

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
January 10, 2022  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Rachel DeGroat  
Tara Sears  
Erwin Morris  
Tom Ordway  
Sarah Williams  
Jake Sauer-Jones  
Mike Sharp

Board Member Absent:

N/A

**Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Board of Education Meeting. seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to amend the November 8, 2021 minutes to include the MOTION of approval for the 2020-2021 Audit Report that was made by Sarah Williams and Seconded by Tom Ordway and carried on November 8, 2021, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried

**CSE/CPSE/504:** Tom Ordway made a MOTION to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, second by Tara Sears and carried.

**Discussion/Motions:** **Presentation:** Shannon Ordway presented as the Chairperson for the Math Department. She went over key information and concerns. She also stated the program is in need of new graphic calculators. She spoke of the success of the Financial Algebra Class and students, Zachariah Morehouse, Brian Hewitt, Erin Corr and Kamron Calvert expressed what the class meant to them: She also spoke about the vacancy for next year.

Tom Ordway thanked Shannon Ordway for providing a class that will help the students later in life and asked her if she needed the calculators now. Shannon said she has two in reserve.

Mike Sharp asked Mike Markwica if calculators would fall under the Smart School grant. Mike Markwica said he will look into it. Jake Sauer-Jones agreed with Shannon Ordway's idea for recruiting new staff members.

Erwin Morris asked what Shannon Ordway would need to implement the new math program. Shannon Ordway stated that although she does not teach math to K-8 students she has spoken to the elementary teachers and all are in agreement that we need a program that has a good progression for high and low skill sets. The new program that will be implemented should meet this need.

**Motions:** Tara Sears made a MOTION to approve a sports merger with Minerva Central School for all sports (boys' soccer, girls' soccer, cross country running, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, nordic skiing, baseball, softball, and tennis) for the 2022- 2023 school year. seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to approve 7-12 teachers to receive tutoring pay of \$32.50 per hour for connecting remotely to students under County quarantine during their scheduled workday, either during their free or preparation period, when approved by administration, seconded by Mike Sharp with discussion.

Mike Markwica explained that this would take place during the teacher's prep and free periods.

Erwin Morris asked if this is based on a certain number of students needing tutoring, Heather Flanagan said it was not, there was not a set number. If one student needed it it would happen if the teacher was able to. Erwin Morris then stated that the Board was told by the Administration that hybrid learning was successful and we are now being told it is not.

Mike Sharp explained that this is not what is being proposed. This will be for students who are County quarantined and it will be the choice of the teacher.

Erwin Morris stated he felt a student would get more out of a remote class than a thirty-minute tutor.

Mike Sharp disagreed.

Tom Ordway asked if this would be mandatory, Mike Markwica

said it would not.

Rachel DeGroat explained that this MOTION was an expansion to what we normally do, tutoring is not going away.

MOTION carried 6-1. Erwin Morris opposed.

Jake Sauer-Jones made a MOTION to approve the resignation of Nicole Owens effective December 23, 2021, as a full-time bus driver, seconded by Sarah Williams Mike Markwica reported that Nicole Owens is staying on as a substitute driver and she has already subbed for us. MOTION carried.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to appoint Roxann Lewis as Guidance Secretary at her current Step as listed in the CSEA handbook effective January 3, 2022, seconded by Tom Ordway with discussion. Mike Sharp asked if filing this position left an opening for a Teaching Assistant. Mike Markwica said it did and Administration was interviewing now. MOTION carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Allison Gonyo as Elementary 5 & 6 Basketball Coach at \$800 for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to appoint Mary Olesheski as a Volunteer Coach for Elementary 5 & 6 basketball for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried. Mike Sharp asked if volunteers needed to have the training and Mike Markwica stated they did not.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to accept the retirement request of Kathleen Dubay with gratitude, effective June 30, 2022, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried. Board Members and The administration also thanked Kathy Dubay for her many years of service.

**Discussion: Backpacks:** Heather Flanagan explained to the Board how the Student Council along with their advisor, Katy Ashe, met with her asking for permission for students in 7-12 grades to be allowed to carry backpacks in school throughout the day.

Mrs. Flanagan listed the reasons the Student Council provided

for the benefits of having a backpack throughout the day. Heather Flanagan did state the 7-12 faculty as a group was not in favor of this request due to safety reasons.

The Board members asked questions and each Board member stated his/her position.

Rachel DeGroat asked for a MOTION to be added to the next agenda changing the student handbook to allow backpacks.

Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan will talk to the Student Council and the teachers to get more information.

**Sewer System:** Mike Markwica recapped the information he provided the Board members with regarding the proposed sewer system.

Mike Sharp then recapped the Building and Grounds Committee meeting stating that the committee could not make a recommendation at this time because there was not enough financial information provided.

Discussion was held with each Board member giving their thoughts and concerns.

Mike Markwica will reach out to Tetra Tech to get more financial information. He will provide what updates he gathers at our January 24th meeting.

**COVID-19:** Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan informed the Board members of our COVID numbers, and the newest protocol practices from the County.

Erwin Morris stated that we were denying education to our students by making them wait until they get an official quarantine letter from the County before we begin tutoring. He stated all other schools provide tutoring when a student was waiting on test results.

Mike Markwica respond that other schools in our BOCES do wait for quarantine letters.

Heather Flanagan explained that until we get the official quarantine we treat all children who are absent the same. We do not offer tutoring for absences for the flu or other illness.

**Elementary Basketball:** Mike Markwica reported that the County is now implementing new procedures regarding basketball players. He said the next two weeks many new decisions will be made and he will keep the Board informed.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that they are now going to offer a girl's and a boy's team for children in grades five and six and send a letter home to parents suggesting children who play sports should be vaccinated.

**Committee Reports:**

**Policy Committee:** Sarah Williams reported the committee will have more information at the next meeting.

**Updates:**

Mike Markwica reported the second grade ski program will be starting next week.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if the third graders were going to be able to participate since they missed out last year due to COVID. Heather Flanagan said that due to equipment they were not included.

Heather Flangan informed the Board that a speaker will be coming to give a presentation to students in grades 5-12 regarding vaping. This idea was created by the members of the Student Council.

There will be a Pfizer vaccine and booster clinic here at JCS on Friday, January 21 from 3-5PM. It will be open for ages 5 and up. Information will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there will be an ambulance standing and Heather Flanagan said there will be.

**Other Business:**

Tom Ordway thanked the teachers, staff and administration for their efforts these past months. He also wanted to thank our school nurse, Amber Aurilio for all her hard work.

Mike Sharp asked where we were with hiring a Spanish teacher. Mike Markwica stated that we are still looking and he will look into recruiting venues.

Mike Sharp reported that the numbers for Archery are good, 16 to 18 per practice and everyone is doing well.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked how we were coming along with the school's new website. Mike Markwica stated that it should be up and running within a week.

Tom Ordway asked how we were coming with a Head Custodian position. Mike Markwica stated that we have two applications and

we are advertising on WCKM radio.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Gage Morris spoke as the President of the Student Council. He informed the Board that students in Student Council will be offering tutoring to other students for volunteer hours toward Dollars for Scholars and volunteer hours.

Gage has stated the students were passionate about the ability of having backpacks throughout the day and they are willing to use clear or mesh packs if allowed.

Zachariah Morehouse stated that he believes that the addition to backpacks would be great.

Julia Morris spoke about a letter she wrote to the Administration regarding remote/zoom meetings while students are quarantined. She stated that she asked for the letter to be shared with each Board member but to this day it was not. She would like to read the letter tonight and have the issue placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mike Markwica did tell her that her letter was shared with every Board member.

Julia Morris read the letter out loud.

Heather Flanagan and Mike Markwica will speak to the Student Council and to the teachers again before the next meeting to discuss remote learning.

Brian Hewitt spoke on the security of backpacks and stated that backpacks are allowed at the beginning and at the end of the day now so he does not see a difference. He also said that there are students who use their backpacks and don't get told not to.

Rebecca Morris asked why a class of two could not be held remotely when both students were remote. She stated the class should have been offered as a Google Meet.

Aiden Millington spoke stating he feels the staff should spend less focusing on backpacks and more focus on student's mental health.

Rachel DeGroat thanked all the students for coming and sharing their thoughts.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:34 seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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