

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, February 8, 2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Tom Ordway
Tara Sears
Jake Sauer-Jones
Erwin Morris -remote

Board Member Absent: Sarah Williams
Mike Sharp

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jake Sauer Jones and carried.

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

Agenda Changes: Mike Markwica requested to remove Letter H from Item V. Items for Discussion and/or Action/Presentation.

Financial: Tom Ordway asked Larry Ringer if he had any news on State Aid. Larry Ringer reported there were not any updates at this time but he is attending a meeting tomorrow. He also stated he feels the State may be waiting for the Federal Budget to be revealed.

Motions & Discussion: **MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Ryan Carpenter as Varsity Baseball coach for the 2020-2021 school year at \$4,140, seconded by Jake Sauer Jones and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Bruce McGinn as Varsity Softball coach for the 2020-2021 school year at \$4, 140, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Peter Olesheski as Modified Baseball coach for the 2020-2021 school year at \$2,785, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carries.

MOTION: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Steve Tomb as Varsity Tennis coach at \$2,785 for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones. Tom Ordway asked why a varsity coach was getting the pay of a modified coach. Mike Markwica explained tennis usually starts later in the season and ends earlier. **MOTION** carried.

Second Quater Grades: Heather Flanagan provided a handout with data of the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 students who are failing one and failing more than one subjects for in-person and remote learners.

Tara Sears asked if participation was the main factor for remote students failing and Heather Flanagan replied that the majority of failing grades were due to lack of attendance. She went on to say internet issues were very small now.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if it was fair to say more students are failing now than before COVID? Heather Flanagan replied yes.

Heather Flanagan also provided a handout with statistics comparing 2019-2020 honor roll students to students from 2020-2021. There are more students this year than last who qualified for the honor roll.

Tara Sears asked if the school can reach out to parents and hold a meeting/conversation with parents of failing students.

Mike Markwica reported that Jane Bruce, Heather Flanagan, and the students' teachers reach out at five weeks, ten weeks, fifteen weeks, and twenty weeks to parents of students failing. Heather Flanagan added that she does not typically call parents regarding student's grades, but this year is we are reaching out more often. Erwin Morris asked if our ineligibility policy has changed this year due to COVID and Heather Flanagan said no the policy has stayed the same. Erwin Morris then asked if there is an umbrella policy regarding grading and again Heather Flanagan reported no. Mike Markwica stated that there is a policy that homework can only count as 20% of the student's grade. Heather Flanagan reminded the Board that virtual and in-person students

are being graded the same.

Heather Flanagan reported that she will provide similar statistics from the elementary grades in March.

Report from Elementary Reopening Committee: Committee has met twice and the consensus is our policies in place are working. Working on ways to help students who are struggling with courses. Heather Flanagan and Mike Markwica is hosting a virtual meeting with Pre k-6 grade teachers to discuss the ideas that were created in the committee meeting.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if the students who are failing were failing their on-line electives and Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan said some were but the majority we failing core classes.

Committee Reports:

School Climate: Jake Sauer-Jones reported for the School Climate committee. Purchasing and posting new school spirit banners are difficult right now but Heather Flanagan is still selling spirit wear. The group talked about updating the school's security cameras but due to the high cost will have to be included in the school's next building project. Prom was discussed with the possibility of an outdoor event with COVID testing before the event for safety.

School Community: Tara Sears spoke on the committee's behalf regarding the school tool system we have in place. Teachers need to record grades quicker for parent/student access.

New ideas for music and physical education classes were discussed.

Creating a new web page and Facebook page were discussed.

Mike Markwica explained that there have been some setbacks with the webpage due to the 2ED law. Mike Markwica and David Pede have a meeting set up with BOCES to discuss this issue.

Rachel DeGroat stated that if we are asking parents to use Schooltool then teachers need to keep up with updates.

Finance: Rachel DeGroat reported the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet after tonight's Board meeting.

Updates:

Northern Rivers/Parsons: Mike Markwica spoke on our half time mental health counselor, Amand Bane, who is seeing about 10/15 students in person, remote after school hours as well as family sessions. She is also a member of our Student Success Team.

Tara Sears asked if we need to add more time to Amanda's contract and Mike Markwica stated what we have now is working fine.

Rachel DeGroat asked if some of the students Amanda Bane sees are also students failing courses. Mike Markwica stated that some students are the same.

Larry Ringer reported a new school bus driver training course being offered at BOCES for adult learners with the hope of getting more drivers. Larry will continue gathering information.

Other Business:

Tom Ordway: Asked if we had any candidates for Head Custodian position and Mike Markwica said not at this time.

Erwin Morris: Stated our current goal is to return to a full day of instruction, but this will not be possible with remote learners and we can not end remote learning with the 6-foot rule for social distancing.

He questioned the different COVID cases we have had since December because we have had different variations of quarantine. He asked if these were our procedures. Mike Markwica stated he follows the directive of Warren County Public Health each and every time there is a reported case.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if the guidelines for sports created by Warren County was also given to all coaches. Heather Flanagan stated that Mike Markwica has kept our Athletic Director, Ryan Carpenter, updated and Ryan will notify all coaches of the guidelines required by us.

Visitor Comments:

Shannon Stone: Asked if Fall Two season was not going to happen and Mike Markwica stated that at this time that is correct. Shannon Stone also commented on the issue of student's failing. She spoke of good teaching practices that are used to keep students

engaged that can not be used due to COVID guidelines: small groups, hands-on learning, movement during class time and bonding with classmates and teachers.

Kim McKenna: Stated that the biggest complaints from teachers are the 6-foot distance rule and wearing masks while teaching. She also said that she understands the concern of failing students but she also wanted to point out that there were many successes happening now too. She reiterated that our procedures are working and the staff and students feel safe.

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:27, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

_____ Date: _____