

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, January 25, 2021  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat  
Erwin Morris  
Tom Ordway  
Tara Sears  
Sarah Williams  
Jake Sauer-Jones 7:04

Board Member Absent: Mike Sharp

**Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:03 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 25, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tom Ordway 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 move Sports from VII B. (updates) to V A. (Items for Discussion and/or Action).

**Financial:** Tom Ordway asked Larry Ringer if he had any news on State Aid. Larry Ringer reported we had received the Governor's proposal but nothing definite at this time.

**Motions & Discussion:** **Discussion:** Mike Markwica reported that our Governor approved high-risk sports with County approval. Warren County met today to discuss this - no word on their ruling as of yet. Mike Markwica asked the Board their view on the idea of starting basketball. Tom Ordway suggested we ask area schools their decision because we may not have anyone to play with. Tara Sears reminded the Board that we do not have a gym. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that if kids

want to play and coaches want to coach, we should let them play. Mike Markwica reported that an area school has stated that if students were to play a high-risk sport, the athletes would need to become remote learners. Tara Sears like the idea of not having high-risk sports so athletes would not bring the virus into the school.

Rachel DeGroat asked how Nordic was going, and Erwin Morris and Mike Markwica reported that all the protocols set into place were working well.

Tom Ordway reminded the Board there are many different counties within Section VII.

Rachel DeGroat suggested that we focus on Spring Sports with early training - Tara Sears agreed.

Board made a unanimous decision not to have Winter Sports this year. Mike Markwica stated he would discuss this with Minerva Central School and come up with a Spring Sports Plan.

Heather Flanagan reported the numbers of remote students before Christmas, after the two-week option and the numbers today. We have more remote students now than before the Christmas break.

Mike Markwica reported that one-third of our staff has gotten or made an appointment to receive the first round of the COVID vaccine.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that we would eventually need to return to a more typical school day when most teachers/staff get vaccinated. noted that we could only achieve that if social distancing ends.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Curriculum:** Tom Ordway spoke on behalf of the Curriculum Committee. As requested by the Board, additional Physical Education classes were added to the middle school schedules. Home Economics will be considered again next year; it does not fit into the COVID schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Shop will begin second semester. There were no outside interest in the position, so the school has three teachers approved to work outside of their curriculum. Jeff Ordway will have a hands-on class for eighth-graders covering woodworking and simple electronics for 24 students, assisted by Ryan Carpenter. David Pede will teach seventh-grade Computer Design with a

program similar to MakerSpace. Max Garret will assist David with this program.

**Finance:** Rachel DeGroat reported the Finance Committee met to begin creating the 2021-2022 budget.

**Updates:**

Heather Flanagan said that she would be placing COVID boxes throughout the school for students and staff to write down their concerns, fears, and suggestions about the Corona Virus.

Heather Flanagan also reported that the school had a mental health meeting with seventeen staff members attending. The group will focus on ideas to help students and staff members who are having difficulties due to COVID-19. Mike Markwica explained This program was created by the Student Success Team, which was developed from Board goals.

Mike Markwica reported that Warren County is interested in developing a better broadband area throughout the county. There is a ten-minute survey on the Warren County website regarding individual internet service. They are working on a grant to help with our week spots.

Mike Markwica and Rachel DeGroat attended a virtual Legislature breakfast where three issues were discussed. school aid, small school health insurance, and the cost of unemployment insurance. They also spoke of the panel of six students who spoke on how COVID affects them.

**Other Business:**

Tom Ordway: Thanked teachers, assistants, aides, custodians, bus drivers, kitchen staff, the business office, and the secretarial staff for all the extra work they have done due to the covid pandemic.

**Adjournment:**

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:13, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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