well as an elective. MOTION carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Mark Warnecke as a Co-Trap Club Coach for the Spring season at \$520, seconded by Sarah

Williams. Mike Markwica explained that this is a quarter of the stipend for Trap Club.

Tom Ordway asked if the reason for hiring him was due to larger numbers or any time restraints from Erika Patton. Mike Markwica said it was neither. Mark Warnecke worked the same time last year.

MOTION was carried.

Rachel DeGroat announced the first reading of the Immunization of Students Policy # 7511.

Tara Sears asked what was changed from the previous policy. Michael Markwica stated religious exemptions are no longer allowed.

**Discussion:**

Mike Markwica recapped the school's remote learning history from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said, students asked to have remote learning with classroom meets again. He spoke to the teacher's union, and they did not want to go back to that method. They created a compromise with tutoring and teacher availability in set office hours.

Tom Ordway stated we made the decision months ago to not have Google Meets during class time because remote learning was a distraction to the students in the classroom as well as to the classroom teacher.

Rachel DeGroat stated that quarantine days have already been reduced from ten days to five. She also said that data showed the grades of remote learners were not as strong.

Heather Flanagan explained what the tutoring program looked like. It is more of an academic support system for older students by connecting students and teachers.

Mike Markwica stated the lower grades are more of a tutoring program. He also reported that there is a student tutoring program available as well.

Tom Ordway thanked the Student Council for creating this program. He then thanked the students for reaching out and bringing this to the Board's attention.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Mike Markwica reported that the committee is looking to replace the security system. He spoke on methods of paying for it: State Aid and the Building and Repair Reserve account. We need to offer a public hearing to use the funds. It was decided there would be a public hearing on February 28, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

**Updates:**

Mike Markwica reported we used two of our five snow days. He stated that he and Heather Flanagan met with the Senior class officers and felt the meeting went very well. The Senior Lounge was reinstated, and a Ski with a Teacher Day has been

created.

Heather Flanagan reported the website is up and running.

**Other Business:**

Tom Ordway thanked students and parents for making our school year as normal as possible.

**Motion:**

Sarah Williams made a MOTION at 8:19 to adjourn to Executive Session for legal matters with no action seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

**Adjournment:**

Sarah Williams made a MOTION to adjourn at 9:55 seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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