

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, January 13, 2025
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Melissa Freebern
Chris Jay
Erwin Morris
Tom Ordway
Tara Sears
Sarah Williams

Board Members Absent: N/A

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Financial: Tom Ordway asked if there was an additional expense to our fuel bill due to the cold snap. Mike Markwica stated there was not and they were working on the kinks of the new heating system.

Tara Sears asked what happens to the Class of 2024 leftover reserve fund. Mike Markwica stated that any leftover money is transferred to the account of the next graduating class.

Presentations: **Rachel Pietryka: Art Teacher**
Rachel Pietryka presented a PowerPoint presentation, which explained and demonstrated her curriculum for Pre K -12 and some samples of the student's artwork.
Heather Olesheski - Spirit Coordinator
Heather Olesheski provided a handout to outline what is

taking place now, as well as, what is being considered for the future.

Mike Markwica stated the BOE developed this position.

Motions:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Sara Pierson as a Teaching Assistant, Level 1, per the CSEA contract, effective January 6, 2025, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Tosha Hall as a Teaching Assistant, Level 1, per the CSEA contract, effective January 6, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve Heather Flanagan's (Principal) letter of intent to retire, effective June 30, 2025, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve Robin Wilcox's (cleaner) letter of intent to retire effective March 1, 2025, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Mike Markwica reported that Robin Wilcox has been employed by the District for over twenty-five years.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the Sports Merger with Minerva Central School for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mike Markwica stated that the Sub-Committee met and the **50/50 use** for practice and games was brought up. The Administration and Athletic Directors will meet and come up with a plan for practice and games at each facility.

Sarah Williams stated that there must be flexibility with the 50/50. Suggested using Johnsbury fields for varsity games. She went on to say we need to put our athletes first.

MOTION carried.

Discussion:

Athletics: Mike Markwica reported that North Warren Central School has inquired about merging for girls' soccer. This decision will need to be made by March 2025.

Mike Markwica will bring financial and transportation costs for the BOE to review.

Rachel DeGroat asked if this would be a three team merger and Mike Markwica said it would be.

Sarah Williams stated she thought it would be too hard for practices and her initial thought is no.

Erwin Morris asked what league would we be in? North Warren is in the ADK league and Johnsburg-Minerva is in MVAC.

Melissa Freebern asked for the Athletic Directors and coaches opinions.

Tom Ordway said it would be very competitive if we went to the ADK league.

VOTE: Mike Markwica reminded the BOE that there was a vote scheduled on Thursday, January 16th from 12-8 for the Capital Project. He also stated there would be a meeting after the vote count to approve the results.

Committee Reports:

Financial: Mike Markwica reported that the Financial Committee meeting is concerned about the cost of future health insurance premiums. Everyone is waiting to hear what the Governor says in her proposed budget.

Other Business:

Tara Sears stated that she is concerned about parking on the hill in front of the building. She said staff can park in the south lot. Pre school parents have to park in the fire line at drop off and pick up. She asked the BOE to decide to allow staff to continue parking there.

Mike Markwica said there has always been parking on the hill and he has no problem with it continuing.

Rachel DeGroat asked for Tara Sears and Mike Markwica to meet together

Visitor Comments:

Joe San Antonio stated he would love to be included in the discussion of the three-way merger for girl's soccer.

Adjournment:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:50 pm to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss hiring personnel, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:42, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy A. Homer

Date: _____