

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, January 11, 2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Tom Ordway
Tara Sears
Sarah Williams
Jake Sauer-Jones

Board Member Absent: Erwin Morris
Mike Sharp

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

Approval of Minutes: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jake Sauer Jones and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Financial: Larry Ringer reported to the Board that he has yet to learn of this years' State Aid.

Mike Markwica reported that we have received the land tax reimbursement payment from the County. He informed Andrea Hogan, Johnsburg Town Supervisor, that we were reimbursed.

Motions & Discussion: **MOTION:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the five year contract for Cindy Homer as Superintendent's Secretary from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025, seconded by Sarah Williams, with discussion.

Tom Ordway thanked the board for working on the contract and Cindy Homer for her continued work at school.

Jake Sauer Jones spoke on behalf of absent Board member Erwin Morris, who sent an email to the Board before this meeting

regarding the time frame for Board Members to review this contract before voting on the Motion of approval.

Mike Markwica explained that the contract presented for this Board meeting was the same contract that was presented to all Board members during the last Executive Session; five weeks earlier. **Motion** was carried.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **Motion** to approved the Electrical Contract, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

DISCUSSION: Basketball: Mike Markwica stated that at this time, basketball is not an option and will not be played in our section.

DISCUSSION: Sports. Nordic. Mike Markwica reported that Nordic is going well, and there are strict safety guidelines from the Section all skiers are required to follow. He also stated that Minerva Central School has four student-athletes this season. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if Nordic practices/meets if we are virtual? Mike Markwica explained to the Board that sports are paused if we are not in session due to COVID-19.

Tara Sears asked if we are considering Cross Country in the spring, and Heather Flanagan responded that we are as well as soccer if possible.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to approve a Cross Country merger with Minerva Central School and North Warren Central School for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway 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 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to appoint Jeremy Roblee as Head of Building and Grounds at \$19.70 per hour, level 27, starting January 21, 2021, seconded by Tara Sears with discussion.

Mike Markwica expressed to the Board that Jeremy Roblee brings experience from his Gore Mountain position and management skills from a previous position. He stated that he would need to be trained with our boiler.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there was a chance of Frank Morehouse training him and Mike Markwica stated that Frank Morehouse did offer to help train, and Shawn Allen as second has stepped up and will help train as well.

Tom Ordway would like to thank Shawn Allen from the Board for filling in when needed.

Motion and carried.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **Motion** to appoint Cera Smith as Custodian/Bus Driver at \$14.30 per hour, level 13 beginning January 19, 2021, with the understanding that she will move up two levels upon obtaining her Bus Driver licenses and being 19A certified, seconded by Sarah Williams, with discussion. Mike Markwica explained that the last two hires for this position were at a higher rate, but Cera Smith did not bring in as much experience. He also explained that the school offered positions at a lower rate and raised it when they obtain their bus driver's license.

Rachel DeGroat asked how long it took to get a license and Mike Markwica between two and four months.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked how many bus drivers are we still short and Mike Markwica stated one full-time position is still available. The **motion** was carried.

Committee Reports:

Rachel DeGroat reported that the Finance Committee met before this meeting.

Updates:

Mike Markwica reported that school personnel are now able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine under 1b. The school is still working closely with the County to possibly have a clinic here at school. Our nurse, Amber Aurilio has sent in her paperwork to be allowed to administer the vaccine. Mike Markwica also reported the County is hoping to create clinics at all schools but stated it has to be after school hours.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked who would hold the vaccines if there was a timeline for proposed operations. If the school has conducted

a survey to see how many staff would be interested in getting the vaccine if available. Mike Markwica stated the County would be responsible for housing the vaccines, and the clinic could be created anytime from now to fourteen weeks out. He said he would put out a survey right away to get a baseline idea of our population.

Heather Flanagan reported she sent the Board the Student Council COVID-19 Survey as asked.

Jake Sauer-Jones said he was concerned the students were not concerned about COVID-19.

Heather Flanagan also spoke of the Survey Monkey Survey she sent the Board regarding the Reopening Plan.

Other Business:

Tom Ordway: Asked if any of the two-week remote students have come back yet. Heather Flanagan stated that yes and the transitioning back was reasonably easy.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if remote students were logging in and Heather Flanagan stated everyone is working hard to get devices out to the students, and most students are logging in.

Tom Ordway asked if the school could speak to the County about pushing the snow back further near the crosswalk.

Jake Sauer-Jones: Questioned the difference in contact tracing over the cases before Winter Break and the case that closed in-person teaching last Friday. Mike Markwica replied that the cases before/during break had the days of break to help in the not spreading but the case on Friday needed time for contract tracing and cleaning.

Visitor Comments:

Kim McKenna: Reported the UAlbany Vaccine site crashed.

Adjournment:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:44, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

Date: _____