

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, June 7, 2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent:

Call to Order Rachel DeGroat called the meeting to order at 7:00

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **Motion** to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, Seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

CSE/CPSE/504: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE/504 meetings, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Agenda Changes: Rachel DeGroat stated: Remove Item D. Under Items for Discussion and/or Action.
Amanda Durkee will present on June 21, 2021

Mike Markwica stated: Add Item K. Under Items for Discussion and/or Action.
Discussion on Wearing Masks outdoors.

Financial: Tom Ordway asked about the negative fund balance in the Archery Club. Mike Markwica replied that that club should not be listed in that category but stated an item must have been purchased that was paid for by the General Fund Balance. He stated it should be moved in our Organizational Meeting. Tom Ordway asked if the club needed financial support to run properly and Mike Markwica stated that it would.

Discussion/Motions:

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn to an Executive Session, seconded by Sarah Williams. Jake Sauer-Jones reminded the board that a discussion was not asked.

President Rachel DeGroat asked the Board if there was any discussion. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if we should move the executive Session to the end of the meeting due to the number of visitors attending the meeting.

Rachel DeGroat stated that the Executive Session was on the agenda that was available for the public to view prior to tonight's meeting and we need to follow the agenda as is. Motion carried at 7:05 PM.

MOTION: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn Executive Session at 7:36 PM and return to Regular Session., seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Johnsbury Central School District hereby extends the term of employment of Michael Markwica, Superintendent of Schools, to June 6, 2026, approves the employment agreement dated June 7, 2021, and authorizes the payment of monies provided therein, seconded by Sarah Williams, Jake Sauer-Jones stated that the timing of this was not appropriate due to other negotiations. In favor: Rachel DeGroat, Tara Sears, Tom Ordway, and Sarah Williams. Opposed by Erwin Morris, Jake Sauer-Jones, and Mike Sharp. **MOTION** carried.

MOTION: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve tenure for Shannon Ordway in the area of Mathematics effective September 1, 2021, seconded by Tom Ordway. Mike Markwica explained that Mrs. Ordway taught in several districts before coming to JCS. She is doing a very nice job. **MOTION** was carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve tenure for Ryan Carpenter in the area of Physical Education effective September 1, 2021, seconded by Tara Sears. Mike Markwica spoke on how well Ryan Carpenter is doing since he came back to the district became our AD and is doing an excellent Job.

MOTION was carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve tenure for Heather Olesheski in the area of Elementary Education effective September 1, 2021, seconded by Sarah Williams. Mike Markwica reported that Heather Olesheski subbed for us for a while, went to work at another school, and came back to fill the Elementary teaching position. He went on to say she was doing an excellent job.

MOTION carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the use of a school bus for The Youth Program as needed this summer with the understanding that they will hire Johnsburg Central School drivers, pay all expenses including the driver's wages, seconded by Sarah Williams. Tara Sears asked how this use will affect our own Summer School usage. Mike Markwica replied that it probably will not. He had a meeting with Town of Johnsburg Supervisor, Andrea Hogan and Ann Dingman and the town is not going to transport this summer. They wanted this approved in case they needed it, and we have enough busses to do this.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve a merger for Nordic Skiing with Minerva Central School and North Warren Central School for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the five-year contract for Mary Alexander, Business Office Assistant from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

DISCUSSION: Mike Markwica spoke of the Governor's new ruling made today (June 7, 2021). Anyone while outside does not have to wear masks. Individual schools can make their own rule. In school, while not socially distancing, masks must be worn whether vaccinated or not. Masks must be worn on school buses. A discussion was held on how to inform parents. Mike Markwica will do a One Call Now to let parents know that masks will not be mandated while outside. Parents will need to instruct their children on what they would like them to do. The school will not regulate the wearing of masks outside.

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve, the New York State's new mask guidelines as of June 7, 2021, wearing masks outside on school grounds. Each individual can decide whether they want to wear a mask or not, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds: Mike Markwica met with Andrea Hogan, Town of Johnsburg Supervisor, to discuss the new sewage system that is being installed on Main Street. He spoke of the cost to the district and the timeline for a decision. It was agreed upon by the Board that Andrea Hogan will attend the next meeting to give up-to-date information. Mike Sharp asked if the information could be supplied to the Board before the next meeting so it could be reviewed and questions could be created ahead of time. Mike Markwica will speak to Andrea Hogan about this.

Mike Markwica reported that the District received a printout of the timeline for the next building project. More information to come.

Update Reports:

Mike Markwica told of a situation that took place last week regarding the Gay-Straight Alliance Club (GSA) handing out bracelets to the high school and elementary students. He explained the club's intention of giving the bracelets to anyone who wanted them and the actual handing out was not the club's intention. He reported that a new procedure is now in place that all clubs/organizations will need to get the administration's approval before handing anything out to the student population.

Jake Sauer-Jones suggested a letter of apology from the one person who wanted to pass the bracelets out. Mike Markwica explained that it was not one person but a club who acted as a whole. Mike Markwica said the Administration would send out an apology for the procedure.

Heather Flanagan provided a two-sided handout regarding the Pre K-6 failing percentage from mid-year to the end of June.

Tara Sears asked if Summer School would help the elementary

students from failing. Heather Flanagan stated that Summer School would not change the outcome for those students from being retained, it was not set up for that purpose. She said that the parents of the eleven students being held back are already aware of the retentions.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if these numbers were high due to our COVID schedule. Heather Flanagan stated that COVID did not change the number of retentions. This year's retention numbers are similar to the numbers of non-COVID years. Heather Flanagan went on to explain the second handout regarding high school numbers. She said she obtained her information from the two-week ineligibility list. She can't state what the final numbers will be until the final grades are given. She will be able to give the final numbers of students who failed this summer. She also said that high school students are given the opportunity of a Credit Recovery program, a program offered here this summer.

Mike Sharp stated he was concerned about the number of failing students.

Rachel DeGroat said that earlier in the year the report showed remote students failing more than in-person but these handouts show the opposite. Heather Flanagan agreed that the numbers did show the opposite earlier in the year.

Tara Sears asked if Heather Flanagan knew why in-person students were failing. Heather Flanagan said it could be for many reasons.

Jake Sauer-Jones said that he thought our students would fail due to the fact that we made school a prison-like situation this year. He said it was an unfortunate situation that went on for longer than it should have.

Mike Sharp asked how these numbers compare to two years ago. Jake Sauer-Jones compared failing reports from quarter two 2019.

Heather Flanagan reported Prom took place over the weekend and it was a huge success.

She spoke again regarding the Elementary Summer School Program. It is for students entering kindergarten through students entering seventh grade. Paperwork was sent out and

the deadline is approaching. She is very please with the numbers.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked how many teachers and Heather said there will be five teachers and two teaching assistants with three different groups.

Rachel DeGroat asked what a typical day will look like.

Heather Flanagan stated the morning will be ELA and Math 8 until 11:30, lunch will be provided if the students would like it, and then the afternoon will have enrichment events set up. The students will have the option of staying all day 8-1:30, coming for the AM session only, or coming in for the PM session only.

Tara Sears asked about busing. Heather explained that the busing will be available daily at certain stops for the morning and then again after 1:30.

Erwin Morris asked if the Credit Recovery program was offered to the seniors. Mike Markwica said seniors are welcome to attend but he does not believe any will need to. He went on to report that two seniors will not be graduating due to failing grades and although they are welcome to come to Credit Recovery, the program will not help either student graduate on time. Parents were made aware of the situation.

Other Business:

Tom Ordway stated that although it has been tough the last two years, he was very glad there was a prom and thanked all who helped put it together. Jake Sauer-Jones agreed.

Rachel DeGroat told the Board that they received a thank you card from Karen Moore for our thoughtfulness.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked when we can expect the new guidelines for next year. Mike Markwica explained that they were waiting on the Governor. Mike went on to say the school is creating a committee regarding reopening and if any Board member would like to join the committee they should see him. Jake Sauer-Jone said that if the committee agrees to anything but returning to a regular school day he wants to know about it. Heather Flanagan stated that is the plan.

Visitor's Comments:

Tom Vocheck: Stated he liked Mike's comments regarding a controversial subject that he glossed over. He said he is pleased with Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan but there is more to be done. Many community members are unhappy with things that are happening at school.

Andy Bennett: Asked if our Re-opening committee could obtain Queensbury's re-opening committee plan to base our new plan on. Mike Markwica said he will try to get their plan.

Rick Ross: Wanted to say thank you for how quick the situation was handled that he brought to the school's attention and he appreciates all the things the Board and school have done and he hopes everything can move forward.

Rachel DeGroat: Brought up the idea of making plans to returning to regular Board Of Education meetings. The discussion was made and Rachel DeGroat suggested to table the discussion for the next Board meeting.

Kim McKenna: Stated she would like the Board to keep the virtual option. Andy Bennet agreed.

Mike Markwica: He was asked to find out the rules of in-person and virtual Board Of Education Meetings.

Kim McKenna: asked the Board to look into new equipment.

Tom Volcheck: Thanked the Board for looking out for his kids and said he has enjoyed this meeting.

Joe Sanintonio: Asked how our students/family's mental health is during this time. He explained that he is in the Mental Health Services and work with children in other school districts in Hamilton County. He asked if we could explain how our school is handling this mental health issue. Heather Flanagan explained that we have created three mental health committees and we also have a Student Success

Team to discuss and help student's needs.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked for an update from someone from one of these committees.

Upcoming Dates:

Rachel DeGroat asked what the last days of school were.

Heather Flanagan stated that June 21st was the last day of class for the High School and June 24th is the last day for Elementary.

Heather Flanagan added Staff vs. Senior Kickball game on June 21st at 2:30.

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:06 seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.